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Beech Community Services

- "Avenue of Treats" For Area Kids** 1
- "Jazz on the Ave" Brings Community Residents Together** 2
- Local Non-Profits Receive Grants** 3
- Things to Do!** 4
- North Central Empowerment Zone Looking for New Members** 4
- Beech Scholarship Fund Awards Thousands in Scholarships** 5
- Beech Welcomes New Employee** 5
- Home Loan Program for Area Residents** 6
- Beech Companies Celebrate 25 Years of Community Services** 6
- Cecil B. Moore Community Welcomes New Business to the Area** 6

Beech Community Services Host "Avenue of Treats" For Area Kids

Beech Community Services hosted its 8th Annual Avenue of Treats, an event that provided a fun and safe atmosphere for trick or treating during Halloween. This free event took place along the Broad Street and Cecil B. Moore Avenue, and Avenue North business corridors. This year, the event featured Escape the Terror of the Haunted Tech Room, where groups of five-people used a cell phone app, designed and created by the students of Creative Tech Works Design Studio @ Beech (CTWDS), to solve problems and clues to escape the haunted tech room.

Each year, Beech Community Services engage local businesses, Temple University and others to join their efforts and provide candy to the children who live in and around the community. More than 20 business owners participated, including Barnes and Nobles, Mary Mai Bistro, The Pearl Movie Theater, Tropical Smoothie, and D&J Hardware. Adding students from the CTWDS provided a creative platform where students showcased their tech and S.T.E.M. skills.

"Every year, we have a record number of families and an increasing number of business owners who come out to participate in the festivities," states Christine Brown, Director of Beech Community Services. "In the past, many of the businesses closed early during Halloween, today, many of the businesses stayed open to hand out candy from their establishments to hundreds of trick-or-treaters. This event is one of the largest free family events that take place during Halloween and I am glad to see that this effort to provide a safe and friendly atmosphere for children during Halloween continues to grow."

Avenue of Treats also featured a scavenger hunt, face painting, and a science center managed by

the Wagner Free Institute of Science. Children also had the opportunity to meet characters, Doc McStuffin, Ninja Turtles, members of the Temple University Athletic Teams and Hooter, Temple's mascot.

Part of revitalizing the Cecil B. Moore community is putting in mechanisms that promote community and economic development," states Ken Scott, President of Beech Companies." Efforts like this have, and continue to be a part of Beech Companies values, mission, and responsibility to a strong community."

Beech Community Services would like to extend thanks to the many volunteers, business owners, and residents that helped to make this a successful event. A special thank you to Captain Eileen Bradley, Gina Frederico, Taylor Cobb, Monica Hankins, Denise Fitzgerald, Jessica Gray, Jamie Bracey, Robert Nottingham, Carol Riddick, Annette Atkins, ReSean Beyah, Charles Wells, Jeff Murray, Andre Swinton, Walter Greene, Leonard Bailey, Shalimar Blakely, Temple University Student Unions & Sororities, Fabulous Faces, CTW Students & parents, and Beech Companies staff.



Cecil B. Moore Community Newsletter



Beech Community Services

Featured Information

“Jazz on the Ave” Brings Community Residents Together

Thousands of festival participants attended the 8th annual “Jazz on the Ave” sponsored by Beech Community Services on Saturday, August 16, 2014 along Cecil B. Moore Avenue from Broad Street to 17th Street. WDAS’ Patty Jackson, KYW’s Cherri Gregg, Clear Channel Radio’s Loraine Ballard Morrill, and WRNB’s Dyanna Williams hosted this free, outdoor, family-friendly event that featured free health screenings, children’s activities, vendors, food, and giveaways.

This year’s entertainment lineup was exceptional and was kicked off by the 2014 National Drill champs, Modern Legends Drill Team; they got the crowd ready for some amazing live entertainment on two stages. Two young Philadelphia talents, Cam Anthony and Emmanuel Houndo wowed the crowd with their amazing performances on both, the main stage and in the Kidz Zone. Their performances were followed by a great mix of R&B and jazz artists, Serious Mixx, Mozaic Flow, Carol Riddick, David P. Stevens and Chris Washburne & the Syotos. The headliner for the event was Philly’s own, Grammy nominated Trombonist, Jeff Bradshaw, who had the crowd dancing in the streets with his electrifying performance.



Along with the main stage performances, the Kidz Zone was a big hit with the young people. They were entertained by groups such as, Music Over Matter (MOM), Diva Dollz, Clef Club Youth Ensemble, and a Caribbean inspired dance performance by Caribbeans In Action, a group of high school students from Central High School. The Kidz Zone highlighted a book bag with supplies giveaway to several hundred school-aged kids, face painting, clay sculpting, rock climbing, moon bounce, free cotton candy, and popcorn. “There was something for the entire family”, states Evelyn Gray. I don’t know where all the kids came from. It was good to see all the children having fun, especially climbing that rock wall.”

The weather was spectacular and “Jazz on the Ave” was a big hit amongst the community residents and non-Philadelphia residents who came as far as North Carolina, Washington, and NYC to attend the festival. Katherine Gilraine, from NYC stated, “NYC can really take a lesson from Philly where community is concerned. I saw a lot of great talented youth with plenty of potential on that stage, and I saw a lot of people of all walks of life come together and enjoy it. I felt at home, even though home was a few hours’ bus ride away. Everyone was there together to support the kids and the seasoned artists alike. I see now why Philadelphia is the City of Brotherly Love. I certainly felt that, and I remembered why I love it so much in the first place.”

In addition to good music, flavorful foods, and fun, the festival brought an entire community together, even Philadelphia native and boxing champion, Bernard Hopkins stopped by to enjoy the festivities. Also in attendance were Senator Shirley Kitchen and Council President, Darrell Clarke.

Beech would like to extend a special thanks to Megan Mills, Cavhanah Crespo, Dominique Stanback, Monica Williams, Ameerah Williams, Jeff Murray, Hattie Stroud, Shalimar Blakely, Rashid Duggan, Devon Brown, Rasheed Thompson, Aisha Winfield, and a host of volunteers for making “Jazz on the Ave” a success. A very special thank you to David Simms, owner of Eatible Delights and Dawn Frazier, owner of Leave The Details Too Me Catering, for serving up some amazing food to the VIP’s, volunteers, and special guests.

Cecil B. Moore Community Newsletter



Beech Community Services

Featured Information

Local Non Profits Receive Grants From the Alston - Beech Foundation

The Alston-Beech Foundation (ABF) honored grant recipients at its semi-annual meeting of the Consortium of Cecil B. Moore Organizations on December 12, 2014. Each award recipient was presented with a grant that complements and fosters other revitalization efforts in the North Central Philadelphia community.

The Alston-Beech Foundation will award grants to the following organizations:

Affordable Housing Centers of Pennsylvania: The organization provides housing counseling services for low and moderate-income households that are preparing for first-time homeownership. They also advocate and assist homeowners with delinquent mortgage and real estate tax accounts to avoid foreclosure.

The Clay Studio: For 20-years, this organization has served a generation of students throughout Philadelphia with innovative arts education programs.

Cecil B. Moore Community Development Corporation: The mission of the organization is to redefine standards in the Cecil B. Moore community by helping to stabilize the area by promoting economic stability through strengthening the collaboration between businesses and communities.

Church of the Advocate: They provide an arts and education academy for children ages 5-17; an after school program for youth 9-15; a basketball program, homework assistance, and cultural arts education.

Frontiers International, Inc. - Philadelphia Club: The organization is a volunteer service organization that serves children, youth, and adults of the Delaware Valley.

Gesu School: Founded in 1873, Gesu has been devoted to the belief that each child has the right to learn and grow while meeting their academic potential. The school provides a well-rounded education through specialized programming and innovative resource based curriculum.

Greater Brewerytown Community Development Corporation: Provides after school programming for at-risk youth. They provide children with the opportunity to improve their literacy skills, computer skills, and social skills in a supportive environment.

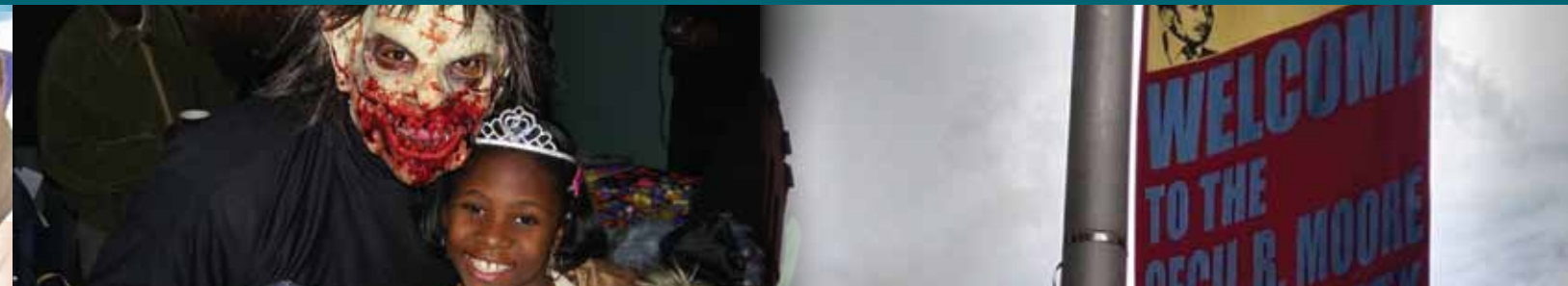
Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly: A national network of volunteer-based organization devoted to relieving isolation and loneliness among the elderly.

Menzfit: A non-profit organizations whose mission is to ensure long-term gainful employment and financial fitness to low-income men. Menzfit prepares clients for re-entry into the workforce through skills training, coaching, interview preparation, career development support, and financial literacy.

Montgomery Townhouses: Since 1990, the organization has operated comprehensive social service programs designed to provide positive alternatives for children, teens, and adults and to ensure the well-being of the community residents they serve.

Wagner Free Institute of Science: The Wagner is a provider of free educational programs to over 35,000 Philadelphia children and adults each year. They provide a wide variety of educational resources to the community, including special lectures and events, after school and summer programs, museum lessons and field trips.

Cecil B. Moore Community Newsletter



Featured Information

Things to Do!

Christmas Light Show at Macy's in Center City
November 28-December 31, 2014

Macy's Center City

The Christmas Light Show at Macy's in Center City illuminates a large wall inside the Wanamaker building, a National Historic Landmark, with almost 100,000 LED lights that dance to the sounds of the Wanamaker Organ.

Showtimes: The Christmas Light Show can be seen every two hours, 7-days a week, starting the day after Thanksgiving.

The Rothman Ice Rink at Dilworth Park
November 14 - February 22

City Hall

The Rothman Institute Ice Rink at the brand-new Dilworth Park operates 7-days a week (including holidays) and features a warming tent, as well as a whole host of seasonal programming and holiday happenings.

Showtimes: The Rothman Institute Ice Rink will operate: Monday through Thursday, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday, 3 p.m. to 11 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Admission: \$3 for children ages 10 and under and \$4 for adults. For those who don't own their own skates, rental will be \$8.

Electrical Spectacle Holiday Light Show
November 13-December 31, 2014

Franklin Square

The Holiday Light Show at Franklin Square is a free holiday nighttime light show.

Inspired by the imagination of Benjamin Franklin, the show features a dazzling display of more than 50,000 lights designed specifically for the popular public space.

Featuring a 12-foot-tall kite made of lights that sparkle and spread down a custom 250-foot sculpted kite string and hundreds of feet of holiday garlands, which will cover the Square.

Showtimes: The lights are set to shine eight times daily every 30 minutes between 4:30 and 8 p.m., weather permitting.

North Central Empowerment Zone Is Looking for New Members

The mission of the Philadelphia Empowerment Zone is to ensure sustainable community and economic development by working with residents, business owners, and other stakeholders to build a healthy, self-sufficient, and safe environment that improves the quality of life of Empowerment Zone residents. The North Central Empowerment Zone works with a community endowment that makes annual grants that contribute to economic development initiatives in the Empowerment Zone neighborhood. The North Central Empowerment Zone is recruiting new members to join the Community Trust Board. The Community Trust Board serves as a local governance structure, represents the community's best interests, acts as advisors to the City of Philadelphia, and establishes priorities for the community endowment. The Community Trust Board meets on a quarterly basis to conduct business. All Community Trust Board Members must reside or work within the North Philadelphia Empowerment Zone and pass a background check. If you are interested in applying to be a member of the board please contact Aiisha Herring-Miller at Aiisha.G.Herring@phila.gov or Sara Lepori at Sara.Lepori@phila.gov.



**Beech
Companies**

Cecil B. Moore Community Newsletter



Featured Information

Beech Community Services

Beech Scholarship Fund Awards Thousands in Scholarships

In August 2014, The Beech Scholarship Fund awarded over \$20,000 to thirteen high school students and current students of Temple University who major in the Arts, Business, Education, Engineering, or Liberal Arts. The Scholarship Award Luncheon was held at the Beech Studios located at 15th & Cecil B. Moore Avenue.

The Scholarship recipients were recognized during the luncheon for their excellence in education and were treated to a fabulous lunch catered by Ms. Dawn's Kitchen-Leave the Details Too Me Catering. In recognition of Beech's 25 years of service to the community, six students received the President's Award, a \$2,500 scholarship to be used for their educational needs, while the other seven recipients received \$1,000 scholarships. For nearly 25-years, Beech has been committed to community investment and awarding these scholarships to these deserving young people is one way that Beech carries out its mission. "It is important that as community leaders, we set the example and show students that we are invested in their success and in their education," states Ken Scott, President of Beech Companies. "It is our duty to make certain that the future leaders of our communities are equipped with the proper tools and knowledge needed to be successful."

This year's scholarship recipients are:

- * Rasmiyyah Hargust
- * Jazmine Jones
- * Amrita Joseph-Morris
- * Nicole Kenney
- * Imani Rothwell
- * Maya Patton
- * Wesley Glover
- * Zuliesuivie Ball
- * Tytianna Best
- * Kayla Boone
- * Nuri Bracey
- * Taylor Cobb
- * Imani Glenn

Students interested in applying for the fall 2015 scholarship may begin applying in January 2015. You must be a student of color, live in Philadelphia; attend a Philadelphia High School, Charter School or currently enrolled in Temple University and must major in arts, business, engineering, education, or liberal arts, and have a GPA of 2.75 or higher. For additional information and requirements, please visit www.beechinterplex.com/bcs_scholarship.asp



Beech Welcomes New Employee

The Beech Companies welcomes Denise Bailey as the Office Administrator for Beech Interplex, Inc. Ms. Bailey has over 25-years of experience in the field of affordable housing with a focus on pre-purchase housing counseling and mortgage lending; concentrating on home improvement loans.

Cecil B. Moore Community Newsletter



Featured Information

Home Loan Program for Area Residents

The Beech Companies is happy to announce its role in providing home loans to qualifying homeowners through the Keystone Renovate & Repair Loan Program (R&R) administered through the Philadelphia Housing Finance Agency. The R&R Loan Program will offer guidance and financing to help individuals improve and maintain their home.

R&R Borrower Requirements

- Currently own the home or be in the process of purchasing it
- Owner occupied (the borrower must live in the property)
- Household income within program limitations - \$90,000 or more depending on location
- Satisfactory credit (typically 620+)
- Adequate income to support monthly loan payments
- Interest in repairing and improving their primary residence

For more information, contact Beech at (215) 763-8824.

Cecil B. Moore Community Welcomes New Business to the Area!

The Cecil B. Moore community is excited to introduce Tropical Smoothie Cafe to the Philadelphia area! Tropical Smoothie Cafe offers an abundance of fresh fruit smoothies, and health conscious food options. All products are made fresh to order! Visit Tropical Smoothie Cafe where you will be sure to have an unforgettable experience and leave wanting more! The store is located at 1600 N. Broad St. (two doors down from Footlocker -- between Cecil B. Moore Avenue and Oxford St.). Please support our small community businesses!



Beech Companies Celebrate 25 Years of Community Services



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