



# FLOC News

*Education to Empower Young People*

## Spring 2008 News & 2007 Annual Report

For Love of Children has served children and families in Washington, DC since 1965. Our mission is to provide high-risk children and youth with the resources they need to achieve educational and personal success through programs that prepare them to become confident, life-long learners and contributing members of their communities. FLOC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

### **For Love of Children**

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## FLOC Alumna Tiera King Talks About Life at Virginia Commonwealth University



*Tiera King addresses long-time friends of FLOC at the Annual Bernard L. Wilner Award Luncheon.*



*FLOC accepts a contribution for the Fred Taylor Scholarship Fund.*

Tiera King, a FLOC alumna and Virginia Commonwealth University freshman, shared memories of her experiences with For Love of Children at the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Bernard L. Wilner Award Luncheon on March 12, 2008. Tiera's speech was part of the annual award luncheon held by the Greater Washington Foundation of Insurance and Financial Advisors (GWFIFA), a long time supporter of the Fred Taylor Scholarship Fund. Tim Payne accepted a donation to FLOC from foundation president Kevin Conley. Redskins great and NFL Hall of Famer Bobby Mitchell shared his belief in the importance of supporting not for profit organizations and congratulated the GWFIFA for its continuing commitment to young people. As Mitchell shared, those who give for the benefit of others don't give because of the praise, or the glory, they give because, "...that's what we do."

*FLOC needs your email address to switch to cost-effective e-newsletters! Please return the enclosed card, send an email to [tpayne@floc.org](mailto:tpayne@floc.org), or visit [www.floc.org](http://www.floc.org) and click on "Join Our Mailing List" to help save natural - and FLOC's - resources!*

# Second Annual FLOC Book Festival

**M**ore than 60 students, family members, and volunteers joined For Love of Children on November 8, 2007 for the second annual Children's Book Festival. The evening began with an inspiring reading of "Playing to Win: The Story of Althea Gibson" by author Karen Deans. After reading the book and talking about the journey to publication, Ms. Deans opened the floor to thoughtful and insightful questions from several students. Tony, a second grader, enthusiastically shared stories about how tennis has been a large part of his life as well.

Next, the students made their way through the literacy stations. With the help of volunteers, they created sock puppet characters complete with googly eyes and yarn hair, and then crafted their own poems at the poetry workshop.

At the Reading Pen Pals Station, students wrote to their favorite author or storybook character. Dean's own daughter joined the fun by writing a letter to her favorite author—her



*Mother and daughter share a story at the Second Annual FLOC Book Festival.*

mom! Finally, students wrote about their favorite books, and displayed their work on the "Critics Wall" for all to see.

At the end of the night, each student received a signed copy of "Playing to Win," as well as a free book of their choosing at the FLOC Book Fair. The night was a huge success—FLOC students furthered their understanding of literacy, met a local author who inspired them and bonded with family



*Author Karen Deans watches Tony read from her book, **Playing to Win: The Story of Althea Gibson.***

members over a shared love of books. The festival also attracted some new volunteers to For Love of Children who vowed, "I'll be back for the next event!"

## Join FLOC's New Google Group

FLOC tutors are utilizing a new online medium to communicate across programs. Wednesday evening math tutor, Cecilia Jones started the "FLOC tutors" Google group in mid-January, with the goal of providing tutors a community in which to discuss education, share tutoring tips, read relevant articles, and smile at funny student moments.

Currently, there are over 160 members, and the Google group is quite active. New articles are posted each week and members visit daily. FLOC staff members use the group as a place to post announcements for tutors. With tutor numbers growing, the Google group will be increasingly useful as a centralized discussion community.

# Sharing Smiles, Showing Appreciation

## FLOC Tutor Appreciation

Western Development Corporation, a long-time FLOC supporter, generously sponsored the Fall Tutor Appreciation Event at Clyde's Gallery Place, on November 9, 2007. Fifty For Love of Children volunteers enjoyed refreshments and appetizers while being recognized for their commitment to providing educational support services to DC youth.

"We can never do enough to fully express our appreciation and respect for our volunteers," said Amelie Smith, NTP Program Manager, while greeting tutors.

Volunteers and staff formed ties by sharing the impact tutoring a student has had on their lives. The evening was filled with stories from tutors about their first day with their students, and their own struggles with math and reading. "The event was a nice way for [FLOC] to show their support of us!" exclaimed one Wednesday Math tutor.



*FLOC volunteers enjoy Clyde's at Gallery Place*



*Neehma displays her gift at Garrison Elementary School.*

## Making the Holidays Memorable for FLOC Students

Thanks to the generous help of FLOC's corporate sponsors, it was a very special holiday season for all of the FLOC students enrolled in Neighborhood Tutoring, Leaders in the Making, and Educational Guidance & Advocacy programs. TerpSys, a long-time partner and supporter, donated more than 200 presents, ranging from a fishing pole and tackle to dolls and action figures, making sure that each student received something he or she truly wanted. Ms. Barbara Whitacker, a staff member's mother, donated presents to every child enrolled in FLOC's after-school program at Garrison Elementary. Every middle school and high school student also received a gift or gift card, courtesy of the Corporate Executive Board, Adams National Bank, and Howrey LLP, a new FLOC partner. On behalf of all FLOC students, we say thank you to the hundreds of individuals who took part in the gift-giving campaign during the 2007 holiday season.

### Save the Date!

For Love of Children's 3rd Annual  
Year-End Recognition Event  
Friday, June 6th, 2008  
Universalist National Memorial Church  
1810 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

# Expanding Horizons for FLOC Students

## Students Attend Teen Socrates Seminar

In February, Kiera Grant and Brenda Balcarcel, juniors in the Educational Guidance and Advocacy program, traveled to Aspen, Colorado for the Aspen Institute's Teen Socrates Seminar. The Aspen Institute is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering enlightened leadership and open-minded dialogue through seminars, conferences and leadership development initiatives. The Institute seeks to promote nonpartisan inquiry and an appreciation for timeless values. The theme for this year's teen seminar was "resolving bioethical dilemmas." Along with students from the Aspen community, Kiera and Brenda discussed challenging themes including "the allocation of biomedical technologies," "conducting biomedical research in developing countries," and "health care reform." The weekend was a success; both students took home valuable information about research, dialogue, and biomedical ethics.



*Brenda Balcarcel and Kiera Grant in Aspen, CO.*

## EG&A congratulates FLOC alumni who have earned a grade point average of 3.0 or higher this semester:

Unique Bexley - *Grinnell College*  
Brianna Bourne - *Morgan State University*  
Rhonesha Buford - *Occidental College*  
Dominic Gasaway - *University of Maryland, Baltimore County*  
Tiera King - *Virginia Commonwealth University*  
Danielle Koon - *North Carolina A&T State University*  
Foday Pessima - *University of the District of Columbia*  
Shakira Thomas - *Howard University*  
Vanessa Thomas-Canar - *Barry University*  
Victor Ware - *Corcoran College of Art and Design*

## The Meltzer Group Sponsors a Trip to Butler's Orchard

"Thank you, The Meltzer Group - I could not have asked for a better way to spend my Friday!" said Calvin, a Leaders in the Making Student.

On Friday, November 2, 2007, a group of 45 For Love of Children students, parents, tutors, staff and volunteers from The Meltzer Group celebrated the fall season at Butler's Orchard. The field trip was a reward for the students' hard work during the first two months of the school year.

The event began with students piling into wagons for a haunted hayride filled with scary sounds and ghosts. During the ride, students enjoyed freshly picked apples.

After the hayride, participants devoured hotdogs and S'mores around a blazing campfire. The Meltzer Group volunteers and FLOC staff members assisted students in melting marshmallows and telling ghost stories. Tyreik, a Saturday Morning student exclaimed, "I am really lucky to be in FLOC to have a chance to go on a trip like this!"

Participants departed feeling appreciated for their hard work and re-energized by their time spent away from the city, enjoying the crisp cool fall air. The memorable Butler's Orchard event would not have been possible without The Meltzer Group's generous continued support and involvement.

# FLOC Students - Leaders Near and Far

## Global Neighborhoods

In October 2007, Leaders in the Making (LITM) began a partnership with Global Neighborhoods, a nonprofit organization that facilitates cultural exchanges between American youth and youth in other countries. Through Global Neighborhoods, LITM was partnered with Gündoğdü High School in Adana, Turkey. Since beginning the project in October, LITM students have participated in a number of cultural exploration activities. They have learned to articulate—through letters, poetry/song lyrics and art—their individual cultures as well as their collective Washington DC youth culture.

Each group also created and exchanged “cultural artifact boxes.” The box received from Turkey included traditional Turkish farming pants, which all the DC students tried on. DC students sent a homemade CD of popular American music to the Turkish students to help them understand what it’s like to be a teenager in DC. LITM and Gündoğdü High School plan to organize a student exchange trip in fall 2008. Such a trip would be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the Leaders students and would allow them to take the knowledge they’ve gained through the cultural exchange and apply it thousands of miles from home.

## Use GoodSearch to Raise Funds for For Love of Children

Did you know you can raise money for FLOC just by using the Internet? Designate “GoodSearch” ([www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com)) as your search engine. Each time it’s used, some money will be donated to the charity of your choice! Spread the word; the more people using GoodSearch, the more children we can serve.

## Save the Date for Earth Day

On **Sunday, April 20, 2008** from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the Outdoor Education Center is celebrating our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Earth Day Event with a “Living Green” theme. For the first time, a 5K Trail Run/Walk will commence the Earth Day Activities. The race will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will be followed by the Earth Day Opening Ceremonies at 10:00 a.m. You can pre-register for the race at [www.flocoutdoors.org](http://www.flocoutdoors.org).

Join FLOC for a day of environmentally-friendly activities, a guest speaker, lunch, live music, and earth-conscious vendors. Earth Day activities include the **5K Trail Run/Walk** which promotes healthy living and environmental awareness; **Windmill Creation** an activity that demonstrates wind power; **Stream Table** an interactive way for students to explore water issues; **Leaf “Solar Panels”** incorporating math skills and a knowledge of how man-made solar panels work in collecting sunlight to create energy; **Organic Birdfeeder** which uses natural materials to provide a treat to the animals around the OEC; **Drum Circle** listening to and learning about “natural” music, free of amps and electric power!

Many thanks and heartfelt appreciation goes out to the following organizations for their donations to help make Earth Day a success:



Meltzer Group  
National Park  
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Goods  
Martin’s Food  
Market  
Weis Markets

# Fashion Show at the Hay-Adams Hotel - Stars Shine for For Love of Children

FLOC board member Kay Enokido, Executive Vice President & Owner's Representative of Hay-Adams Hotel, welcomed guests to the Hay-Adams on September 29, 2007 for an elegant luncheon and unique fashion show. The show featured the latest collection of executive women's wear from Georgetown designer Nina McLemore, former chair of The Fashion Group, International and founder of Liz Claiborne Accessories.

The designs were modeled by local luminaries including National Public Radio host Diane Rehm; CNN white house correspondent Suzanne Malveaux; Michelle Lee, President and CEO of STG International; Eleanor Clift, contributing editor for Newsweek Magazine and McLaughlin Group panelist; and FLOC board member and Communications Director of BNA, Karen James Cody. Helen Thomas of the White House Press Corps was a special guest. The event included a trunk show and silent auction, and raised almost

\$10,000 for For Love of Children. Ms. McLemore commented on the joy of helping a program that is giving young people both "roots and wings."



*Kay Enokido, Helen Thomas, and Suzanne Malveaux*

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