

Concepts *for* Adaptive Learning Newsletter

Winter 2012-2013 Volume XV

December 2012



from the CfAL Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers

Dear CfAL Supporters:

As we enter this Holiday Season, we pause to say Season's Greetings and a very big thank you for supporting our organization and the many students, teachers and parents we served throughout 2012. We all have a lot to be thankful for, and a lot to be proud of as we mutually strive to help public school children throughout CT improve their education and quality of life.

The technology tsunami is sweeping across education. Based on our experience working with technology, we can and will help many, many more public school children, their teachers and parents, use technology as the basis for improvements in 2013 and beyond.

Best to you and your families for a safe, joyous and healthy Holiday Season.

Sincerely,
CfAL Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers
4 Science Park
New Haven, CT 06511

Sustaining Our Work

Since 2003, our non-profit organization, CfAL (Concepts *for* Adaptive Learning), has

touched the lives of more than 7,000 people, as we have increased teachers' productivity, parental involvement, and students' academic achievement.

Achieving our mission and sustaining our programs has been made possible through the generosity of donors and CfAL's annual fundraiser. At this time of giving, we ask you to consider making a donation to help CfAL sustain its work in the poorest communities of CT, including Bridgeport, Hamden, Hartford, Meriden, New Haven and Waterbury. Donations can be made through the homepage of our website at <http://www.eachchildlearns.org>.

Below is a group of 8 proud parents holding their Certificates of Completion. These parents graduated from CfAL's parent computer program in Meriden in October. In the upper right wearing a big smile was their instructor, Mickey Cunliffe.



Refreshing the CfAL Website

After months of waiting, CfAL has launched its new website. The site includes a homepage with a flyover menu, a slideshow of pictures, and lots of informative content. The homepage also includes icons for making a donation, accessing us on Facebook and an entry to our record on GuideStar.

We invite you to view the site at www.eachchildlearns.org or www.cfalct.org.

New Initiative

Our basic premise is that all parents want their child or children to be successful. The foundation for success starts with educating a child long before they enter kindergarten.

C/AL is making plans to launch a new program in 2013 aimed directly at closing the achievement gap, by engaging underserved parents in their children's (ages birth to 5) education. The cornerstone of this new program will once again be based on technology. The name of the new program is called,

Digital Literacy *for* Early Learners “A Primer for Parents”

The goal of the program is to ensure children from economically disadvantaged families are prepared, ready to learn and will succeed when starting kindergarten. Our strategy to achieve this goal includes:

1. Heighten low-income parents' awareness of the benefit of early learning, by relying on national statistics that show the risk of not receiving the benefit of early learning. The statistics also show the benefit of receiving early learning.
2. Educate low-income parents about the power of the internet and how easy they can access a wealth of information that will help them teach their early learner.
3. Collaborate with other organizations that work to improve the success of pre-kindergarten children.

You can read more about this program in the future on our website under the menu item Programs and Projects.

Increasing Parent Engagement

Conversational Reading Workshop

Pictured below on left is Jene Flores, a teaching consultant, waiting for parents to arrive so she can register them for the Conversational Reading event.

Fifty parents and 5 teachers, who were invited by C/AL, took the time on a school night, from 6pm to 8pm, to hear Diane Frankenstein, author of Reading Together, and a gracious and exciting speaker present why conversation reading is important in their children's developmental years, especially ages birth to 5.

Diane captivated the audience and they responded with lots of thought provoking questions related to words, story telling and their children. At the end of the presentation, the audience stood and clapped in appreciation. Each parent was given a copy of Diane's book, Reading Together, and nearly twenty-five percent of the attendees stayed to get their book signed by Diane.

Parent University

Pictured below on right is Nathan Joyner, a teaching and technical consultant, at Parent University. Nathan is waiting for parents to stop by the C/AL table and learn details of the organization's parent computer program. More than 40 parents stopped by, and many

signed up to attend computer training and receive a gently used computer.

C/AL was invited by New Haven Public Schools to participate in Parent University. The goal of Parent University was to increase parents' engagement in their children's education.

Over 200 parents turned out to attend workshops and hear presentations on why it is important to be engaged and what resources are available to help parents. .



2012 Annual Fundraiser

It was a delightful evening, with great food and superb weather. Our guests went from table to table eating scrumptious hot and cold Hors D'oeuvres and sampling over 65 wines from over 12 premium Domestic & Imported Wineries, procured in conjunction with Grand Vin Fine Wine & Spirits, while the guests listened to the live smooth sounds of the Richard "Cookie" Thomas Trio.

Ann DeMatteo, a long time, veteran reporter from the New Haven Register and now the managing editor of the Middletown Press was the guest speaker. She spoke about the importance of parent involvement in their children's education, and education in general.

This fundraiser will benefit disadvantaged parents who have children in New Haven's public elementary schools by giving them computer training and a refurbished computer, through our Technology Cascade & Training Program. The goal and purpose of the Technology Cascade & Training Program is to significantly increase parents' involvement in their children's education at home, extend learning beyond the classroom, and simultaneously help close the "digital divide".

The following is a picture from the fundraiser.



Planning for Tomorrow

The Digital Literacy for Early Learners program is only one of the exciting plans we have for 2013. In addition, around mid-year, we plan to celebrate and honor the 2,500th parent to have participated in our parent computer program. In September, we plan to celebrate our 10th anniversary by hosting C/AL's 10th annual fundraiser.

Please check back with us on our website in a few months, under the menu item Events, to read about our plans for 2013.

Generosity of Our Supporters

We like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the generosity of the Science Park Development Corporation and our 2012 funders and many of our other supporters.

The **Science Park Development Corporation (SPDC)** agreed to donate office space for 3 years, starting January 1st, to C/AL, Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven and New Haven Reads. These organizations work in collaboration to improve the quality of life and education of residents living in the Newhallville neighborhood and other communities throughout New Haven. On behalf of the C/AL Board of Directors, staff and volunteers, we express our thanks to the SPDC for its generosity

Our capacity to serve and help improve public school children's education has been made possible through our many volunteers and donations from businesses, foundations and generous people such as those listed below.

3M and 3M CT CRC: grant awarded to give computer training to 40 disadvantaged families who have children attending the Casimir Pulaski School in Meriden

The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven: grant awarded to improve math literacy of underperforming 3rd thru 5th grade students, living in impoverished New Haven neighborhoods

Connecticut Community Foundation: grant awarded to give computer training and computers to 20 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 120 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 improve math literacy of underperforming 3rd thru 5th grade students, living in impoverished New Haven neighborhoods

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 Casimir Pulaski School in Meriden

Liberty Bank Foundation: grant awarded to give computer training to 40 disadvantaged families who have children attending the Casimir Pulaski 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 20 disadvantaged families who have children attending Hamden Public Schools

Pfizer: grant awarded to improve math literacy of underperforming 3rd thru 5th grade students, living in impoverished New Haven neighborhoods

Progressive Life Insurance Company: grant awarded to give computer training to 20 disadvantaged families who have children attending the Fair Haven School in New Haven

Our Board of Directors

The Board is comprised of 14 volunteers who have a wealth of experience in business, education and government. They include:

Board Members

Toni Harp, Board Chair
Hillel Auerbach, Board Secretary
Sharon Bender, Board Vice Chair
Sequella Coleman
Tony Farah
Carl Feen
Curtis Hill
Toby Holloran
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Connecticut State Senator
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Community Volunteer and Adviser
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IT Consultant, Sirius Computer Corporation
President, Feen Financial Futures
Executive Director, Concepts for Adaptive Learning
Vice President, Advanced Technology Resources
Principal Research Analyst, American Institutes for Research
Retired Assistant Principal
CEO, Connecticut Technology Council
Community Volunteer and Adviser
Partner, Marcum, LLP
Executive Director, Junta for Progressive Action

Contact Us

**Please send
correspondence to:**

CfAL
P.O. Box 8265
New Haven, CT 06530

Our street address is:

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

Our website addresses are:

www.eachchildlearns.org
or you can use www.cfalct.org.

Phone: (203) 410-3679
Fax: (203) 272-8451
Email: curtis-hill@cox.net

**We thank you for reading our newsletter and supporting CfAL!
Best wishes!**