

# NEWS LETTER January 2010

*"HOPE'S CAP, Inc. programs are funded in part through a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services".*

## WINTER GATHERING 2009

**Ora Welch, M.Ed.**  
 President / CEO




In an effort to celebrate the successes of 2009, HOPE'S Board of Directors, staff and community partners came together on December 11<sup>th</sup> for its annual Winter Gathering. This year's event was extra special as it was the first opportunity for many of the agency's Early Childhood Program staff working in Plainfield to meet their colleagues from Hoboken. HOPE'S CAP, Inc. looks forward to another winning year of providing quality services to individuals and families.



## PLAINFIELD HEAD START PARENTS CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH A MULTICULTURAL DINNER

On Thursday, December 17, 2009, the Plainfield Head Start Parent Committee celebrated the holidays by hosting a multicultural dinner. Parents were asked to bring in their favorite dishes representing their family's culture. Countries represented included Ecuador, Trinidad, Puerto Rico, Peru, Mexico, Jamaica, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Guyana, and the United States. The event was held at the St. Mary's site and coordinated by the Parent Committee officers, Nadine Perriere, Juan Velez, Sharon Naiken and Alicia Zavala. Over fifty families were in attendance and enjoyed sampling food from around the world. Lori Renshaw, Program Manager, stated, "I didn't even know you could eat shark meat, but it is delicious!"



All parents are encouraged to attend the monthly parent meetings to be involved in the planning of future family activities. The next parent meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2010, and will be held at Friend's Texas Wieners on E. Front Street.

### HOPE'S Highlights

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## HOBOKEN VOLUNTEERS

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, HOPES CAP, Inc. participated in the website launch party for a new on line clearinghouse called *Hoboken Volunteers*. HOPES was one of 12 community organizations to attend this event and provide information to interested individuals looking to strengthen the community through donating their valuable time to worthwhile organizations such as HOPES.



Hoboken Volunteers was founded to provide individuals with a centralized website where local community activists can connect with organizations, foundations, and groups who require the assistance of volunteers.

Individuals interested in learning more about Hoboken Volunteers and volunteer opportunities through HOPES can visit the Hoboken Volunteer website at [www.hobokenvolunteers.com](http://www.hobokenvolunteers.com).

## PRESENTING THE EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM



In responding to the needs of the community, the Employment Support Program offers a wide range of services for those seeking employment or to improve their current professional status. Individuals' marketability and skills are evaluated through various assessments. Services offered include resume and cover letter development, job search strategies and interviewing skills improvement. Classes and workshops teach and encourage individuals to discover their interests in order to pursue an ideal job leading to a successful career. The Employment Support Program also hosts a series of interactive workshops, including mock interviews and professional enhancement.

For more information about the Employment Support Program, please contact: HOPES CAP, Inc. at 201-876-2935 or 201-795-1576 x 15.

## HOPES CAP, INC. NEEDS VOLUNTEERS FOR TAX SEASON

Looking for a different kind of volunteer work? How about volunteering to do taxes for Hoboken area residents this tax season? You need not have any accounting experience. All that's required is a desire to help others who cannot prepare their basic tax returns or afford to pay a preparer.



HOPES CAP, Inc. is looking for volunteers interested in helping their neighbors prepare their income taxes. Through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, you will learn to prepare simple federal and state tax returns. If you're interested, you'll be trained by the Internal Revenue on **Saturday, January 9, 2010** using IRS tax materials. Once certified you will be eligible to prepare individual tax returns for individuals whose incomes are \$49,000 or less. You will be asked to donate 4 hours a week helping at the HOPES CAP, Inc. VITA site from mid- January through April 15. Don't wait! For more information or to volunteer, contact Evelyn Mercado at (201) 876-2935.

## HOPES CAP, INC. APPRECIATIVE OF GENEROUS DONATIONS

HOPES CAP, Inc. would like to express its gratitude to those that have contributed so generously during this season of giving. HOPES CAP, Inc. was able to purchase 220 Shop Rite Gift cards valued at a total of \$5,500 through donations from the HOPES Hoboken Parent Committee, the Church @ Hoboken, and fundraising efforts like Shop for a Cause. These cards were distributed to HOPES clients throughout the holiday season. The kindness and efforts of these groups and individuals benefitted clients of all HOPES CAP, Inc. programs. Again, we thank you!





## THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!!

The HOPES Curriculum Committee will be meeting this month both in Hoboken and Plainfield. Curriculum Committee is an opportunity for parents to learn about the specifics of the High Scope Curriculum in Plainfield and the Tools of the Mind Curriculum in Hoboken. The focus of the committee this year will be supporting theme implementation in the classroom.

All are welcome!! The committee meets January 6<sup>th</sup> in Plainfield at 5:00pm, location to be determined, and January 22<sup>nd</sup> in Hoboken at 11:00am in the Rue Site conference room. Please email Barbara Panas, Education Manager with any questions: [bpsanas@hopes.org](mailto:bpsanas@hopes.org). See you there!



## GOING TO THE DOGS IN CLASS 15 – WATCHUNG SITE



For the past few weeks, the students of classroom 15 at the Watching site been pretending to be dogs! So the students along with the teachers Mrs. Lighten, Ms. Ruth and Ms. Grey investigated the life of a dog. This included learning what letter dog begins with, parts of a dog, jobs dogs perform, how to care for dogs, and what dogs eat. The students sang about a dog named B-I-N-G-O! During their neighborhood walks, the students extended their learning by identifying different color and sizes of dogs. Woof, woof, it was “woonderful”.

## HAVING A BEARY GOOD TIME – WATCHUNG ROOM # 3

This last month the teachers of Watching 3, Ms. Bonnie, Ms. Claudia and Ms. Mercedes along with their students learned all about bears! They made a graph to see if “Brown Bear Brown Bear, What Do You See?” or “Polar Bear, Polar Bear What Do You Hear?” was their favorite Eric Carle Book. They also made teddy bear puppets and used teddy bear counters to sort and make patterns. In addition, they worked with teddy bear counters in the block area to build with and put in the back of their cars and trucks. In small group, the children drew the story that the teacher told: If Ms. Bonnie has one bear and Ms. Claudia has two bears, how many bears in all? If you want to read more about bears, room 3 recommends “Corduroy” by Don Freeman, “Jamberry” by Bruce Degan, “The Bear Went Over the Mountain” by Rozanne Williams, and of course, “Goldilocks and the Three Bears”.



## HOPES FATHER’S GROUP UPDATE

A special “Thank you” to Joseph Branco, father of Joseph Branco Jr, for allowing the HOPES Fathers Group to use his business, Room 84 for the Pictures with Santa. Although the weather was not cooperative, the kids and their families were able to come in from the cold and have some hot chocolate, coffee, and cookies. They also got to meet the “Big Guy” himself, Santa. Happy Holidays.



Yahoo Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HopesDads/>

Facebook: Search (Hoboken Dads)

Twitter: @hobokendads



Volume 5, Issue 5

Visit us online at [www.Hopes.org](http://www.Hopes.org)

January



## FIRST ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Monday, May 17, 2010  
White Beeches Golf & Country Club  
70 Haworth Drive, Haworth, N.J.

BREAKFAST . GOLF . SILENT AUCTION . RAFFLE . COCKTAIL RECEPTION . AWARDS DINNER  
Sponsorship Opportunities are Available!

Reserve your spot now as the outing will sell out!

A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS WILL GO TO



To register for the outing and for more information:  
Josie Di Chiara 201.208.4540 or email [dichiamktg@msn.com](mailto:dichiamktg@msn.com)

## EXCEL IN THE NEW YEAR AT YOUR CONVENIENCE

HOPES CAP, Inc. Family Resource Center is offering  
**FREE ESL, ADULT BASIC ED & COMPUTER classes.**

**Basic Comp: Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:00-2:30PM**

**Intermediate Comp: Mondays & Wednesdays 1:00-2:30PM**

**Evening Intermediate Comp: Monday 5:30-7:30PM**

**Evening ESL: Tuesdays & Thursdays 5:30PM-7:30 PM**

**Evening Adult Basic Ed: Wednesday 5:30-7:30 PM**

\* Evening Classes are held at the Rue Site-301 Garden Street \*



Classes Conducted in English and Spanish  
**Day Classes Begin Monday, January 25, 2010**

For more information please call us at (201) 876-2935.

**Start the new year off right and begin your journey to a new & improved you!**