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Concepts *for* Adaptive Learning Newsletter

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Greetings!!!

At the close of another year, we at CfAL gratefully pause to wish you a warm and happy Holiday Season and a peaceful and healthy New Year. Because the goodwill and initiative of those we serve is the foundation of our success, it's a real pleasure at this time to say "Thank You".

Surprise...The 2,000th Family!

On October 26th, Valerie Wellons got quite a surprise when she found out she was the 2,000th parent to participate in CfAL's parent computer program. That evening, in the training room at Tower One in New Haven, Valerie completed 10 1/2 hours of computer training and received a Certificate of Completion. In addition to getting a refurbished computer, she received a printer and speakers. CfAL installed the computer, printer and speakers in her home a few days later.

As the computer was being installed, you could hear Valerie say to her 15 year old son, Jerome, "the computer is for educational purposes only, and not for games".

Jerome, pictured on left below with Valerie, uses the computer for a wide variety of purposes, from documentaries to music. When he comes home from school he goes on the computer to reading, math and websites his teachers use to improve his academic skills. Her 9 year old son, Shawn, has become more confident as he works on websites that his teacher gave the family to help him academically.

Valerie said she participated in the parent computer program because she knew how important it was to have a computer at home for her sons' education. She said using the computer has not only helped her with helping her sons; but, the computer has also helped her in her job.

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Valerie also said the computer is a great tool that provides unlimited resources and entertainment for the whole family. She has already recommended the parent computer program to other parents.



You ask - why do we have the parent computer program? These are a few words from Migdalia Alicea, the Family Resource Coordinator at Benjamin Franklin School in Meriden.

"I have witnessed firsthand the effects of this program on the families. When I walk through the doors the first thing the kids have done is direct me to their computers. The moms have been practicing their budgeting and mock schedules. They are anxiously waiting to get on-line. The kids have been practicing their computer skills and this time it is not an outreach worker, a school teacher or a counselor helping them. It is their first and most important teachers, their parents. That for me is the ultimate reward for a job well done".

The goals of the parent computer program are to increase parents' involvement in their children's education, extend learning beyond the classroom and simultaneously help close the "digital divide".

Our Newest Partner... The City of Meriden

In September, C/AL, in partnership with the Meriden Board of Education and Meriden Children First, started up its parent computer program in Meriden, and initially targeted its program to 40 Meriden Family Zone parents of students attending the Roger Sherman Elementary School.

September 14th was an exciting day for 10 parents who attended their 1st day of computer training at Roger Sherman School in Meriden. These parents have children attending the school and took the initiative to sign up for training.

Upon completing their training 3 weeks later, the proud parents pictured below, with their instructor, Carlos Couvertier standing in the middle, were presented with a Certificate of Completion by Tom Bruenn, a member of the Meriden Board of Education. Later that week, the parents were given a refurbished computer that C/AL installed in their home, along with a year of technical support.

Initial funding for this program was made possible through the generosity of 3M and 3M CT CRT, The James H. Napier Foundation, the Liberty Bank Foundation, and the People's United Community Foundation.



Northeast Utilities

donated 25 computers that were installed in the homes of the first 25 Meriden Family Zone participants. Cox Communications is providing reduced price high speed internet service for 40 eligible families who participate in the program. Cox Communications also gave a \$2,500 donation to support the parent computer program.

Planning for Hamden

In October, the Hamden Board of Education unanimously approved partnering with C/AL in promoting and delivering the parent computer program in Hamden. The plan is to give computer training and refurbished computers to 40 parents who have children attending the Church Street School. The estimated timeframe for delivering the program is April 2012.

Our Supporters

Sustaining our organization and programs that strive to improve the academic achievement of public school children has been made possible through the generosity and financial support of our donors, and our annual fundraiser. We would like to take a moment to thank each and every one of them for their generosity.

- **3M and 3M CT CRC:** grant awarded to give computer training to 40 disadvantaged families who have children attending the Roger Sherman School in Meriden
- **Carolyn Foundation:** grant awarded to improve math literacy of underperforming 3rd and 4th grade students living in impoverished New Haven neighborhoods
- **The Comcast Foundation:** grant awarded to give computer training and computers to 40 disadvantaged families who have children attending public schools in Waterbury
- **Connecticut Community Foundation:** grant awarded to give computer training and computers to 40 disadvantaged families who have children attending the Chase and Woodrow Wilson Schools in Waterbury
- **Connecticut State Library:** grant awarded to give computer training and refurbished computers to 140 low-

income families who have children attending public schools in Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven and Waterbury

- **Cox Charities:** grant awarded to support the parent computer program in Meriden
- **First Niagara Financial Group:** grant awarded to give computer training to 50 disadvantaged families who have children attending New Haven Public Schools
- **Hank and Nancy Bartels Trust:** grant awarded to support the parent computer program in New Haven
- **The James H. Napier Foundation:** grant awarded to give computer training to 40 disadvantaged families who have children attending the Roger Sherman School in Meriden
- **Liberty Bank Foundation:** grant awarded to give computer training to 40 disadvantaged families who have children attending the Roger Sherman School in Meriden
- **NewAlliance Foundation:** grant awarded to give computer training to 20 disadvantaged families who have children attending the Fair Haven School in New Haven
- **People's United Community Foundation:** grant awarded to give computer training to 25 disadvantaged families who have children attending the Roger Sherman School in Meriden
- **Pfizer:** grant awarded to improve math literacy of underperforming 3rd and 4th grade students, living in impoverished New Haven neighborhoods
- **Unilever United States Foundation:** grant awarded to give computer training to 20 disadvantaged families who have children attending the Fair Haven School in New Haven

Your Support Makes a Difference

Our capacity to serve and help improve public school children's education is made possible through our many volunteers and donations from businesses, foundations and generous people such as you. Please support our programs by visiting our website and clicking on the menu item "**Make a Donation**", or by sending a check to:

CfAL
4 Science Park, Suite A
New Haven, CT 06511

We thank you for reading our newsletter and for your current and on-going support!

Learning Math After School Can Be Fun

Thirteen 3rd and 4th grade students from the poorest

neighborhoods of New Haven completed a 5-week math training program. The goal of the program was to significantly improve these students' math literacy and attitude toward math.

Based on a final day assessment test, the lowest performing student scored a 91, and the average of all scores was a 94. In addition, 100 percent of the students indicated they had a more positive attitude toward math and felt more confident in solving math problems.

Below is a group of students in the C/fAL computer lab in New Haven. Standing in the background on the left is the math instructor, Stephney Gonzalez with Nathan Joyner, the project manager. The other math instructor, Creola Smith, was unavailable for the photo shoot.



It was a happy day in August when the children received their Certificates of Completion and became Math Stars; but also a sad day knowing it was their last day of class for the summer.

We are thankful to The Carolyn Foundation and Pfizer Community Affairs for investing in this important summer project.

How To Start Your Own Business

In partnership with the Housing Authority of the City of New Haven, C/fAL delivered a 5-week summer course called "How to Start Your Own Business" to a group of sixteen 13 to 17 year old Housing Authority students.

Each student created a business plan using Microsoft Word and their business' 1st year financials using Microsoft Excel. The final session included each student presenting their business plan and 1st year financials using Microsoft PowerPoint. The most intriguing business plan was presented by the 15 year old, Rashad Ratchford pictured above, whose company specialized in reducing friendly fire casualties in conflict.



The course built confidence in each student's ability to be creative and start their own business.

2011-2012 Teacher Training

2011-2012 Teacher Training

For the past 7 years, CfAL has had a wonderful partnership with UCONN Gear Up and through their grant received funding to deliver teaching technology training to more than 90 teachers at Wilbur Cross High School in New Haven. For business reasons, UCONN Gear Up was unable to provide funding for this academic-year.

The CfAL Board of Directors thought teacher technology training is so important that CfAL must continue the training without our partner. Thus 32 teachers, who are now in training, are benefiting from the Board's decision.



Pictured above is a group of teachers at Wilbur Cross High School who completed their training in April and received a Certificate of Appreciation. Top left in an orange top is Stephanie Kilburn the technology instructor.

Computer Donors

CfAL installed or replaced more than 400 computers in the homes of families in Bridgeport, Hartford, Meriden, New Haven and Waterbury in 2011. Our plan is to give out and install an equal number of computers in 2012.

Although we received generous computer donations in 2011, from the group of computer donors listed below, we still need many more computers. If you know of a business or university that might be interested in donating a large quantity of refurbishable computers to a non-profit organization, please have them send an email to curtis-hill@cox.net or call 203-410-3679. Thank you!

- Choate Rosemary Hall
- Computer Sciences Corporation
- East Haven High School
- Northeast Utilities
- Naugatuck Valley Community College
- Neubert, Pepe & Monteith P.C.

- Quinnipiac University
- Unilever GIO NA
- University of New Haven
- Yale University

Our Newest Board Member

We are pleased to let you know that Sandra Trevino has joined the CfAL Board of Directors. Sandra will help CfAL more closely connect with the Latino community and the people we serve in that community. Sandra is currently the Executive Director of Junta for Progressive Action, where she has been since 2007. JUNTA is the oldest Latino, community based non-profit organization in New Haven, Connecticut. Its mission is to provide services, programs and advocacy that improve the social, political and economic conditions of the Latino community in Greater New Haven, while nurturing and promoting its cultural traditions as it builds bridges with other communities.

Fundraisers

Celebrating 2011, While Planning for CfAL's 2012 Luxury Car & Cruise Raffle



Through the generosity of more than 350 guests who attended the 2011 Wine Tasting & Raffle Fundraiser and the financial support from our sponsors, CfAL raised \$23,000. These funds were used to give computer training and computers to 45 families, from throughout the poorest neighborhoods of New Haven.

What we have planned for our 2012 fundraiser is a Luxury Car & Cruise Raffle. What you see is the picture above is a portion of the 1st prize. More information about the 2012 fundraiser will be communicated in the next few months.

New Website is Coming

Be on the lookout; our new website will launch in February, under 2 URLs and they are:

<http://www.EachChildLearns.org>

<http://www.CFALCT.org>

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