According to the Office of Juvenile Justice, one in every three juvenile arrests are girls. In Chicago, 45.4% of African American high school girls and 28.8% of Latina girls are reported as being in a physical fight one or more times during a 12-month period. On the south side of Chicago, a fire ignited on Wednesday, May 29th to annihilate these statistics and create a new fire of transformation. Anticipation was on the horizon and excitement was in the air as over 300 girls filled the auditorium of Kennedy King College located in the Englewood community.

A voice of change spoke loud as the South Side Coalition on Urban Girls (SSCUG) partnered with Chicago Public Schools to launch its first annual Girl on Fire Conference. This conference was designed to: create a fun environment for girls to gain knowledge in the areas of health, safety, and wellness; reinforce common, core standards through conference workshop sessions and activities; cultivate leadership development and encourage academic achievement; create a deeper sense of community, provide education in the areas of sexual health and self-esteem; and encourage girls to be their best and pursue their dreams. Students and staff participated in a day of empowering workshops and activities. The conference included prevention and education workshops which promoted academic success, goal setting, violence prevention, healthy relationships, conversations around self-worth, financial literacy, critical thinking skills, and habits of HIV prevention.

Special guest appearances and performances included Courtney Smith, Miss Black Illinois USA 2013, The Hot Boys—Power 92, and Lyrical Truth. Students were challenged to create a ‘vision board’ that identified personal strategies to becoming a Girl on Fire – a girl who blazes a positive trail in her family, school and community.
Making a Difference!
Words from Sherida Morrison, Founder and CEO

Many of you remember the days of yesteryear when our elementary schools would host “Report Card Day.” For some it was a celebratory time of recognition for our academic commitment. Others viewed it as a doomsday, knowing that the aftermath may include: restrictions, increased chores or even worse, a spanking! To make matters worse, elementary school report cards also included a grade for “conduct.” Conduct is defined as the act, manner, or process of carrying on in one’s personal behavior. Basically, the conduct grade informed parents how we managed ourselves in the classroom. For some reason, when conduct is even more important, its evaluation is removed from the high school and college grading system but shows up again in adulthood through job performance appraisals. Isn’t that ironic that the concept is reintroduced when the results can ultimately affect our ability to gain financial mobility? Wow… that’s deep! All of a sudden, I am expected to demonstrate exceptional conduct when no formal assessment has been made since eighth grade!

On a daily basis, the staff at Demoiselle 2 Femme, NFP challenges girls to make an introspective evaluation of their conduct in the largest classroom…LIFE! Sometimes, our assessments and recommendations are met with resistance, but the girls know that our correction comes from a place of love. I contend that many of the social graces we see fading in our society are a direct result of adults modeling “F” conduct in the home, community, in media and music. Often times, it appears that the people demonstrating “F” conduct have taken over society and are being rewarded for their “F” behavior!

If we desire to preserve the fabric of that which is good, moral and ethical in our community; we must first examine ourselves, make the necessary adjustments, and then consistently model the appropriate behavior. So, I recently asked myself the question. IF THE PROFESSOR OF MY LIFE - GOD - WAS TO GRADE MY OVER-ALL CONDUCT, WHAT GRADE WOULD I RECEIVE? Would I be on the Honor Roll? If not, how much of that grade would accurately depict how I “manage my personal behavior” among co-workers, family, the store clerk, the driver who cut me off, the friend who upset me… I could go on. These questions led me to more questions. What would my grade be in the attitude and behavior of giving (time and money), serving, and other selfless acts? In this edition of the Catalyst we highlight events that challenge adults to operate as good role models for our youth, i.e. Parent Breakfast, PAUSE, etc. The parent breakfast theme sums it up, that as “Children see, Children do!”

The letter “A” grade symbolizes perfection and excellence. While our intrinsic human behavior may be flawed from achieving absolute perfection, it doesn’t mean that we can’t strive for it. In reality, it’s those who embrace, exemplify, teach and model “A” conduct that leaves the deepest footprints in life as well as in the hearts of mankind. So what conduct grade are you striving for? As for me, Sherida V. Morrison, I am committed to achieving an “A” in an effort to always “Make a Difference!”

D2F WISH LIST

We are applying the saying “you have not because you ask not” to this newly developed section of our newsletter. As a 501-C-3 tax exempt organization, your donations are greatly welcomed and appreciated. Please take look at the list below and see where you can grant a wish for D2F and the girls and families served. Unable to give right now? Your prayers concerning our wish list are just as valuable!

• 12-15 passenger van!
• (1) Xerox color laser printer for office suite 201 (Phaser 6700) - $1,350
• Sponsorship for our South Side Resource Guide for Girls in collaboration with the South Side Coalition for Urban Girls. Contact Sherida Morrison for sponsorship levels.
• Donations for land acquisition in Roseland for the Hope Center (estimated $250,000)
• 100 donors to commit to a monthly gift of $100 per month for 2013.

To grant a wish, please contact Sharon Carey, Office Manger, (773) 779-9371, ext. 305

“Girls in the City” COMING SOON

South Side Coalition on Urban Girls (SSCUG) presents “Girls in the City…South Side Edition” Resource Guide
PAUSE recognized national day of awareness on Saturday, March 9, at the historical DuSable Museum of African American History. This annual event centered on encouraging mothers and daughters to speak honestly with one another about sexual health and the effects of HIV and AIDS among African American women.

Our Girls With A Voice Empowered (G-WAVE) program participants and staff kicked off the event with a skit and video presentation. They emphasized the quiet, sometimes hidden questions and concerns that teen girls have related to sexual health and HIV/AIDS. Invited guests like Prevention Educator, Aisha Sanders and Louis Spraggins from South Side Help Center shared their experiences of being diagnosed with the dis-ease and emphasis on the importance of HIV testing. The event concluded with a panel of healthcare professionals and community activists who provided clarity on the disease from a medical standpoint. The panelist expressed their excitement with the decrease in national rates related to HIV/AIDS, but voiced their concerns about reported cases still being highest amongst African American women. The panelist encouraged the mothers and daughters to speak candidly about sexual health, the realities of unprotected sex, and STD prevention, especially HIV/AIDS. Sherry Nolen, HIV/AIDS specialist from South Side Help Center offered HIV screening to all mothers and daughters present and 33 attendees followed through with the opportunity to be tested. A short reception, catered by Fanfare, allowed attendees to mingle and further engage in inspiring conversations. We are looking forward to pausing with you again in the near future in creating a legacy of health for our daughters.
The South Side Coalition on Urban Girls (SSCUG) is an alliance of organizations and individuals that advocate for the improvement of health, safety and wellness for south side, urban girls through comprehensive resources and services. In May 2011 the Coalition completed its evaluation goal of administering more than 400 surveys to girls ages 12-18 in various south side communities and reached an additional 180 girls through focus groups that determined the health priorities and resource needs of girls living in high-risk communities on the south side. Founded in 2010, SSCUG strongly believes in a collective response to address the magnitude of issues faced by our girls.

Girls On Fire is sponsored by the South Side Coalition on Urban Girls and the Office on Women’s Health in partnership with Chicago Public Schools (CPS), and City Colleges of Chicago, Kennedy King College. SSCUG partners include: Chicago Public Schools (FACE), Chicago Lakeshore Hospital, Chicago Sky - WNBA, Demoiselle 2 Femme, NFP, Diamond in the Rough, Girl Scouts- Greater Chicago/Northwest Indiana, Girls Like Me Project, Global Girls, Inc. House of Prima Donnas, Human Resource Development (HRDI), IDHS-CHP, Lake Shore Hospital, Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago, Mercy Home for Boys and Girls, My Sisters Keeper, Northwestern University (ARCC), Salvation Army- “Stop It” Program, South Side Help Center and Women’s Health Foundation.
Additional highlights from “Girls on Fire” Conference

“Girls Like Me Project “
Founder, Lakeisha Sewell teaches media Literacy

Girls share the impact of the day conference
Girls have hands on experiences creating collages
Girls engaged in “Girl Fight... it’s not the Solution!” workshop hosted by Demoiselle 2 Femme, NFP

Lunch breakout session
Girls participate in a workshop on “Self Esteem”
The Annual Demoiselle 2 Femme Parent Breakfast was held Saturday February 9, 2013. Over 60 parents were challenged to take a serious look at themselves through the eyes of their daughters in the “Do You See What I See” workshop facilitated by Demoiselle 2 Femme Parent Coordinator, Mrs. Sharon Carey. The participants were taken on a guided tour through the eyes of their children and firmly cautioned that “children do what they see, and model what is reflected.” The workshop included a “real talk” discussion which challenged parents to examine themselves and the magnitude of their influence on the future success of their daughters. Those who attended the breakfast left equipped with practical solutions and empowered to positively impact the actions, attitudes, and lives of their children.

Sherida Morrison, Demoiselle 2 Femme, NFP, Founder and CEO, closed with these thought provoking questions, “What do you want from your daughter?” “What do you want to see?” She stated that it is critical for parents to set expectations for their child and model the behaviors they desire to see.
The early spring signified a milestone for 122 young ladies who recently joined our D2F “Signature” holistic youth development program. Two (2) New Beginnings conferences were hosted for 104 girls in our after school programs at Morgan Park, Simeon, Julian and Bloom High Schools and 18 girls from our community-based site in Roseland. The purpose of the “New Beginnings” conference is to introduce participants to the “POWER” series of our 3-D curriculum which is currently under national evaluation as an evidence-based model to prevent teen pregnancy by Chapin Hall (University of Chicago). The curriculum is comprised of 40 interactive workshop sessions divided into five modules based on PRIDE (Power. Respect. Intelligence. Desirable. Endurance).

During the Conference, girls learned the principle for POWER which is “I have the POWER to choose success over failure” and participated in four workshops: “Uniquely a Woman, Uniquely Me”; “The Power of Choice”; “Bag Lady” (letting go of family and relationship baggage) and “Let Go” (healing and forgiveness which includes a balloon release). By the end of the day, tears were shed, many hugs were given and students were locking arms symbolizing unity, sisterhood and a commitment to New Beginnings”. For more information on the 3-D Curriculum, please visit our website.

“Headed in the Right Direction”
2013 New Beginnings Conference
Partnership for a Better Roseland Awarded almost $30,000 for Community Based Participatory Research!

Demoiselle 2 Femme, NFP is the convening organization for Partnership for a Better Roseland which is Partnership for a Better Roseland (PBR) consists of nine organizations engaged in CBPR through an initial Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities (ARCC) partnership building grant. The mission of PBR is to coordinate the efforts of community and faith-based organizations to improve the health, safety and wellness of. Partnership for a Better Roseland has been awarded an ARCC Seed Implementation Grant to conduct activities which support “Choose Life” - a Community Based Participatory Research Project to Reduce School Related Youth Violence in Greater Roseland. The purpose of the “Choose Life” study is to examine and address school-related violence as a health priority among Roseland youth ages 14-18 through quantitative and qualitative, dissemination of findings to key stakeholders for broader impact through community action plans, policy development and contribution to the research field.

Yippee!!! .... Demoiselle 2 Femme, NFP is nominated to the Steering Committee of the Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities (ARCC)

ARCC is a program of the IPHAM Center for Community Health at Northwestern University, in collaboration with extramural partners. Guided by a steering committee of community- and faith-based organizations, faculty at Northwestern University, and public organizations, the Steering Committee supports Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) by providing seed grants, capacity-building workshops and one-on-one technical assistance, partnership facilitation, monthly information and resource updates, advocacy for supportive institutional policies, and other activities. This summer, the Steering Committee welcomed five new members including Demoiselle 2 Femme, NFP to continue the goal of strong participatory governance and involvement of diverse perspectives and representation. D2F has been involved with ARCC since 2009 as a Round 3 and Round 6 seed grant recipient with Dr. Virginia Bishop and as a participant in a year-long ARCC community capacity building program. We are extremely thankful and honored for the opportunity to serve the community.
On Saturday afternoon, May 18, 2013, The Demoiselle 2 Femme Mother-daughter Fashionistas stepped on the runway at The Oak Lawn Hilton and stepped right into spring. Adorned in their sizzling spring fashions, they wowed the audience. Excerpts from “The Non-Verbal Messages of Clothing” workshop in our 3-D curriculum were integrated into the event to teach women and girls appropriate attire for various occasions including job interviews, formal events and business casual settings. The “Dressed for Success or Hottt Mess” mini fashion show used humor and scenarios to fully demonstrate “what not to wear!”

Shannon Colar, Founder/CEO of Fearfully Fierce, and her “fierce” models went next level with their fresh fashions in white to their elegant ensembles of the night. Engraved in our memory are those vibrant prom dresses modeled by several 2013 graduates from Bloom and Thornton Township High Schools. Tyra Banks and the “Next Top Model” look out!!
Support us in our vision to build the H.O.P.E. Center for Girls in the Roseland community! **2013 FALL/WINTER UPDATE:** We are in the final phases of site selection and are currently preparing presentations and documentation. Look for an announcement of the site via our social networks and e-Catalyst online newsletter. **WE NEED YOUR EXPERTISE!!** If you are experienced in program and curriculum design or project development (construction, architecture, zoning, technology, and real estate law) please contact us on how you can participate as a Hope Center Task Force Member.

The purpose of the H.O.P.E. (Honor Opportunity Purpose Endurance) Center for Girls is to inspire adolescent females to achieve success through cognitive and social development programs. The principles of H.O.P.E. are integrated into programmatic activities and development sessions which fortify the bonds of personal achievement and social responsibility. Utilizing green technology, the Center will include an e-library, study rooms, technology center, science lab, dining hall, gymnasium, exercise facility, culinary kitchen, theater, art studio, dance studios, offices, classrooms, multiple rehearsal rooms, and a walking museum which celebrates the accomplishments of professional women who grew up in urban communities.

The H.O.P.E. Center will provide a vast array of opportunities to positively impact girls outside of the immediate, target community through community-based research initiatives with local and national institutions. The Institute for Research and Policy on Urban Girls (IRPUG) will be a center for research and public policy information which focuses on the healthy development of girls. The goal of the IRUG will be to provide research data that helps to improve the lives of girls who reside in urban communities. Through innovative research projects and published outcomes the institute will support the development of program and services at the H.O.P.E. Center as well as provide information to educational institutions, not-for-profits, government agencies, public policy organizations, parents and girls themselves.

For more information on how to serve or donate, please contact Sherida Morrison, CEO at (773) 779-9371, ext. 301.
It was a HOTTT Summer at D2F

Social Etiquette: A Tool for Success!

Since 1994, D2F has equipped more than 1,000 girls with 12 hours of social etiquette training as an essential tool for their future success. For almost 14 years, we have provided this skill through a longstanding partnership with Mr. Nathan Wright and his staff at Excel Etiquette. This summer girls from our Demoiselle 2 Femme (signature) and G-WAVE programs experienced fine dining at its' best at Macy's Walnut Room on State Street- the site of our Etiquette dinner since 1999 (then Marshall Fields). Prior to dinner, the girls toured the fine China section and learned about different collections and preparing for a dinner party. Afterward they practiced proper introductions, sitting and appropriate dinner conversations while dining on a five-course meal. The girls were dressed for success and represented true refinery!

Pajama Jam Bash!

Girls showed up in full force for our summer “Pajama Jam Bash” on Friday, August 2nd. The purpose of the teen girls “slumber party” was to celebrate the last few weeks of summer, discuss personal challenges and set new goals for the fall school semester. In addition to food and games, the girls participated in a “pajama fashion show,” and designed pillow and t-shirts to showcase at D2F recruitment events. The night ended with a D2F “Real Talk” discussion on the behavior of women in popular reality shows and the importance of protecting your personal “brand.”

INSPIRING BEAUTY 50 YEARS OF EBONY FASHION FAIR

Inspiring Beauty:
50 Years of Ebony Fashion Fair

It was an exciting summer experience as a bus load of 40 D2F participants visited this “must see” exhibit at the Chicago History Museum. Girls learned about the impact of Ebony Fashion Fair as a pioneer in bringing the pinnacle of Europe’s premier fashion to communities of color. The exhibit recreates the experience of Ebony Fashion Fair through the story of Mrs. Eunice Johnson and more than 60 garments from icons of the fashion industry such as Yves St. Laurent, Oscar de la Renta, Pierre Cardin, and others.

SPA D2F
“Beauty from the Inside Out”

It was a day of beauty and pampering at SPA D2F! Students participated in a combined workshop session featuring Skin Care and Makeup as well as Personal Hygiene. Mary Kay Beauty Consultant, Mrs. Curtrice Scott, began with an informative workshop on the importance of proper skin care. Students interacted in learning the proper application of makeup and daily skincare regimen. Mrs. Scott ended the session on the importance of understanding that true beauty radiates from the inside out!

The lights became dim and scents of aromatherapy and bath salts filled the air as students entered into SPA D2F! Participants received top of the line spa treatment from program staff as they applied step by step procedures in giving themselves a pedicure! An array of colorful nail polishes applied on perfected pedicured toenails ended this day of self pampering as participants packed up their tubs full of spa products to create another day of pampering at their leisure. There was truly Happy Feet dancing departing from this fun filled day of self care and self worth!
That was the theme for the 2013 G-WAVE Lunchroom Takeover. Current stats and information on teen dating violence was disseminated during the lunch periods at Thornton and Thornridge High Schools to more than 1,000 students. G-WAVE participants also challenged their peers to sign a pledge banner committing to healthy relationships and the avoidance of physical/verbal/emotional harm to others.

In recognition of Domestic Violence Month, participants of G-WAVE (Girls With A Voice Empowered) created a video presentation on the effects of teen violence that was featured at the Stop the Violence Event sponsored by Natalie’s Deals and Style Lush. Demoiselle 2 Femme was selected as the featured organization that day and approximately $700 of the proceeds was donated to the organization to further the mission of one of the objectives of G-WAVE which is violence prevention. A special thanks is extended to Nia Simone for her hard work in organizing the event. Let’s rock the runway as we stand in unity to Stop the Violence!

Demoiselle 2 Femme, NFP partnered with the Joan and Ray Kroc Salvation Army to present the Little Beauties Program which targets girls between 10-12 years of age. Girls participated in an eight-week session which focused on self-esteem, positive friendships, choice, goal setting, media literacy and so much more. Special thanks to Salvation Army Staff, Lisa Lee (Femme Mentor) and Dr. Kimberly McNeal (Family Life and Education Center Director).

Our Next Issue...
SPECIAL EDUCATION EDITION
featuring:

- DREAM GIRLS SUMMER LEADERSHIP TOUR
- College Student Spotlights
- D2F Education Impact Update & Core Values
- FEMME 2 STEM
- Career Expo for High School Girls
- “Celebration of Purpose 2013”
On the 11th day of October, Demoiselle 2 Femme, NFP along with hundreds of other girl-serving organizations around the world celebrated the “International Day of the Girl.” This day launched our 30-day, “POWER UP 4 GIRLS” CAMPAIGN. There is still time to join us as a POWER UP PARTNER and help EMPOWER girls to transition into successful women. To make a donation, visit our website at www.demoiselle2femme.org. For more information on “POWER UP 4 GIRLS,” contact Tori Tyler, Director of Development at 773.779.9371, ext. 302.

You Can Become a D2F Mentor… e-Mentor!

Would you like to mentor a teen girl but have limited time? Then the D2F e-Mentorship program may be a fit for you! We’re looking to recruit several mentors to support our Community Based girls via our newly developed group network. Please contact our Social Media Coordinator, Cheresa Purnell.

All mentors must pass a full background check. Interested? Contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Camille Wright at 773.779.9371, ext. 13. You can make a difference in the life of a girl!

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