



Crosswinds Youth Services

Celebrating 35 Years

1974-2009



eNewsletter

April 2009

OrisiRisi: Artist in Residence



Crosswinds is honored to have received a grant from Brevard Cultural Alliance for an artist to spend six weeks with our youth. The artist chosen is **OrisiRisi African Folklore**, a performing arts company formed in 1986 by Don Harrell and his Nigerian born wife Tutu with the expressed purpose of sharing the beauty and poignancy of African life and culture.

Orisirisi (pronounced **O-re-she-re-she**), is a Yoruba term meaning "different things." **OrisiRisi** has received critical acclaim far and wide for its unique, African-rooted, educational and entertaining presentations.

Crosswinds' first OrisiRisi event was a huge success, with twenty Crosswinds youth learning how to play the drums. Then words were added to go with the rhythm, making a wonderful combination of sounds. Dance moves will be added to the next lessons, leading up to Crosswinds' big **Street Outreach Event on May 30, 2009 at Lori Wilson Park in Cocoa Beach.**



Volunteer is a Wonderful Mentor for Rainwater Center Girls

Valerie Chipps came to Crosswinds to drop off gifts for Christmas in 2007 and asked what else she could do to help the youth. Once she learned about the Rainwater Center, she came back to volunteer on a regular basis, becoming a "wonderful mentor for the girls," says Program Coordinator John Weimann.



Community volunteer Valerie Chipps in the Rainwater Center for Girls.

Ms. Chipps, a flight attendant with Delta Air Lines, spends an average of three hours at Rainwater almost every week, participating in everything from arts and crafts activities to graduation celebrations. She often brings with her personal donations of supplies to enhance those activities. As a mentor, Ms. Chipps shares life experiences with the girls and helps them to think about things in an effort to make better decisions. The girls eagerly look forward to her visits every week.



11th Annual Great Brevard Duck Race
Sunday April 19th at the Indian River Festival
Sand Point Park in Titusville

Adopt your racing ducks at: Colonial Bank, Community Credit Union, KSC Federal Credit Union, National City Bank, Prime Bank, RBC Bank, Regions Bank, Riverside Bank, Seacoast National Bank, Space Coast Credit Union, Sunrise Bank, SunTrust, Cartridge World, CVS Pharmacies, Mailman Joey's, Nosh and Ganache, online at www.duckrace.com/brevard, or call Crosswinds 321-452-0800.

Right: Quacky and friends celebrate spring at BJ's Wholesale Club in Merritt Island.



OUR MISSION: Creating Opportunities For Young People To Succeed!

CROSSWINDS NEWS



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Kids' Week in Tallahassee

Through the sponsorship of Community Based Care of Brevard, two young women from the Crosswinds **Independent Living** program had the opportunity to take a trip to Tallahassee on March 30, 2009. Ayla Willis and Paula Creed, both from the program, along with Case Manager Stevette Dukes and community volunteer Julia Irvin, met with Florida State Senator Mike Haridopolos and Florida Representative Steve Crisafulli during Kids' Week in Tallahassee. The young people spoke candidly about the positive role the program has had in their lives and how important services such as these are in helping youth who have aged out of foster care achieve self-sufficiency.



Left to right: Community volunteer Julia Irvin, Case Manager Stevette Dukes, Senator Mike Haridopolos, youth Paula Creed and Ayla Willis in the Senator's Tallahassee office.

In addition to meeting with local legislators, the group also had the opportunity to sit in on a committee meeting and to watch the full House of Representatives in session. Ms. Dukes stated, "Our youth represented themselves and the Independent Living program very well. They were able to speak about their personal stories and situations in a way that did not leave them vulnerable, yet still let others know how important Independent Living services have been to them."



Divine Mercy Donates Easter Baskets

Long-time supporters and generous volunteers from **Divine Mercy Catholic Church of Merritt Island** brought colorful and treat-filled Easter baskets which brightened the holiday weekend for youth in the **Robert E. Lehton Children's Shelter**.

Youth Thanks Crosswinds Staff

Todge Jackson stopped by Crosswinds to thank the staff for all they did for him through the **Transitional Living Program**. Private Jackson was on his way to Seoul, South Korea with the U.S. Army.



Crosswinds Youth Services, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. An audited financial statement is available for review.
1407 Dixon Blvd., Cocoa FL 32922 - 321-452-0800 - www.crosswindsyouthservices.org



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