

Concepts *for* Adaptive Learning Newsletter



Winter 2017 Volume XXI

February 2017

From the CfAL Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers

Dear Friends and Supporters:

Each step we take is to help New Haven public school children improve their education.

As we start out in 2017, we want to take a few moments to thank you for your support and generosity throughout 2016. Your support, and that of other donors, made an important difference in the education and quality of life of nearly 600 disadvantaged school children. Their parents attended a parent computer program and were given computer training and a gently-used computer that extended learning beyond the classroom and increased parents' involvement in their children's education.

An assessment survey and evaluation, conducted by an independent 3rd party in September 2016, showed that 93% of the parents agreed or strongly agreed their children's learning motivation had been enhanced, and 90% of the parents indicated that their children's grades were better.

To quote a New Haven parent, Ms. Eileen Henderson, "I no longer have to walk my children to the library or a relative's house. My children are so excited about being able to do their schoolwork at home". Ms. Henderson is one of the 90% of surveyed parents who indicated having a computer at home helped improve their children's grades.

Working together, we can mutually build a stronger tomorrow for disadvantaged

public school children on their path of life-long learning.

Thank you from our Board of Directors, staff and volunteers at CfAL for caring, as we strive to help many more students.

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

As parents, we ask what can we do to ensure our children, age birth to 5, are ready and will be successful when entering kindergarten? A simple answer is 'enroll your children in Pre-K programs and schools'. This step is an absolute. Yet, what actions can we take when the child is not in school?

Pictured below is a group of 20 parents attending a DLEL workshop at Fair Haven School in New Haven.



For the past few years, CfAL has delivered a program called Digital Literacy for Early Learners, "A Primer for Parents", DLEL. The program is designed to educate parents on the important role they play in their child's development. The program focuses on various topics surrounding child development, reading to your child, using library resources, researching by navigating through important early learner websites and enrolling the child in Pre-K programs and schools.

Below is a group of 3 and 4 year old students celebrating Thanksgiving at the new Dr. Reginald Mayo Early Learning Center in New Haven.



The DLEL program has been delivered in 13 schools and 2 libraries. Recently, CfAL delivered the first of many DLEL workshops series in the parent resource room at the new school, pictured above. This school is strictly for Pre-K students and a welcome opportunity for CfAL to deliver its DLEL workshops series for parents as their children attend classes. Eighteen parents signed up for the initial workshops series.

Thank you to Comcast, and the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven for helping CfAL sustain the DLEL program.

Parent Computer Program in Multiple Cities

We were honored to have partnered with Junta for Progressive Action and trained and given gently-used computers to 257 families in 2016, and more than 3,600 families since the parent computer program was launched in 2003.

The primary objective was and still is to extend learning beyond the classroom. This program has proven to help improve public school children's grades and their

parents' involvement in their education.



Pictured above, parents and their children, with their instructor, Tawnisha Nieves, top row far right, during a parent computer program graduation in Waterbury.

In addition to the State, we would like to thank our program funders: People's United Community Foundation, the James H. Napier Foundation, the NewAlliance Foundation, and hundreds of supporters who attended CfAL's Annual Wine Tasting & Silent Auction Fundraiser that took place in September.

Summer Math!

"Learning Math After School Can Be Fun" is a 5-week summer program for students who are mainly from the Newhallville and Dixwell neighborhoods of New Haven. The program is designed to improve the math literacy of 3rd through 5th grade students who welcome intervention to improve their math knowledge and skills. The goal is to not only improve their math literacy but to also improve their attitude toward math and make learning math fun.



At graduation, the students were given a Certificate of Completion titled "Math Star" and a surprise boat ride touring the Thimble Islands in Branford. Of the 18 students, not one of them had ever been on a boat.



[Pictured are a few Maths Stars on a Boat Ride around the Thimble Islands in Branford, CT](#)

We are thankful to AVANGRID/United Illuminating Holdings, First Niagara Foundation, New Haven Public Schools and Pfizer for investing in this important Summer Math program.

2016 and 2017 Fundraisers

Thank You to our Guests!

Each year you and hundreds of other guests attend CfAL's annual fundraiser at Anthony's Ocean View in New Haven. Our guests attend the event because they enjoy our fundraiser, and more importantly, they know their support will benefit the parent computer program that helps increase the educational achievement of public school children in the New Haven community.

Those attending the fundraiser helped make a difference, as together we raised \$19,000 and were able to train and give computers to 42 families.

Committee Members:

Damaris Garcia (Committee Chair), Jene Flores, Barbara Carroll, Carl Feen, Nova Taylor, Michelle Rodriguez, Connie Hill, Abel Cherian, Jeff Solomon, Peter Sanchez, Sonila Bakiu, and Robert Mercurio

For 2017, we start the year off with a fun Paint Nite fundraiser event *on March 8th at the Raymour & Flanigan* Furniture store in North Haven. See flyer below, or click on the following link for more information.

[Paint Nite on March 8th at Raymour and Flanigan](#)

Raymour & Flanigan



CfAL

Wednesday, March 8th

5:30 - 8:00 PM

\$30.00

Raymour & Flanigan
North Haven Showroom
70 Universal Drive
North Haven, CT

SIGN UP TODAY at - <http://paintsocialart.com/eventcalendars/ctevents/>

Raymour & Flanigan will partner with **Concepts for Adaptive Learning (CfAL)** to raise a Glass and a Brush to help New Haven families. Join us to create your own work of art on canvas, enjoy wine and light refreshments and support this organization's efforts to supply gently used computers to families living in New Haven's poorest neighborhoods.

PLUS: receive a special savings offer for just attending.

AN OFFER FOR YOU:

Save \$100

on Raymour & Flanigan
purchases of \$1000 or more
Valid through April 8, 2017



It's simple and fun! No experience necessary.

Beginners are encouraged - Bring your partner or spouse! All supplies are furnished. A fun-loving artist guides you step by step to your completed painting in 2 hours. You go home with your 16x20 masterpiece ready to hang to show off to your friends and family!

Concepts for Adaptive Learning (CfAL)

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More information about CfAL's Annual Fundraiser will be forthcoming at the end of March. Please check back with us on our website

[Fundraiser Information](#)

Generosity of Our Supporters!

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the generosity of the Science Park Development Corporation and our funders that are listed below since the Spring of 2016.

The **Science Park Development Corporation (SPDC)** generously agreed to donate office space for 3 years, 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.

Anonymous Donor Family - through the generosity of a very special family, we are forever thankful for their generosity and kindness in donating \$35,000 to support the work of C/AL.

AVANGRID/United Illuminating Holdings Corporation - grant awarded to C/AL for our 2016 summer math program, "Learning Math After School Can Be Fun". The program improved the math literacy of under performing 3rd thru 5th grade students, living in impoverished New Haven neighborhoods.

City of New Haven Municipal Employees - their donations were used to sustain our Technology Cascade & Training program at 3 elementary schools in New Haven's Fair Haven neighborhood.

Comcast - grant awarded that was used to help sustain C/AL's Digital Literacy for Early Learners, "A Primer for Parents" program, and helped improve learning outcomes of public school children in CT, especially those living in impoverished neighborhoods of New Haven.

First Niagara Financial Group, now KeyBank - grant awarded to our "Learning Math After School Can Be Fun" project. This grant helped improve the math literacy of under performing 3rd through 5th grade children attending New Haven Public Schools.

The James H. Napier Foundation - grant awarded and was used to give computer training to 40 disadvantaged families who have children attending public elementary schools in Meriden, CT.

Liberty Bank Foundation - grant awarded and was used to develop a 3-year strategic plan. The plan helped set the direction and key objectives that would shape C/AL's future.

NewAlliance Foundation - grant awarded used to sustain our Technology Cascade & Training program at three elementary schools in New Haven's Fair Haven neighborhoods, and give computer training and gently-used computers to 40 families.

People's United Community Foundation - grant awarded used to sustain our Technology Cascade & Training program at three elementary schools in New Haven's Fair Haven neighborhoods, and give computer training and gently-used computers to 40 families.

Pfizer and Pfizer Community Affairs - grant awarded to C/AL for our 2016 summer math program, Learning Math After School Can Be Fun. The program improved the math literacy of under performing 3rd thru 5th grade students, living in impoverished New Haven

neighborhoods.

Town Fair Foundation - grant awarded and was used to sustain our Technology Cascade & Training program at three elementary schools in New Haven's Fair Haven neighborhoods, and give computer training and gently-used computers to 40 families.

Our Board of Directors

In January, Jeff Solomon reached his 3-year term limit, having served as the CfAL Board Chairperson. Thank you Jeff for leading the organization into a brighter future.

The CfAL Board is now chaired by Damaris Garcia, and is comprised of 10 volunteers who have a wealth of experience in business, education and government. They include the following:

Board Members

Their Affiliation

Damaris Garcia, Board Chair	Vice President, Liberty Bank
Sonila Bakiu, Vice Chair	President, S&T DeLeading and Construction Company
Gary Smith, Treasurer	Director, Marcum LLP
Curtis Hill, interim Secretary	Executive Director, CFAL
Martha Dyer	Consultant, Yale University
Tony Farah	IT Director, Sirius Corporation
Carl Feen	CEO, Feen Financial Futures
Yasir Hamed	Academic Director, School for International Training (SIT), and Director, Access Consulting Inc.
Toni Harp	Mayor, City of New Haven
Carole Sklar	Community Volunteer

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