

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

HEALING THE GAP

BY BOB SHIPMAN



The group that received the computer was the Oxford street committee, 7th and Oxford street area. The committee has been working in the community teaching the children self sufficiency. They are starting small businesses like button making, silk screening and others. Yvonne Hughes, Family Leadership Institute representative and member of the William Penn EPIC Stakeholder group, donated the system to the group that will in turn donate it to a needy family.

Many of the adults in the group were products of the old gang war days. They have encourage former drug dealers to curtail that activity to pursue legal businesses and teach others positive actions in the community. The church in the Ludlow community that is very active is the B.M. Oakley Church, Da-Network Housing and State Senator Shirley Kitchen's office sponsored the festival that Eagles Quarter Back Donovan McNabb and his family visited on Saturday, May 26, 2007.

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"First of all, to make sure that schools are funded to the best possible degree and students are given the opportunities for a great education, one that will enrich their lives later. Also there's a funding gap because in Pennsylvania urban and rural schools are in trouble and are having great difficulty. In the suburban areas are some of the finest schools in the nation. It's not a fair funding program. As mayor I would work closely with the state legislators and governor to find an answer to that. Philadelphia schools can only do better if they're funded to the fullest extent and that needs the help of the state of Pennsylvania. Secondly, I think jobs have to be plentiful, a good job and wage program that is better than Harrisburg or Washington can ever devise."

Believe it or not readers, the youth of Philadelphia truly do matter and we're here to stay, so unless you haven't done so yet, get used to it! The decisions made by adults affect us as much as they do older generations, so we

should have some say in these matters. The youth of Philadelphia need more fascinating things to do after school; statistics show that in this country, 15 million kids have no place to go after school and more than 28 million of them have parents who work outside the home. The NPM squad brought this to Michael Nutter's attention and was able to get his view on it and what he would do about it if elected Mayor in the fall.

"The first thing that I'm going to do is get a full assessment of all the after school programs we presently have-or that we claim we have-and have them evaluated to see how they're working, what's the coverage, we already know, this information came from the children's commission. I think we already know that thousands of kids in Philadelphia don't have an after school

FOOT STOMPERS UPDATE

BY HELEN BROWN

Once again, The North Philly Footstompers won the 1st place Trophy in Harrisburg on Saturday, June 2, 2007 at the 9th Annual Ephraim Slaughter Memorial Day Celebration.

The Footstompers went to Brooklyn, NY to participate in the Youth Drum Core Competition where they received 1st Place Overall, Good Sportsmanship Trophy, Best Dressed Trophy and the Bass, Snare & Quad Players each received trophies

This past January, The Footstompers won 2nd place in the AMA competition over the weekend and competed against 19 other groups from the Tri-State Area.

2007 PENNSYLVANIA ELECTION IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Last day to REGISTER before the Municipal election
October 9

Last day to apply for a civilian absentee ballot
October 30

Last day for County Boards of Elections to receive voted civilian absentee ballots
November 2

MUNICIPAL ELECTION
November 6

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program to go to. So we need to create more after school programs and we need to make sure that every rec center, every library, every school building, boys club, girls club, scouting, various non-profit organizations, any one who touches the life of a child. We should figure out what they're doing, what's the quality of the service, set new standards at least on the city side and find a place; every child should have a program available to them."

Now that we have chosen him, we must ensure that he listens to and acts upon the concerns of young Philadelphians, as he promised us.