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TEAM OPPORTUNITIES

ACH Clear Pathways is proud to announce new "Team Opportunities"! That means if you are seeking employment in an Art environment, contact us and let us know what skills and talents you have to offer.

We are seeking part-time program assistants and a full time multidisciplinary art teacher. Our Collateral Repair program will be seeking part time social workers and multidisciplinary art instructors.

ACHCP APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

An Equal Opportunity Employer

We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, genetic information or any other status protected by law or regulation. It is our intention that all qualified applicants are given equal opportunity and that selection decisions be based on job-related factors.

For detailed information, please contact admin@achcp.org or call 412-815-0271



THIRD QUARTER 2022 EDITION

THE NEWSLETTER THAT KEEPS YOU INFORMED

ACH COMMUNICATES

CUTTING THE RIBBON

When someone is expecting a child, there are all kinds of emotions attached to that event. There is excitement, anticipation, and also fear of what if? You want a healthy, fully developed, child. It is not until the cord is cut and there is the sound of life from the child that the parents smile and laugh with joy. That is exactly how Ms. Tyian Battle, Executive Director of ACH, felt during the period of development of the ACH Clear Pathways Kaufmann Center. The December 2019 purchase of the Hill House Kaufmann Center had been completed and her dreams of future development were forming inside of her. With the Board's approval, financing was secured, architects were hired, permits were obtained and plans were drawn and finally on June 12, 2020 the ground breaking ceremony was held in the courtyard of the facility. Tyian stood watch over every aspect of the development of the new addition; she cried, she clapped and finally, she breathed a sigh of relief when the project was completed. As she looked out of the window of her 3rd floor completed office, she said, "but we still didn't get the courtyard done"! And so, once again, Tyian secured financing, architects, permits, plans and contractors to complete a courtyard that could be used for the benefit of ACH and the community. Last, but certainly not least, the parking lot of ACH was repaved and new stripes were placed on it. If you're asking "how did she accomplish all this?", the question was answered by the Mayor's Chief of Staff, Mr. Jake Wheatley, as he recounted how many people said, "it can't be done Tyian", only for her to refuse to accept anyone's No! Tyian has no room in her life for negativity! The stories that were shared by Senator Wayne Fontana and Dr. Lawrence Butler, and Officers of the Board of ACH confirmed that there would be a healthy, fully developed, ACH Clear Pathways Kaufmann Center. It was



finally time to have a Ribbon Cutting ceremony at our new home. The invitations were sent, the tent and chairs were set up and the day finally arrived. Our guests began to arrive and were amazed. Tyian had invited her pastor, Rev. Brian J. Edmonds, to open the program with prayer; because, she believes that no matter what denomination you belong to, you can't do anything by yourself. She had prayed for this opportunity and now she needed to give thanks for the abundance she had received.

One of the speakers at the Ribbon Cutting was Eric Jidji, Director of the Rauh Jewish History Program and Archives at the Heinz History Center. Mr. Jidji shared portions of the history of the ACH Kaufmann Center location. He said: "it was one of the last major Jewish investments in the Hill District." Jidji called the building a "sacred

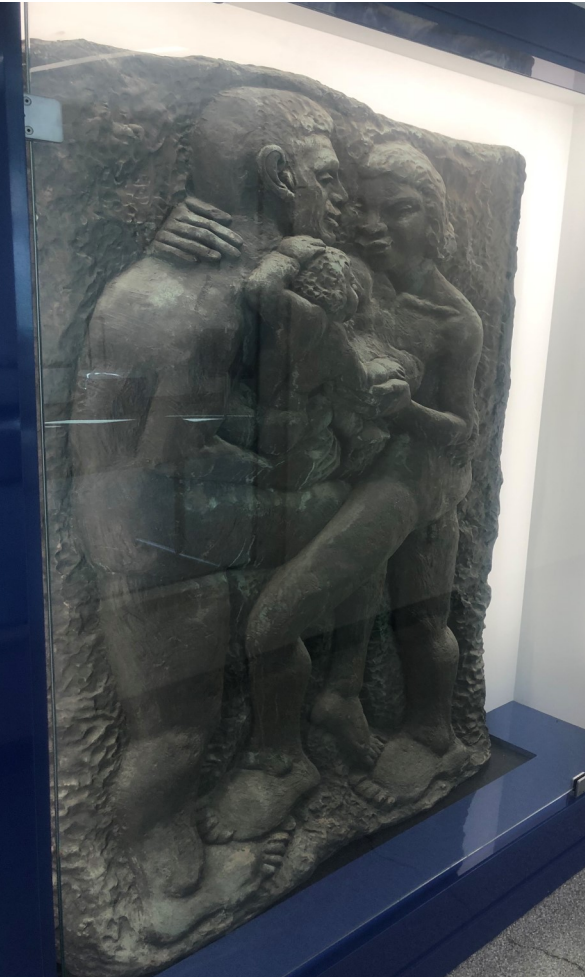
Cutting the Ribbon Cont. from page 1

space”. The importance of this redevelopment expansion project was magnified as Lidji expounded on the theme of the “sacred place”. Because of the accuracy of Lidji’s statements, as reported in the **Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle**, we will share a portions of those remarks. **“Sanctity is when we dedicate something for good,...This spot is sanctified because it has been serving the same good since the spring of 1900 all the way until today. That’s what it is. That’s what it was and that is what it is going to be forever”**

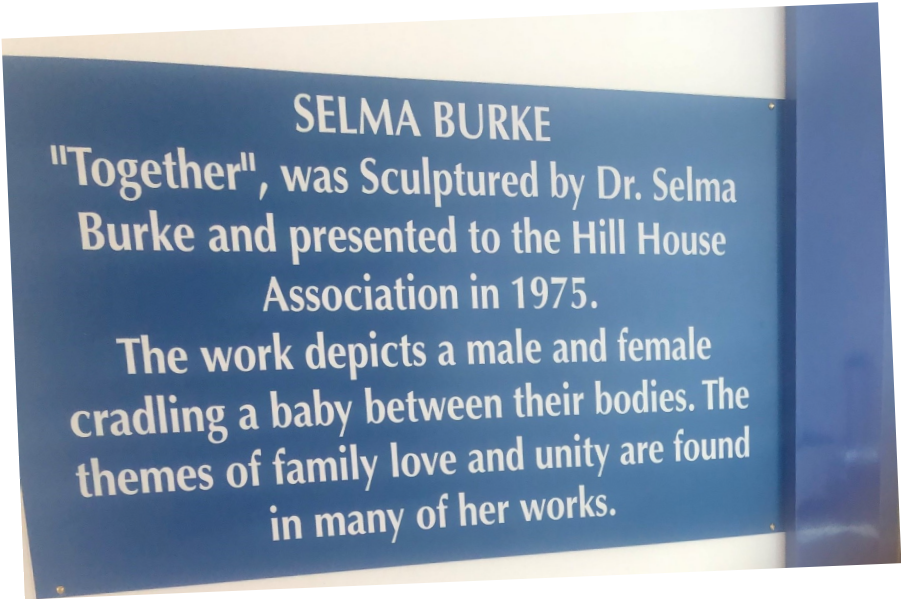


Buried next to the Memorial/ Legacy Bricks in the newly installed courtyard, are the Bibles which belong to family members and co-workers of ACH Clear Pathways. As Tyian prayed during the burial of the Bibles, once again, we were reminded of the sanctity of the purpose of this endeavor. We are here to love one another and to provide an opportunity for each young person to develop the gifts and talents which they have been given. Let us live the words in the Word!

The guests were invited inside the ACH Kaufmann Center for a tour of the renovated facility. As soon as they entered the first floor corridor, people began talking about how beautiful the Selma Burke sculpture is. It is housed in a glass and lighted case to preserve it for future generations. We wanted to share the Selma Burke story, so a fitting plaque was ordered for the display.



The Selma Burke statue and other art works, both ACH originals and donated from other artists. are located in the **Ross and Carol Nese Community Center**. The Center is comprised of the writing center, the community room, the reception area and entry to the ACH Kaufmann Center Hillman Auditorium. We are grateful for the generosity of our donors. It is because of them that we are able to continue in our Mission of “nurturing creativity”.



services, ACH may reach the non-offending siblings prior to the need for intervention by the juvenile system.

Duquesne University—Department of Psychology —for counseling of the children—This will provide a safe space for the needs of the children to vocalize their feelings without judgment.

ACH will provide a new service for the youth ages 10-17. These services will still include music, spoken word, dance, theater- and other forms of art; however, in addition, the services will include job readiness preparation, life skills, and mentors. ACH will provide a support system for the non-offending juvenile so that “gang support” is no longer the only alternative for these children.

ACH has been approved by a funder to complete the program development and to begin a pilot program by the end of this year. We are excited to venture into a space where no one else has gone before. Once again, ACH and Tyian Battle are not going to accept “we can’t dot it!”

Our pilot program will offer services three times weekly, along with a once monthly Saturday program supported by outside organizations.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

ACH has always worked with the resources found within the community it serves. We are looking for individuals who have a passion to help our youth! We need you!

Perhaps you are a retired or semi-retired social worker or social work educator—your services are greatly needed!

Were you a probation officer who is retired, but would like to work a few hours within the field that you were trained in? If so, we would like to connect with you for your services.

Are you a part of an organization that would support this program and its future development? Let’s talk!

We talk about the gang violence and shootings and all the negative things that are happening in the City of Pittsburgh; won’t you consider being a part of the solution. Nothing changes over night; however, we’re ready for a new ACH challenge.



Ms. Annie Grice
Exec. Asst. to Tyian Battle

A broken heart may be difficult to repair, but here at ACH, Ms. Annie wants to make sure that every child is given the opportunity to grow and develop in his/her own direction. This program’s working title of Collateral Repair is used to express the need to address the collateral damage being done to our children. Ms. Annie is dedicated to assuring children that their future hopes and dreams are not impacted by the behavior of other family members.

ACH will not give up on children who are being collaterally damaged through no fault of their own.



If you would like to be a part of this dynamic new venture, please reach out to Ms. Annie at ACH Clear Pathways 412-815-0271 or admin@achcp.org

When this program is implemented, we will need to hire part time team members—You could be part of our team!

Ms. Annie is the writer, editor and layout director of ACH COMMUNICATES! She welcomes your input, both positive and negative. Let us know how we can do a better job in communicating with you!

MOVING FORWARD...COLLATERAL REPAIR!

Since its inception, ACH has been committed to nurturing creativity through the visual and performing arts by providing an opportunity to youth and family within the arts. That commitment is now stronger than ever! Our children, no matter who they are, deserve an opportunity to be seen as unique in their own right. ACH is in the process of instituting a pilot program to address the right of each child to be seen as unique. Children cannot be assigned the behavior or personality traits of their siblings; yet, that is exactly what can happen in many circumstances, particularly in the area of Juvenile Justice. Comparing siblings to one another is often done, whether for good or bad; however, that comparison can have a life long devastating effect on some children.

What am I talking about? The organization has grown its programming, staff and participants over the past twelve years. This growth has provided ACH with the opportunity to observe the additional needs of our Hill District youth and their families and to assess the available programs available in the community to address those needs.

One particular observation is that there is a significant number of juvenile offenders who have been arrested, adjudicated delinquent and/ or incarcerated. Nationally various diversion programs have been instituted to reduce the number of juveniles from ending up in court or prison. In addition, various programs have been initiated to assist the parent/guardian to walk through the juvenile justice system. Admittedly, some of these programs have had positive results; however, there are few, if any, programs which address the needs of the siblings of the juvenile offender. The Department of Human Services, Juvenile Justice, and the County Youth Services are **focused on the offender** and his/her guardian. The non-offender sibling has become **collateral damage** in the system.

The Problem--Collateral Damage—"Injury inflicted on someone other than the intended target"

As our social workers, psychologists, and law enforcement agencies attempt to protect society from crime and to see that those who commit those crimes are held accountable, the sibling non-offenders become additional victims to the offenses of the offender sibling. The victimization of the non-offender is unintended; yet, it may still lead to disaster. There have been many studies performed that suggest that:

"Most often overlooked within these studies have been the siblings of brothers and sisters who have been sentenced to jail or prison" .

Why should it matter if the non-offending sibling is overlooked? During times of crisis, the family dynamics are usually based around the main caregiver and the offending juvenile. The old saying "the squeaky wheel gets the oil" is appropriate in this situation. The ability of the guardian/parent to cope with the juvenile offender's behavior, the financial toll on the family and in many cases, maintaining employment leaves little emotionally for the non-offender sibling. This unintended neglect of the other siblings in the home often have tragic consequences.

Research within the United Kingdom has suggested that siblings are at an increased risk of committing a crime if another sibling has offended...this study identified that the incarceration of one sibling has been positively correlated to future delinquency among other siblings

We add the normal risk factors of poverty, inadequate housing, unsafe neighborhoods, and the availability of alcohol and drugs, to a scenario of confusion and incarceration of a sibling, it is expected, that without additional intervention, there is a great possibility that the non-offender juvenile will become an offender. In addition to the fear of the unknown—what's going to happen to the offending sibling, the non-offending sibling is subjected to questions from class mates, neighbors, and other relatives about what has happened. A sense of protection of the offending sibling may lead to fights at school and in the neighborhood. Teachers and administrators may have preconceived notion of whether "they're all like that". A sense of shame that his/her brother/sister is in jail or juvenile detention may cause the non-offender sibling to withdraw from everyone. Nonetheless, the non-offending sibling may feel a sense of isolation and no where to turn. **It is indeed collateral damage.**

Sadly, it is often other juvenile delinquents or gang members who provide a support system to the non-offending sibling. It is within this group that he/she is not judged for the actions of the offending sibling.

Solutions

ACH Clear Pathways is uniquely situated to address this collateral damage problem. Our aim is to partner with organizations, both private and government in order to facilitate the intake of children who need this program:

Allegheny County Juvenile Court—By working with the Court for referrals of families who may benefit from these

Remembering the past...while working towards the future

Talking with Tyian Battle helps to bring perspective to what she and the ACH organization have accomplished in the last twelve (12) years. The Showcases were held in rented spaces. Now, they are held right in the Hillman Auditorium of the ACH Clear Pathways Kaufmann Center. Because of the limited time to rehearse and to prepare for showcases in rental facilities, the presentations were often designed to be moved or there were art pieces that could easily be transported. In the summer showcase of 2022, the artists and students prepared a full fledged production of "In The Heights". The students were able to design and build sets that they would use in the musical. The talents of the children were stretched because of the talents of the instructors. The children were able to rehearse their lines and movements on stage because the stage was their home.



Many of the children selected theatre as their major component this summer; however, the media group was fascinated as they were taught the various tricks of the trade in film making, photography and other areas of media art by Mr. Maurice in the **Terry & Janet Serafini Digital Media Center**

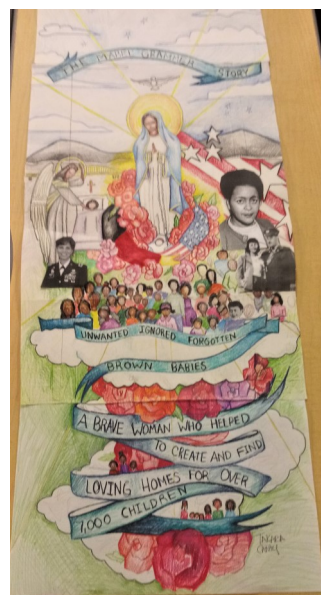
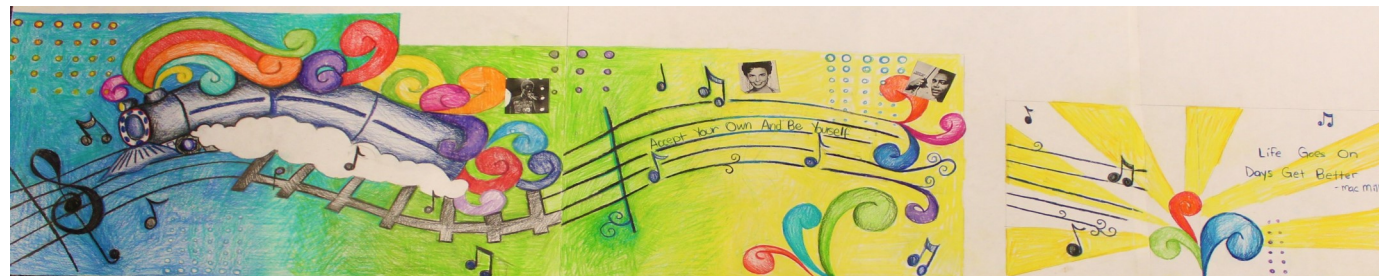


The future of ACH Clear Pathways is being determined right now. It is our children who see new opportunities and career paths that they had never envisioned before. The future of our children is being formed as they learn techniques and are able to implement them. The sense of accomplishment and pride can be seen in their faces as they discover that they can do or be anything!

ACH Clear Pathways is proud to be able to provide so many enrichment opportunities to the children in the Hill District of Pittsburgh and the surrounding communities.

Remembering the past....to say “Thank You”

During the 12 year history of ACH Clear Pathways, it has been fortunate to have many talented artists and assistants who have played important roles in its growth and development. Ms. Takara Canty was our first staff visual art teacher. Takara was responsible for the development and installation of many of our murals which have become popular in the Hill District of Pittsburgh. In addition to her outdoor murals, she designed and led the children in the mural of Mabel Grammer, which is located in the St. Benedict School in the Pittsburgh Diocese. The Soul Train mural and the August Wilson Mural were also designed by Ms. Takara. Her creative talents are still visible in the ACH Clear Pathways Center. Thank you Takara!



ACH has been honored to partner with Wesley Spectrum Family Services Foster Grandparents program. Seniors aged 55 and older provide additional support and love to the children who attend both our Out of School program and our Creative Camp. One of the foster grandparents has been with ACH for the entire 12 years of its programming. She has been with us in every location and remains faithful, loving, and loyal to ACH and its children. She is always willing to go the extra mile to help. We thank you Ms. Elizabeth Anderson, better known as Grandma Liz.



Left—Grandma Liz prepares lunch and snacks for the children each day. She encourages them to eat healthy.

Right—While preparing for the Ribbon Cutting ceremony, Ms. Liz volunteered to take charge of the food set-up on her day off. She and her co-worker, Grandma Gaynell did a beautiful job. Thank you!



Pictures speak louder than a thousand words! This picture taken at Blakey Center of the Hill House was taken at our first home. Our staff included Miss India, Mr. Duffy, Miss Breanna, Mr. Dre and Miss Kara. Additionally, Mr. Darnell and Ms. Kristina were amazing members of the staff. Words cannot express our gratitude for their contributions to the growth of ACH Clear Pathways. It is difficult to say “good bye” to people who have meant so much to ACH; however, we recognize that sometimes people must move to other places in order for them to continue their paths of greatness. We miss them and we say best wishes in all that they do.



ACH has been privileged to have contracted with talented artists in various genres.

In the field of music, we have enjoyed the gifted Jevon Rushton as he teaches the children how to play the drums.

Likewise, Mr. Eugene Perry, a talented guitarist and vocalist, has taught the children how to read notes and then how to bring those notes into a beautiful harmony.

We share fond memories of the children learning the moves in martial arts with Grandmaster Abdullah Asad.

There have been other instructors in dance, music, and visual arts.

We are grateful to each of these talented artists for sharing his or her talents with the children of ACH Clear Pathways