

Kaleidoscope

A publication of



The Georgetown Project & community partners—a kaleidoscope
in action—shaping a community where children thrive

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We Weave Healthy Connections

Assets Go International!

Brazil Delegates Visit TGP as one of Nation's Top Models

Contingents from São Paulo, Brazil, as part of The Georgetown Project's association with the Search Institute, visited Georgetown on April 21st and 22nd to view its exemplary community program that promotes the healthy development of children, youth, and families through resources, services, and asset building.

Visitors from São Paulo met with Georgetown's community leaders, city government officials, educators, business owners, and various youth within the area to get a better understanding of TGP's youth development activities. Ultimately, São Paulo representatives saw, hands-on, how a program like The Georgetown Project would help their city become more involved in supporting its own youth and families.

"This is a major milestone for The Georgetown Project, as well as the community of Georgetown itself," said Georgetown Mayor Gary Nelson. "To be chosen as one of only a few programs in the entire nation to be visited by the people from Brazil is astounding! We always knew Georgetown was a wonderful community for families. This puts our

Brazilian delegates enjoy visiting Georgetown. Barbara Pearce and TGP staff were the acting hosts.



efforts in the forefront of not only Texas communities, but communities around the U.S. that are thinking of implementing programs like The Georgetown Project."

In addition to São Paulo, The Georgetown Project has mentored numerous other Texas communities and consulted with cities across the country that want to know more about utilizing Georgetown's model of youth development focusing on strengthening assets.

The Serendipity Fundraiser



On April 2nd, CMS held its 8th Annual Serendipity Children's Festival. The Serendipity Children's Festival is a one-day event celebrating a child's love of learning. In order to demonstrate CMS's dedication to children and commitment to the Georgetown community, all proceeds from Serendipity were designated to benefit the Georgetown Project.

The Board of Directors and Staff of TGP sincerely thank Community Montessori School for the donation, and for planning a wonderful event celebrating children and families in our community.

"Barbara Pearce proudly accepts a donation for The Georgetown Project from Rebecca Lowe, Kristi Stephens, Jennifer Simon and the children of Community Montessori School.

We Share Information

The Georgetown Project once again invites you to visit our website, www.georgetownproject.com. The site contains asset-building ideas, Bridges to Growth Resource Center activities, alternative youth activities, helpful alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention materials, tips for parents, and available childcare provider and parenting classes.

We Strengthen Families and Educate

Asset #2 – Positive Family Communication *Parent(s) and child communicate positively. Child is willing to seek parent(s) advice and counsel.*

Building Bridges at 'Bridges to Growth Resource Center'

The Bridges to Growth Resource Center is up to its arches with summer events and activities. They include Toddler Time, Creative Kids (ages 4/5 & 6-10), parenting

classes, childcare provider trainings, asset training for parents (also in Spanish), a class for Dads and a host of other happenings.



Erika Gonzalez enjoys the monthly Toddler Time events held at Bridges to Growth as does Gus Pederson and his mom, Sissy.

Asset #4 – Caring Neighborhood *Young person experiences caring neighbors*

Neighborhood Block Parties—Memorial Day through Labor Day

The Georgetown Project (TGP) encourages everyone in the Georgetown community to host or attend a local block party any time from Memorial Day to Labor Day as a way to strengthen assets. Adults who are intentional

about interacting with the youth on their block not only build assets in the youth, but help make the neighborhood and community stronger. Contact the Georgetown Police Department or TGP for further details.

We Build Assets in Our Youth

Asset #26 – Caring *Young people feel it is important to help others and make the world a better place.*



National Youth Service Day

On April 15th 2005, approximately 85 high school youth and 15 adults spent Friday morning in community service. These young people showed up that morning enthusiastic and willing to do some good in their community. The community response was fantastic. People were taking notice, and praising our young people for all their help and efforts (asset building in action).

The youth were sent out to several different sites including the Wesleyan Nursing

Home, The Caring Place, Stonehaven Senior Center, Georgetown Housing Authority, the Guadalupe Cemetery and the Georgetown Clinic. Congratulations to Georgetown youth on a job well done!

This event is funded in part by the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. The Guiding Healthy Choices Program is a prevention initiative of the Georgetown Project.



Asset #9 – Service to Others *Child and parent(s) serve others and the community.*

"A day on; not a day off", Martin Luther King Day

Martin Luther King Day was a "day on, not a day off" for local students, and other volunteers who participated in this year's Martin Luther King Day of Youth Service from 9:00-Noon on Monday, January

17, 2005. The Georgetown Project Youth Action Council sponsored the MLK Youth Service Day in our community for the third consecutive year.



Asset #21 – Achievement Motivation *Young person is motivated to do well in school.*

Coca-Cola Camp for Kids

Camp Coca Cola is a youth leadership program nestled in the heart of the hill country. Set on the Parie Haynes youth ranch the vast landscape provides a perfect place for adventure based learning. Students participate in youth leadership and development activities inside as well as out. The students also take action in the surrounding ranch community

by volunteering their time at a local animal shelter and food bank. Camp Coca-Cola students enter camp in the summer between 7th and 8th grade (approx. 13years old). They continue to return to camp for 5 years after that, each year building on the skills they have learned from the previous year.

It is an excellent program that has many character building components. The students not only have criteria to complete at camp

but when they return home during the school year they have to participate in 30 hours of community service, attend several Camp Coca-Cola events, maintain good grades and good behavior in school. This is the third year The Georgetown Project and the After School Action Program have been nominating students so our oldest group of Camp Coca-Cola students are entering the 10th grade. There are 12 students participating this year.

We Build Communities That Value Youth

Asset #7 – Community Values Youth *Young person perceives that adults in the community value youth.*

A Taste of Georgetown 2004 Dinner Parties Raised over \$26,000 --

thanks to our generous sponsors, hosts, contributors, and planning committee

2005 Dinner Party Sponsors

GOLD: Scott & White

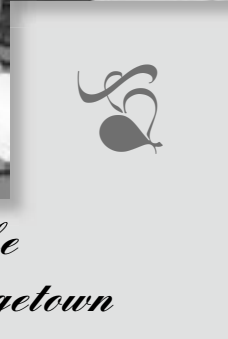
SILVER: First Texas Bank, Southwestern University, and Wolf Ranch

BRONZE: A+ Federal Credit Union

A Taste of Georgetown Dinner Party Hosts, Contributors and Planning Committee

- | | | |
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Thanks also to D'Ann Shiffler and the Williamson County Sun for helping promote and report on the fundraiser and for raising awareness in the community.



Scenes from the 2005 Taste of Georgetown

Community Interaction Partnership

The Georgetown Project's Community Interaction Partnership had 15 Southwestern University students on staff this year. These full time university students worked at the following sites:

- Richarte High School
- A**fter **S**chool **A**ction **P**rogram at Tippit & Benold Middle School
- Forbes Middle School
- Georgetown Public Library
- Purl Elementary
- Georgetown High School

The CIP interns served youth ages 4-18 and worked with an average of 200 students a week. They provide not only academic support to young people, but offer positive young adult role models, who are committed to helping Georgetown youth succeed. The CIP interns provide a window through which young people can more clearly visualize higher education as a viable alternative for their future



We Build Communities That Value Youth, continued.....

Asset #35 – Resistance Skills *Child learns how to resist negative pressure from others.*

Guiding Healthy Choices

The Guiding Healthy Choices program provides guidance and drug prevention tools for parents of adolescents: it offers a variety of healthy alternative activities for youth and a campaign to raise community awareness about the issue of alcohol and drug prevention, as well as parenting classes offered at the Middle School campuses. This program is a prevention initiative of The Georgetown Project in Partnership with the several Georgetown Churches, City Parks and Recreation Department and GISD. 75 families have participated in the STARS (Start Taking Alcohol Risks Seriously) prevention program. Over 200 parents have attended



our parenting classes. Over 1000 youth have attended the alternative activities from August 24, 2004-May 13, 2005. Numerous drug and alcohol prevention ads in the Williamson County Sun reached 18,000 homes and prevention postcards are mailed out four times yearly to 5,000 parents in GISD.

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