

COMMUNITY ISSUE BRIEF

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Community Profile



Iyeisha Fields grew up as a youth at the Kingsessing Recreation Center. She has been an active participant in the PCVPC.

In October, she facilitated the youth panel at the community symposium. From the wonderful job she did with the panel, she was asked to join PARCC's Asset Mapping program in West and Southwest Philadelphia. This program addresses cardiovascular health, mental health and violence. Iyeisha is enjoying the recent successful completion of the IRB training program.

Through her experience working with the project she has enjoyed meeting people and being an active member of her community. This experience is one she will highly recommend to her peers.

Iyeisha enjoys working with youth and spends her summers as a 11-13 year old camp counselor.

Iyeisha is a junior at the Parkway West High School where she represents her class through student government. She is currently preparing for the SAT exam. She plans to apply to Old Dominion University where her goal is to major in Sociology. Her aspirations are to become a social worker and child advocate.

Community Based Participatory Research

by Saburah Abdul-Kabir



The word “research”, in our community, has left images of horror in most Black folks’ minds. We think about the most infamous study, Tuskegee Syphilis experiment, where Black men were used to enhance medical knowledge by not treating their condition for years. We also realize that there were many such “studies” being performed all over the country, however, none of these studies made national news. In the past, anyone who was not Caucasian was considered “less than”, and many minorities including Blacks could find themselves at the wrong end of “research projects”.

Since the Civil Right movement, science has grown that we must have permission, also known as “informed consent”, before including them in research studies. A research participant must agree to take part in the study. They must understand the “pros” and “cons” of the program and then decide for themselves if they want to be apart of the study. After considering all of the information, thus the term “informed consent”.

Research is done all the time. From deciding what movie to attend to what the effects are of having many electronics in our society. The point being that no matter what the subject there are rules and guidelines to follow. These rules or procedures are called “protocols”. These protocols differ from study to study. As part of informed consent, the person must understand the protocol or what will be done in the study. Research, like other subjects, can have its own language and informed consent and protocol are two words that are used in research.

We all have been involved in research one way or another. The Census, which counts the U.S. population every 10 years, is a good example. Also, have you ever filled out a short survey about a product you bought? That’s research at its best! Research helps collect knowledge and knowledge is power!

So, Community Based research is the type of knowledge that is relevant to our community, West Philadelphia, and so on. Knowing your ‘hood is something most of us do without even thinking about it. We speak to our neighbors, we know the corner store owner, the elderly lady three houses down. These bits of knowledge empower us and help us to feel safe in our own homes. Community based researchers work with us to build relationships and trust so we can understand how to make our neighborhoods better and safer. Formal or informal, we all belong to a circle of people.

So why Community-based Participatory Research (CBPR)? Well, when one becomes involved in a project, they have some ownership, or stake in that project. The same is true for research. My community is part of who I am. It’s a part of who we all are. To participate as a community is a natural way to work together to gather knowledge about what is already yours to make changes. To participate in collecting this knowledge is one of the higher forms of service to our fellow brothers and sisters to improve our community.

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Summer Activities

Looking for good activities for your kids to do this summer? Here are some ideas:

Reading Programs

St. Joseph's University offers a 5 week intensive reading program for youth 5-14. For more details call Helen Pergolini at 610.660.3480 \$

Library Camps

The Free Library of Philadelphia has programs for all ages including summer reading game, online summer reading game, teen summer reading game and science in summer. For more details call 215.686.5372 F

Day Camps

The West Branch YMCA at 52nd & Chestnut Streets offers summer camps for youth. For more details call 215.476.2700 \$

The Department of Recreation has various activities for all ages throughout the community at area recreation centers. For more details call 215.683.3600 \$; F

Philadelphia Theatre Company

Is your teenager interested in acting, play writing, directing, or theatre design? Do they just love the theatre? Then **ActOut: Summer Session** is where youth will get hands on experience. For more details call 215.985.0420 \$

\$: fee, F: free

Summer Jobs

Applications are being accepted for the Philadelphia Summer Youth Employment Program. These applications are accepted by mail, and youth are considered on a first come, first serve basis. Applications can be downloaded from the Philadelphia Youth Network website.

http://www.workreadyphila.com/youth_app08.html

All interested youth are encouraged to apply.

Safe Neighborhoods, Safe Lives

* **Give a young person your time: This is the most valuable thing you can offer to them, to your community and to the future.**

Importance: Caring adults are essential to a child's healthy development. And healthy development is powerful protection and prevention.

How it helps: Young people need to have adults who they can turn to for support, safety, advice, guidance, as well as to raising and recognizing their uniqueness, value and potential. Children need this support in all aspects of their lives: in families, schools, and communities.

For more info: National Clearinghouse for Families and Youth
www.americaspromise.org

* **Be a positive role model. Children and youth learn by your example, not just what you tell them. Be fair and respectful in all you do.**

Importance: Promote peaceful resolutions to conflict by being a good role model. Learn how to deal with conflict at home calmly, considerately and quickly and manage your anger without violence.

How it helps: Talk with your children about handling disagreements, and help your children learn how to examine and find non-aggressive solutions to problems. For more info: www.Safeyouth.org

* **Scared straight programs can hurt young people who are dealing with violence in their lives: A better way is to make sure young people can connect with at least one caring adult who can help them expect, do, and be better.**

Importance: Scientific reviews have concluded that: "Programs that rely on "scare tactics" to prevent children and adolescents from engaging in violent behavior are not only ineffective, but may actually make the problem worse".

Numerous studies of Scared Straight have demonstrated that the program does not deter future criminal activities and in some, youth who participated in Scared Straight. In others, youths exposed to Scared Straight actually had higher re-arrest rates than youth who were not.

How it helps: Some of the developmental outcomes anticipated by the youth development model include: a positive sense of self, a sense of connection and commitment to others, and the ability and motivation to succeed in school and participate fully in family and community life

For more info: www.Safeyouth.org

Focus on Sports not Violence

Thursday, May 22, 2008 Student Athletes will "SHINE" in West Philly!

You are invited to a celebration of excellence as we honor local high school and college athletes in the Philadelphia area for outstanding achievements in sports. Retroaction Sports, the only magazine of its kind, will honor these student athletes for their accomplishments. Retroaction Sports was formed 3 years ago by former Bartram High School and Neumann College basketball star Jamal Green from southwest Philly, to highlight youth making a difference in the classroom and through sports. Green used his sports savvy to develop a magazine that focuses on literacy, reading, math, and anger management techniques to reach youth. The urban community needs positive media and redevelopment of its image. The magazine is a movement to help build the self-esteem and image of the community using sports as a vehicle to showcase positive messages for youth.

Come out and join Retroaction Sports to support our youth on Thursday, May 22 at Kingessing Recreation Center from 6-8pm for athlete and fan appreciation night!