

ACT Happenings

Take Home and Share with Your Family!

Spring 2007

www.abingtonact.org for expanded information

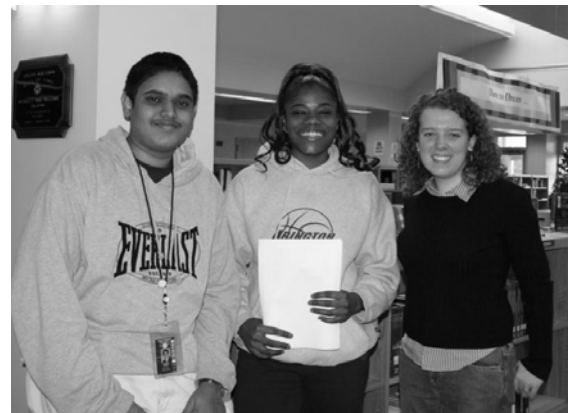
Abington Again Named One of the 100 Best Communities

For the second consecutive time that this award has been given, Abington was named one of the **100 Best Communities for Young People** by America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth. Hundreds of communities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands took part in this competition.

The award honors communities ranging from small towns to urban neighborhoods across America for their commitment to provide healthy, safe, and caring environments for young people. Winning communities have successfully demonstrated how they keep the five promises to children: caring adults who are actively involved in their lives, safe places in which to learn and grow, a healthy start toward adulthood, an effective education that builds marketable skills, and opportunities to help others.

ACT is especially proud of the role it has played in this community honor. Members of ACT have always recognized that the entire community "owns" the problems as well as the solutions to those problems that face youth. ACT members recognize the need to facilitate and coordinate the ef-

forts to direct the community's assets and resources among the organizations that deliver programs and



From left, Anhishek Mandal, Rahsheana Fulton, and Katie Baxter wrote letters about their community for the America's Promise 100 Best Communities 2007 competition.

services to benefit youth.

ACT succeeds because the member organizations have continued and in many cases expanded their commitment to work together. As a result, ACT has helped move the community stance from

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Outstanding Citizens, Organizations Recognized

The Abington Community Taskforce is pleased to announce its 2007 Citizens That Care honorees: the **Black Women's Educational Alliance, Montgomery County Chapter; Elaine K. Faulkner; Hunter Soccer Club;** and **David J. Rondinelli.**

These outstanding citizens and organizations have distinguished themselves by their contributions to improving life for children, youth, and families in the Abington-Rockledge community. They will be honored at ACT's sixth annual Citizens That Care Recognition Reception on Thursday, April 26, 5:30-8:00 p.m. at Manufacturers' Golf and Country Club.

ACT extends an invitation to all who would like to celebrate their community and these special people and organizations. The evening includes hors d'oeuvres and a buffet. Reservations start at \$60 per person, with levels of support ranging to \$2,500. Community businesses are encouraged to become sponsors of this annual event. Those making reservations at \$100 a person or more will be listed in the program. There are also advertising opportunities, including business cards for \$50.

Proceeds from this Reception enable ACT to

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New Name Emphasizes Education and Expanding Services

The name has changed, the technology and reach are expanding, but the mission to educate and support parents in raising emotionally healthy families remains the same. The Parenting Center at Abington is now the Center for Parenting Education and can connect with parents not only in Abington but also in surrounding counties and in towns across the country, thanks to online capabilities.

“It is amazing to consider how we have grown in our scope of programs and services to an ever-expanding audience,” states Director Audrey Krisbergh who founded the Center in 1997.

“Initially, we held our programs in local community buildings. Today, we have our own site that is open five days a week and has stepped into the 21st century by providing internet-based programming. This includes on-demand articles available on the

web site, a parent discussion forum, as well as live, online educational workshops that parents can attend in virtual meeting rooms.”

Through market research, the Center for Parenting Education learned that many families expressed interest in attending programs but faced time constraints. These parents are willing to access online programming in the comfort of their homes. This technology allows them to select convenient times and frees them from arranging child-care. As a result, the Center can reach far more families with its programs.

To explore the expanding program offerings and new technological tools available, visit the Center’s redesigned web site at www.centerforparentingeducation.com. Or call 215-576-0586.

Abington PAL Offers “Pitch, Hit, & Run” and “Outward Bound”

Boys and girls ages 11 to 14 who would like to test their pitching, hitting, and running skills in a competition with potential for advancement are invited to come to the Fox Chase Road entrance of Alverthorpe Park, Saturday, April 14, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Hosted by Abington’s Police Athletic League (PAL), this national **Pepsi Pitch, Hit & Run**® event will give young people the opportunity to compete at the local level in age categories to pitch to a designated strike zone target, hit a ball off a stationary tee for distance and accuracy, and run from second base, tagging third, to home plate for their best time.

To help kids prepare for this competition, PAL will run baseball clinics in March. Dates will be posted at www.abingtonpal.org. PAL will furnish

the necessary baseball equipment as well as refreshments the day of the event. Registration with proof of date of birth is required.

PAL is also offering those ages 11-17 an opportunity to spend a day outdoors engaged in problem-solving exercises. Run by **Outward Bound**, this day-long program in the Fairmount Park section of Philadelphia will challenge participants to draw on self-confidence and team-building skills to climb a 40-foot wall and navigate a ropes course. Abington PAL will provide transportation; participants are asked to bring a lunch.

To register for these **free** PAL offerings, call Abington PAL at 267-536-1072 or download the registration forms at www.abingtonpal.org.

Abington Named An America’s Promise “100 Best”

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reactive to proactive, from punishment to prevention, and from a deficit perspective to an asset perspective in meeting youth challenges.

In particular, Abington’s Police Department and School District have a remarkable partnership envied by many outside of this community. Both continue to be innovative in putting programs in place for youth. For example, the Abington Police Department runs monthly Youth Aid Panels to give juveniles who commit their first, minor offense an opportunity to wipe their record clean through com-

munity service, attendance at special programs, and essays or letters of apology. The Abington School District runs peer mediation and conflict resolution programs with training for all staff and students. Quite notably, Abington students contributed more than 91,500 hours of service learning in the past year.

To read more about this honor, visit either www.americaspromise.org or the Abington Schools site at www.abington.k12.pa.us and click “News and Events.”

Be A Participant, A Volunteer at 24-Hour Relay Challenge

How many ways can a tent be decorated or costumes created for a Winter Wonderland? The Abington community will learn the answer during the 14th annual 24-Hour Relay Challenge, Saturday, May 19 beginning at 10:00 a.m. through Sunday, May 20 until 10:00 a.m.

Registration packets for teams of 10 are now available at Abington Junior and Senior High Schools and the Abington Township Building, 1176 Old York Road. There are places for both student

(6th grade and up) and adult teams. All student teams must have two adult coaches.

Volunteers for four-hour shifts are also needed. To help, contact Valerie at 215-659-0509 or valoward@comcast.net or Nancy at 215-576-5233 or jamhnm@yahoo.com.

For details, visit www.abingtonact.org and click "Things To Do" or contact Co-Chairs Diane Misko at dianemisko@abington.k12.pa.us or Sgt. Dan Buckley at Dbuckley@abington.org.

Babysitting Workshops for Those Age 10 and Older

The Abington YMCA has introduced **Babysitting Beginners** for boys and girls ages 10-15. This Penn State 4-H course teaches responsible babysitting techniques with a focus on life skills and child watching and a strong emphasis on character development in honesty, respect, and responsibility. The next 8-week course begins April 27, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., and costs \$35 which covers materials and a field trip. Abington YMCA membership is not required. For information and registration contact Lanesa Smith at 215-884-9622 ext. 1856.

Child, Home & Community, Inc., in cooperation with Abington Memorial Hospital, will run a **Babysitting Workshop** Saturday, May 5, 9:00 a.m.

to 3:00 p.m. in the Hospital's Lenfest Building. This program helps boys and girls age 11 and up to become more qualified babysitters by teaching basic child care, age-appropriate activities, how to handle family routines and emergencies, and other relevant topics. Certificates are issued upon completion. This workshop costs \$40. To register, call 215-348-9770.

The **Safe Sitter** program run by Holy Redeemer Health System will be held May 19 and 20 at Holy Redeemer Hospital. This program teaches boys and girls ages 11-13 about child development, age-appropriate activities, and basic life-saving skills when caring for younger children. The cost is \$40. Registration is required at 1-800-818-4747.

Are You on One of the Rock-a-Thon's 75 Teams?

If you are in 6th through 9th grade at an Abington Township public, private, or parochial school, don't miss a high energy event just for you. Sign up for the 9th annual Rock-a-Thon to be held Friday, April 13, 5:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. at the Abington Junior High School gym.

Students may sign up in teams of five for \$100 (\$20/person). Teams provide their own decorated rocking chair. The Rock-a-Thon can accommodate 75 teams.

The evening includes a variety of activities, such as games, contests, free food, and more. There will be guest speakers and awards for all participants.

Sponsored by C.P.Y.A. (Community Partnership of Youth and Adults), the Rock-a-Thon raises funds to raise awareness and ease the suffering of child abuse. For information and registration, contact Detective Joe Dalton at Josephdalton@abington.k12.pa.us.

American Red Cross Lifeguarding Certification Offered in June

Boys and girls at least 15 years old who can complete a standard swim test can sign up for a lifeguarding course through the Abington YMCA. The next session will begin June 10 with a pre-test and run June 11-16, 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Attendance is mandatory at all scheduled classes for certification.

The fee of \$225 for full YMCA members, \$250 for program members, and \$275 for non-members includes Red Cross lifeguarding certification, First Aid and Professional CPR certification, a textbook and a CPR mask. For information and registration, contact the Abington YMCA at 215-884-9622.

Register for Abington YMCA Summer Camps

Spring often brings thoughts of summer plans. The Abington YMCA offers a variety of camps for boys and girls from age 3 to 17. These camps—from sports, aikido, gymnastics, and dance to arts and crafts, performing arts, and adventure—run from the week of June 18 through the week of August 20. Campers may select a one-week camp, several multi-week camps, or plan to attend for the entire summer. To learn more, contact Jen Wasko at

jwasko@philaymca.org or call her at 215-884-9622 ext. 1859. A complete camp list is available at www.abingtonymca.org.

Family Fun Fridays at YMCA

Are you looking for affordable family fun? Try Family Fun Fridays at the Abington YMCA. The evening features dinner, games, gym activities, and swimming. This program is free to full-privilege members, \$10 for a family who are program members and \$2 a person for non-member families of six or more. For information and registration, call Jen Wasko at 215-884-9622 ext. 1859.

Abington PAL Launches Web Site

Discover the variety of programs and events being offered at the Abington Police Athletic League each weekend. Visit www.abingtonpal.org! Kids will be especially interested in the “Members Only” section where they can download permission forms for parents to complete before they come to PAL and sign up for activities. This site also provides parents and community members with helpful background information and invites contributions online to help provide PAL programs for boys and girls age 11 through senior high school. All programs are offered free so that every young person has an opportunity to participate.

Thank You Note from 2006 ACT Student Award Recipient

Last April, Bianca Whiteside was one of two students awarded a \$500 Student Service Award by ACT in recognition of her outstanding community service. Bianca graduated from Abington Senior High School in June and entered Hampton University in September. ACT recently received a note in which she writes:

Hello, members of ACT. I wanted to thank again each and every member for allowing me to be a 2006 Student Community Service Award recipient.

So far I am enjoying my school. I have made plenty of friends, joined tons of organizations and clubs, and managed to earn a 3.9 average my first semester. I plan to apply to the University's honors college and its Howard Scripps School of Journalism and Communications.

ACT wishes Bianca and all student award recipients the very best in their educational and career endeavors.

Come to ACT's Citizens That Care Recognition Reception

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provide the Abington-Rockledge community with an extensive web site of regularly updated activities, events, and programs and to present two \$500 awards annually to graduating seniors to recognize outstanding community service. Funds also support ACT's annual Youth Forum and its Teen Council

promoting civic engagement for youth.

ACT is a nonprofit, community-based corporation. For reservations, call 215-517-2720 and leave your name, address, and phone number. Read more about this event and ACT at www.abingtonact.org, click “Special Events.”

The Abington Community Taskforce (ACT) is a coalition of diverse organizations working together to enhance the effectiveness of programs and services for youth and their families in order to ensure a safe and caring community. ACT's core values are caring, collaboration, community, integrity, proactive protection and intervention, and respect. ACT welcomes reader input. Visit ACT online at www.abingtonact.org and click “Contact Us,” or call 215-517-2720. ACT would like to express appreciation to Abington Memorial Hospital for its assistance in printing this publication.

Editor: Rosemary Peters Hinkle