

celebrating 2009 in MySister'sCircle

My Sister's Circle is a comprehensive relationship-based program designed to mentor girls from disadvantaged Baltimore neighborhoods during their challenging transition to middle school, throughout high school, and into college.

MySister'sCircle

2009 Events

The following events were made possible by the abundant generosity of many individuals and organizations within the Baltimore community. We thank you for your continued support!

- ☀ On a beautiful day in July, the girls and mentors had a ball **learning to kayak** with their patient and encouraging instructor, **Tom Melito**. A very special thanks to **Hal Ashman** and **Ultimate Watersports** for sponsoring the day!
- ☀ The **Johns Hopkins University's Multicultural Sorority** hosted **Valentine's Day – Salsa Style!**
- ☀ Our students-turned-artisans designed colorful beaded earrings at our popular **Jewels and Gems** workshop. MSC is grateful to **Jo-Ann Aiken** with the **Adornment Craft Center and Gallery** and to **Sherry Strovel** for hosting this event.
- ☀ At the Lyric's **DRUMLine Live**, the girls experienced the black marching band tradition on a theatrical stage with a large cast of performers from several historically black colleges and universities.
- ☀ MSC took an exciting studio tour of **WBAL-TV** and watched the noon newscast live with **Mindy Basara!** Many thanks to Assignment Editor **Jessica Rahn** for organizing the day.
- ☀ **Maryvale Preparatory School** students planned and hosted a wonderful afternoon of **Halloween crafts and activities** for MSC girls. This is always a favorite outing!
- ☀ A busload of MSC girls, parents, and mentors went to Howard University to take part in **MSNBC's About Our Children live broadcast featuring Bill Cosby**. With gratitude to **Erin Grant**, **Michelle Bernard** and the **Independent Women's Forum** for generously providing, transportation, tickets, and a thrilling chance to sit on stage!
- ☀ High school students enjoyed a lovely **Dining Etiquette Luncheon** at the Oregon Grille. Beforehand, the girls discussed etiquette for personal introductions, phone calls, texting, using the internet, appropriate dress, responding to invitations, sending thank you notes, body language, and more. Thanks to **Peggy Schapiro** for hosting this session.





- MSC is honored to partner with **CENTERSTAGE** throughout the year. This year's outstanding performances included *Fabulation*, *The Re-education of Undine*, *Caroline or Change*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and most recently, *Around the World in 80 Days*. The fabulous *Julianne Franz* has invited students to write critiques on some of the shows, which will be posted on CENTERSTAGE's website.
- Ten successful panelists shared their background and experiences in our second annual **College and Career Workshop**. Many thanks to these speakers as well as the *Cathedral of the Incarnation* for use of their beautiful space. The girls left with ideas about where they might want to go to school or what careers might interest them.



Visit to Calvert School

- MSC's phenomenal *Director of College Counseling, Blair White*, hosted a **College Workshop for Seniors** as well as a **Get-Together for MSC Graduates**. Blair guides MSC's college bound students through the challenging college selection and application process. She compiles individualized lists of "best fit" institutions, takes students to campuses, assists with essays, writes personal recommendations, guides students and their families with the financial aid process, and more. She also reaches out to MSC's current college students to ensure their continued success.
- During a hugely successful **GirlTalk** session, students discussed Rihanna and Chris Brown's media buzz. This led into a powerful conversation about healthy and unhealthy relationships in their own lives. MSC is grateful to *Marie Lilly* from *Turn Around, Inc.* for facilitating the conversation and MSC mentor, *Veronica Johnson*, for hosting the luncheon.
- In **The 7 Habits of Highly Successful Teens workshop**, students were introduced to Sean Covey's seven principles designed to successfully overcome challenging situations. Much appreciation to *Peter R. O'Dunne* of *Mid-Atlantic Rubber Co.* for leading the session and to *Roland Park Presbyterian Church* for opening their doors for the day.
- MSC's **Annual Holiday Party** was held at *Maryvale Preparatory School for Girls* in their beautifully decorated castle. Thank you to *Ruth Coleman* and her colleagues at *T. Rowe Price* as well as *Cheryl Karcher* and the team at PMA Insurance Group for providing holiday gifts for the girls!

MSC Welcomes New Mentors

Many impressive volunteers joined the circle at MSC's annual **New Mentor Orientation**. Many thanks to *Hunter Haines*, our respected in-house trainer and consultant, for leading this session. Culinary thanks to *Robert Haines*, our beloved in-house chef, for the delicious homemade muffins! MSC is grateful to Blue Cross Blue Shield for providing us with a top-notch training facility.

"So many times I converse with acquaintances of my past and they congratulate me on staying in school. They seem surprised that I am not yet a mother or pregnant. They seem almost in awe that I am going to college, but to me that's just how it's supposed to be. A lot of the young girls will really understand how much of an impact MSC has had on them when they get older. I'm leaving for Temple University tomorrow and I am really excited. I don't know where I would be today with the many helping hands along the way."

— Antinnea Skipworth, MSC Graduate



thank you!

My Sister's Circle gratefully acknowledges the following donors whose generous support is funding our success! January – November '09

\$50,000+

Anonymous

\$25,000–\$49,999

CRP, Inc.

Mary Ruff Brush Fund of the Baltimore Community Foundation

\$15,000–\$24,999

BCF Youth Path of the Baltimore Community Foundation

The Drescher Foundation

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Inc.

\$10,000–\$14,999

The Tom and Pam O'Neil

Family Foundation

\$5,000–\$9,999

Anonymous

Bank of America

Citi

David and Allison Clapp

The Proctor & Gamble Fund

Mark and Lorraine Schapiro

St. Paul's School

\$1,000–\$4,999

Susan Baker

Benelogic

Denise Chatham

Ann Clapp

The Dardin Fund, Inc.

Sandy Failla

Johns Hopkins University: Cast And Crew of *All of the Above*

Kiwanis Club of Towson Timonium Foundation, Inc.

The Bernard and Vivian Manekin Foundation, Inc.

Noral Group International, Inc.

Roland Park Presbyterian Church

Second Presbyterian Church

Nancy and Jack Sweeley

T. Rowe Price Associates

Foundation, Inc.

\$500–\$999

Ed and Ellen Bernard

Tom and Liza DeBolt

Jason and Malika Delancey

The Honorable and Mrs.

Francis X. Kelly

Daniel Puzio

Brett D. Spodak

University Baptist Church

Sarah Walsh

\$250–\$499

Ruth Chase

Carl and Nicole Halbreiner

Bill and Helen Large

Judy Letcher

Loria McIntyre

Malinda Ruokonen

The Matthew and Christina Wyskiel

Family Charitable Gift Fund

\$100–\$249

Chad Bender

Osman Bengur

Thomas and Claudine Biddison

Kathleen Bolger

Charles and Maryann Busse

Don Carsten

John and Hilda Chatham

Carmel and Bill Cobb

Ruth Coleman

Adam and Christina Crandell

Harry and Meg Ferguson

Suzanne Gallagher

Kirby Gawlik

Rudolph and Mary Gawlik

Jane and Don Hagner

Nancy Hagner

Erin Howland

Katie Hykes

Institute for Family Education, Inc.

Lisa and Mark Johnson

K Bank

Cathy Kellermann

Holly and Brian Kelly

Mary Kilbourne

Helen Kimmel

Brian King

Michelle and Jody Love

Lindalea Ludwick

Robert and Nancy Lueckel

Dr. Frank C. Marino Foundation

Patricia McCall

Katie and David McLaughlin

Mount Vernon Club

Paul and Janet Nolan

George and Marva Peace-Jackson

Holly and Steve Plescia

Abigail and Steve Ready

Gerald Rescigno

Carol Richardson

Robyn Ringgold

Shalita Robinson

Roland Park Country School

Imogene and Tracy Rone

Tiaji Salaam-Blyther

Marilyn Simpson, PNC

Neale and Joan Smith

Susan and Paul Spiess

Jacqueline Thompson

Adrienne Toland

Elizabeth Tomar

Steven and Theda Tool

UMBC Office of Undergraduate Education

Bob and Michele Welsh

Michael and Theresa Williams

Mary and Lawrence Wiseman

Anne M. Yobst

Up to \$99

Meg Aldridge

Jane and Tom Anderson

Leslie and Katherine Billingsley

Lisa Blum

Marsha Bly

Peter Boyd

Warren Boyd, Jr.

Sen. James Brochin

John and Jennifer Busse

Debra Butler

Rita Cabatac

Rev. David and Kristina Caldwell

Ella Carter

Nancy Chatham

Susan Chatham

Linda Cobb

Ouida Cooke

Gilbert and Lisa Corwin

Donna and Noni Courtney

Christine Coyle

Miguel and Bernice Dennis

Designers Network, LLC

Shirley Dietsch

Mary Dilworth

Janet Dubbert

Ann and Bruce Dwyer

John and Jane Emory

Brenda Erikson

Howard and Ellen Feldman

Sandra Squire Fluck

Friends School

Patience Fritz

Edward and Mary Gahan

Garrison Forest School

Amit Golding

Lisa Gray

Elizabeth Green

Peter and Sarah Gutierrez

Robert and Hunter Haines

Mark Harvison

Ellen Hoadley

Glendora Hughes

J Howard Hyph

Paulette Jackson

Jackson Road Elementary Pre-K

and PEP Staff

Robert and Diane Jones

Sen. Edward and Pamela Kasemeyer

Sara Kirkpatrick

Esther Krasevac

John Laughlin

Gary and Jackie Lessing

Dr. Jeffrey and Diane Lieberman

Rosina Maiers

Stacy Main

Ruth Marder

Dr. Meera Mathew

Elizabeth McDonald

Melanie Mendoza

Bill Miller and Janet Neer

June Miller

Leo and Laurie Mombay

Martin and Marilyn Muller

Margaret Mulligan

Wendy and Regina Nemes

Elizabeth Nettles

Melissa O'Brien

Linda Orrin

Lisa Palmer

Pamela Pasqualini

Jack and Elizabeth Peddicord

Raymond and Mary Peloquin

PGA Tour, Inc.

Carol Ann Pisciotta

Ronald and Debbie Richburg

Julian Roary

Michael and Elizabeth Roberts

Colby Rodowski

Nancy Ryan

Peggy Schapiro

David R. Schiminger

Patricia Short

Judy Shutt

Edna Sidler

Tameka Smallwood

Karen Smith and Nancy Joyner

Jenny Sorel

Benjamin Sorensen

Allison Stone

Bert Straus

Lara Street and Jason Melvin

Teresa Stulman

Teresa Tippet

Alice Torriente

Guy and Marilyn Tucker

Nina and Jake Weiland

We extend a special thank you to the St. Paul's Lower and Middle Schools for raising \$7,818 for MSC through their school Fun Run!

"Have you ever been to Echo Hill? I have! Echo Hill is a summer camp and I was there for two weeks...My friends and I went water skiing, swamp mucking, and belly boarding. We even went sailing, motor boating and made ceramics. At night we slept in cabins and we could hear deer running and raccoons fighting. We always heard birds...Looking back, I think it was a good and fun experience. A lot of people do not get the chance to go and my scholarship helped me to go. If I had the chance to change something, I would not have gone swamp mucking. It was disgusting. Overall it was still a great experience and I plan to go back this summer."

— Terra Fields, MSC Student

Terra is one of 30 girls who benefited from a summer camp, job, or leadership program, this year. A special thanks to **Ira Miller for Camp Puh'Tok, Towson Rotary for RYLA at Camp Letts, Baltimore Educational Scholarship Trust, Camp Opequon, Camp Rim Rock, Camp St. Charles, Camp Wright, Echo Hill, Irvine Nature Center, and Johns Hopkins Space Telescope Institute.**

Holiday Cheer

MSC matched a record number of families with holiday sponsors again this past season. We are thankful to the businesses and families who provided food baskets and/or gifts to so many grateful families. Please contact us if you would like to sponsor a family this year.

"I was truly overwhelmed by all that Price Modern, LLC did for my family over the holidays. I wish you could've seen my children's faces on Christmas morning. We have never received any sort of help and couldn't believe people would be so kind. Right now, my kids are outside rollerblading and bike riding, both new gifts. And we got two heavenly hams, even pre-sliced!"

—Candace, MSC Mother

Media Buzz

MSC was highlighted in the local and national news this year, including *NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams* and *The Today Show*. MSC Executive Director and Founder, Heather Harvison, was also chosen by *The Daily Record* as an Influential Marylander in 2009.



PO Box 84
Timonium, MD 21094
www.mysisterscircle.org

MSC Welcomes New Students!

MSC is pleased to welcome fourteen new fifth grade girls from Dallas F. Nicholas and Abbottson Elementary Schools. Weekly leaders meet with the girls every Wednesday from 4:30 – 6:00 pm at their schools. We invite you to visit us anytime.



MSC 5th grade girls present their vision boards

"It is great because it brings us together."

—Shawnbria

"It is so awesome." —Taylor

"It helps us by... if we have problems and our minds are sad, what we say, it stays in the circle." —Michele

"I like the juice boxes. It's not just a serious place, but a place you can have fun." — Brianna

"My Sister's Circle helps us express our feelings." —Jasmine



MSC mentee attends a Ravens Pre-season Game

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 77
Timonium, MD

Interested??

Would you like to learn more about
My Sister's Circle?

Would you like to become a mentor?
Would you like to contribute?

Do you have ideas you'd like to share?

Call us! (410) 458-3199

visit our website

www.mysisterscircle.org

or email mysisterscircle@verizon.net