

LAZARUS LEADERSHIP FELLOWS 2011

CELEBRATING LEADERSHIP & SERVICE



**LAZARUS LEADERSHIP FELLOWS
BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE HIGH SCHOOL**

**GRADUATION
SEPTEMBER 26, 2011
THE MANSION AT STRATHMORE**

2011 Lazarus Fellows



Bolanle Aroyewun

Will Becker

Irvin Cedillo

Lorelei Dinger

Brad Gerber

Nailah Harper-Malveaux

Thomas Horton

Eli Miller

Shayna Nash

Tom Nguyen

Ellie Olsen

Morgan Powell

Alexia Thorpe

Noah van Ekdom



SEPTEMBER 26, 2011

The Graduation Program

Welcome and Explanation of the
Lazarus Leadership Fellows Program

Bruce Adams, *Program Founder*

Presentations by Fellows

Remarks

Karen Lockard, *Principal of Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School*

Jordan Henry, *Lazarus Program Coordinator*

Refreshments

The Summer Projects of the Lazarus Fellows: What They Did & What They Learned

Motivating Others to Achieve Amazing Goals

THOMAS HORTON AND SHAYNA NASH went to local elementary school camps and held a competition to see which school could collect the most canned foods over a period of two weeks. We collected 418 pounds of food and donated all of it to the Manna Food Center in Rockville.

SHAYNA: Throughout my project, I learned that leadership is inspiring and motivating others to achieve amazing goals! As a leader, I learned to become more independent, more mature and, most importantly, I had to learn how to keep an open-mind when something didn't go as planned. It doesn't matter how you get there. It's the end result that matters most.

THOMAS: Through hard work and proper planning, I feel as though I can make a difference in my community. Our project ran into relatively few obstacles, which I attribute to the fact that we planned this project very well. If anything went askew there were always alternatives. We were never dead-set on one path.

Giving Back Where You Play

WILL BECKER'S project was to get sports teams and a summer camp to give back where they practice and play by getting them to clean up their park. I got two soccer teams, a football team, and a boys' summer camp to chop-down vines and honeysuckle, pull up weeds, and pick-up branches and trash at Norwood Park.

WILL: I learned that being a leader is hard work. Most of my time was spent organizing. The clean-up work was easy and fun – the kids loved it. I learned that you need to be persistent if you want something done, that you need others to be successful, and that planning is a very important part of any project.

Leading Through Crescendos & Decrescendos

MORGAN POWELL and **BOLANLE AROYEWUN** created and ran a music program at H.D. Cooke Elementary School, a Title One School in Columbia Heights, Washington D.C. Through "Morgan Says," a rhythm game much like Simon's; "You Conduct," where each child directs the class through crescendos and decrescendos; and other "music and movement" games, many of the children received their first introduction to music education.

MORGAN: On the first day of the program, armed with my ukulele and a pair of loaned drums, I was dubious how effective the program Bolanle and I had created would be. After four weeks of teaching, my proudest moment came on the last day of the summer program when the students and I made a list of everything we had covered. Three weeks earlier most of them had been reluctant to participate. Now they gleefully shouted out musical terms and sing-a-long songs. As they had grown into musicians, I had grown into a leader.

BOLANLE: My summer project was a life learning experience for me. For example, I learned various lifelong traits like patience and perseverance. In addition, I learned various lifelong skills like how to deal with kids and how to prioritize goals. Lastly, in commuting by METRO, I overcame one of my fears in life, trains, which had been a major obstacle for me regarding transportation.

Getting Out of Our Comfort Zones to Raise Awareness

TOM NGUYEN and **IRVIN CEDILLO** ran a three-week summer camp contributing to the children of the Maryland area. During the camp, kids engaged in a wide range of activities from sports and games that require motion to arts and crafts. The goal of the camp was to keep the kids fit during the summer and to raise their awareness about teamwork and global problems.

TOM: Through this program, I learned that in order to become a leader, I would have to get out of my comfort zone and take challenges. It's only when I encounter challenges that I am able to grow and become successful. As Randy Pausch said in *The Last Lecture*: "The brick walls are there to stop the people who don't want it badly enough."

IRVIN: When you have a big project in mind, you really have to know where you are going and how you will get there. I discovered through this program that different ways of communications are essential, and so are finding the right resources and getting them all together in order to turn your ideas into reality. These steps seemed and sounded like basic things at first, however, I came to learn that they were not as easy as they appeared. In order to accomplish the project, I found out that I really could not be shy, but instead I had to stand up and go out there in search of the things I needed in order to accomplish it. Fortunately, I also learned that being a leader is best when you have someone else to work with.

Leadership is Earned, Not Given

ELI MILLER ran a soccer camp with the organization IMPACT Silver Spring. With the help of Chris Wilhelm, I successfully ran a soccer camp for over one month during the summer at Broad Acres Elementary School in Silver Spring. The kids at the camp ranged from 5th to 6th grade.

ELI: The most important thing that I learned about leadership over the summer was that leadership does not come with authority. Leadership is not given, it is earned. Just because you have a title does not mean people will follow you. You must earn the respect of people to become a leader.

Loving Mother Nature

LORELEI DINGER, ELLIE OLSEN, AND ALEXIA THORPE worked with Kids Adventures Summer Camp to start a “Green Warriors” program that helped teach kids to appreciate the environment. They held activities such as decorating pots and growing plants inside of them to making “dirt” snacks. Working with elementary school students isn’t easy, but with the teamwork each member put in, everything went smoothly. By the end of the week, the kids at the summer camp were able to look at mother nature at a whole other level than just the grass they run outside on during recess.

ALEXIA: After our summer project, I learned how to be a lot more flexible with changing plans around and how to be patient. We worked with children from ages 5 to 9, and every day the number of kids who came to the camp grew and grew. That meant that we didn’t have enough materials some days, because we would expect 12 but 19 came instead! This happened a few times, so we had to have other plans just in case, and those plans definitely came in handy! Also, working with elementary students was quite the experience. All of them want to do something different at the same time, so having a lot of patience was a must!!

LORELEI: Leadership to me is acting with and speaking for the community. It is important, as a leader to always keep those you are leading at the top of your priority. An important element of leadership is serving as a role model. This is a 24/7 responsibility. To me, speaking, acting and role modeling are key to successful leadership.

ELLIE: Leadership means listening to others. Leadership means taking the time to explore problems and solutions and learn as much as possible before acting. Leadership means working with others collaboratively to reach a goal. Leadership means being fair, inclusive, and just when decisions need to be made. Leadership means being accountable to others and accepting evaluation of my efforts. Leadership means being focused on a goal and disciplined about taking the steps and putting in the work needed to achieve that goal.

Building Self-Confidence Through Theater

NAILAH HARPER-MALVEAUX created a theater program for the kids, ages 4 to 7, at the National Center for Children and Families that lasted two weeks. We did theater workshops and games as well as arts and crafts to show them how they can tell a story and to teach them to be more self-aware and self-confident.

NAILAH: I learned that being a leader means that sometimes you have to push people to do their job, if you want to get something done. I learned that organization and planning is the key to success. And most importantly, I learned that the journey is so much more important than the destination.

Reaching for the Stars to Ease the Pain of Children

BRAD GERBER and **NOAH VAN EKDOM** started a program at Georgetown Hospital that focused on tutoring and interacting with kids in the hospital’s various pediatric wards. Many of the kids in the hospital are in constant pain and are confined to their beds, spending time with them, and volunteering in various hospital events helped to ease some of that discomfort.

BRAD: I learned an incredible amount from my Lazarus project and from working in the hospital. I gained valuable leadership and organizational skills, and I learned what it meant to find a role and get comfortable in such a massive place. The experiences I had with the kids and the staff were truly life changing.

NOAH: What I learned about leadership this summer was that sometimes things don’t go according to plan. I’ve never been given as much independence or responsibility as I was given this summer. I learned that if you’re going to reach for the stars, you’d better have a back-up plan.

2011 Guest Speakers

Mark Bergel
A Wider Circle

Khadija Carr (*Lazarus Fellow 2009*)

Dr. Sheryl Brissett-Chapman
National Center for Children & Families

Anthony Cohen
Menare Foundation at Button Farm

Dave Dabney
Bethesda Urban Partnership

Robert Egger
D.C. Central Kitchen

Steve Hull
Bethesda Magazine

Eliot Pfanstiehl
Strathmore Hall Music Center

John Marchelletta
Upward Enterprises

Kevin Maclary (*Lazarus Fellow 2010*)

Ned Sherburne
Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad

Program Coordinator

Jordan Henry

Fellows Selection Committee

Carol Brand, *Chair*

Donna Atkinson • Lucy Chin (*Lazarus Fellow 2010*)

Cathie Goltz • Steve Hull • Liz McLeod

Program Founder

Bruce Adams

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Lisa A. Kammerman of Kammerman Portraits

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Strathmore Hall Arts Center

Text Design Inc.

Lazarus Leadership Fellows Program:

15 Years of Service to Our Community



Named in honor of Julius and Dorothy Lazarus in recognition of their years of service to the children of the Bethesda area and the generous financial support provided by their foundation, the Lazarus Leadership Fellows Program helps prepare high school juniors and sophomores for their citizen leadership responsibilities. Since 1997, the Lazarus Fellows have completed more than 40,000 hours of community service.

Over the years, the Lazarus Fellows have been supported by the following staff members: Carol Beach, Helen Blunt, Michael Chasnow, Michelle Diaz (*Lazarus 1997*), Alys Emden, Laurie Haughey, Jordan Henry, Karen Jaffe, Jared Joiner (*Lazarus 2000*), Sandra Neufeld Ostrach, Melissa Roller, Ellen Schneider, and Helen Strang.

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“Our students ought to be taught fundamental lessons that say democracy is precious, democracy is perishable, democracy requires active attention, and democracy requires hard work.”

— Roger Wilkins, Professor of History and American Culture, George Mason University