The Fishing School Presents...

THE FISHNET

If you give a man a fish, you'll feed him for a day.
Teach him to fish, and he will feed himself for a lifetime.

Volume 1, Issue 2

Spring 2001

OUR MISSION...

The Fishing School is a faith based after school family and child support center that provides a safe haven, intervention and education for vulnerable children and youth. The Fishing School accomplishes its mission through a comprehensive array of services which include tutoring, community resource referrals, spiritual enrichment and recreation.

MEDIA WATCH



"Fishing School for the Mind: Faith-based programs for youths," The Washington *Times*, Tuesday, April 10, 2001, page C4. Visit www.washtimes.com to access this full-page feature.

"Ex-Cop Reels Kids In," *The CQ Researcher*, May 4, 2001, page 391.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT...



Dear Friends,

As you can imagine, President Bush's visit to our Meade Street location on January 30th generated a lot of excitement for our children. As T.J. Blandford, Jr., one of our students' summed up, "It was a good experience. I introduced myself and shook his hand because he was kind enough to come to our program." For T.J., and many of our other students who were interviewed by television and newspaper reporters, "the most exciting part was seeing myself on the news later that day."

T.J., a tenth grade student at FLOC Learning Center, has been coming to our Wylie Street after school and summer enrichment programs for four years. He credits the Fishing School with keeping him out of trouble.

As we move toward the end of the school year and the beginning of our Summer Enrichment Program to begin on June 25th, I am reminded of the ancient prophet Zechariah's vision of a good society was one where "the children shall play at peace in the streets." I am grateful to the Kimsey Fund for giving our children tickets to attend several Wizards games and a hockey game as a reward for good performance in school.

On April 25th, our Wylie Street children gathered to serenade Henrietta Smith as their way of saying "a job well done." Ms. Smith has served as our Executive Director for the past year but now moves on to develop her human resources consulting business. Yet, we are fortunate to welcome Ms. Tonya Sellers as our new Administrative Assistant.

The other day as I was finishing up a telephone call in my office, I heard the voice of one of our youngest students asking each person she was encountering, "Can you please help me with my homework?" The response was the same, frustration at wanting to help but already swamped with another responsibility. Her childlike delight in learning was evident in her voice as she asked her question over and over. This desire is just too precious not to nurture.

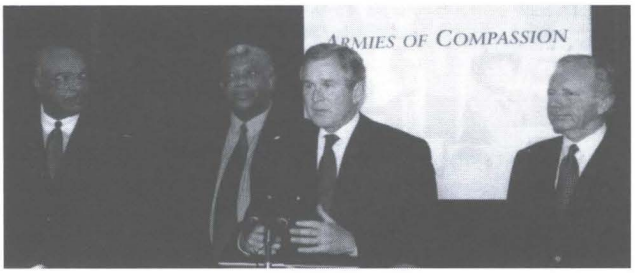
We are fortunate to have some wonderful individuals and organizations that volunteer at our two centers on Wylie Street and Meade Street. Yet, as that little pleading voice indicates, we desperately need more volunteer tutors. As you read the feature on Lewis Anderson, our longest term volunteer, I hope that you will be inspired to share your talents with our children and come fishing with us.

With a grateful heart,
Tom Lewis
Founder and President

BZA
Case No. 16786
Exhibit No. 29

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16786
EXHIBIT NO.29

President Bush's Remarks at The Fishing School
January 30, 2001



Thank you, Tom, very much for having us. And it's such an honor to have John Diulio on my staff. For those of you who don't know John, he's a pioneer in working with Republicans and Democrats and people who really care about political parties to revitalize neighborhoods and places where hope may have been lost, by rallying faith-based organizations. And so, John, I'm so honored that you've sacrificed for the country.

It's good to see Steve Goldsmith here, who is a partner as well.

A little over a week ago, a few mile from here, I was honored to be inaugurated your President. I'm here today to repeat the promise I made on the steps of the Capitol: I will work to build a single nation of justice and opportunity. I'm going to need some help to do that. And so I'm so honored four Members of the United States Congress are here: Senator Joe Lieberman from the great State of Connecticut; Senator Rick Santorum from Pennsylvania; Congressman Mark Souder of Indiana; Congressman Tony Hall of Ohio.

I'm also pleased that two members of my Cabinet came: one, Mel Martinez, my Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; and finally, Rod Paige, a fellow Texan who is now the Secretary of Education.

The Fishing School obviously attracts people who seek excellence, and all of us up here, regardless of political party, love to herald excellence. And we love to stand next to people who have got vision and good intentions and a good heart. And that's Tom Lewis.

This little haven is a refuge from violence and addiction and abuse. Children find learning and care, but most important, they find something that we can never pass legislation to achieve, and that's love. They find love. They find an adult saying: Somebody cares about you; somebody loves you; somebody wants to help you. Tom knows what we all know, that through loving children, you find deep fulfillment in your own heart. You can just see it on his face, and you can hear it in his voice.

As a candidate for President, I had the privilege of visiting a lot of churches and synagogues and charitable groups all across the country, groups that offer food and shelter, hope and dignity. I've seen how effective and committed these groups are at saving and changing lives. As President, I am resolved to put Government on your side, Tom, on the side of the committed and the caring and the compassionate.

There are many people in need. The good news about America is, there are so many willing to serve. It's the great strength of our Nation. There's no limit to the talent and energy and compassion of this great land. But sometimes the need is too great, and the resources are too limited, and all of us, as private citizens and public officials, should help where we can.

Today, I'm sending to Congress a set of ideas and proposals that mark a hopeful new direction for our Government. We will encourage community and faith-based programs without changing their mission. We will eliminate barriers to charitable works wherever they exist, and we will encourage charitable giving wherever we can.

I'm open to any good ideas that will come from the Congress. And I can assure you, these four good Members of Congress will have some good ideas. And they're probably not going to be afraid to tell me either. But here are some of my proposals.

I want to fully open up the Federal after school program, called 21st century learning centers, to all after-school programs, including faith-based groups. I propose to create a compassionate capital fund which will provide start-up funds for promising new programs serving people in need. We'll make sure that funding is available to faith-based programs on an equal basis, with nonreligious alternative.

Government, of course, cannot fund and will not fund religious activities, but when people of faith provide social services, we will not discriminate against them. I propose to encourage mentoring programs for children of prisoners, as well as programs that, when possible, help to mend broken families.

The change we seek won't come all at once by any act of Congress or any Executive order signed by the President. Real change happens street by street, heart by heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. It happens in places like this one, the Fishing School. Yet, I hope that good policies can expand and multiply these efforts, uplifting livings all across America.

"What can I do? How can I hear the universal fall to love a neighbor just like I'd like to be loved myself?" In this case, a person I call a social entrepreneur, and this is a country of social entrepreneurs.

And our job, regardless of our political party, is to recognize the strength of the country, to nourish it and feed it within the Constitution, within the bounds of the Constitution, and to herald success when we find it. And today all of us are honored to be here to herald success because we have found it right here.

God bless Tom. God bless your program.

MELODIES FROM HEAVEN



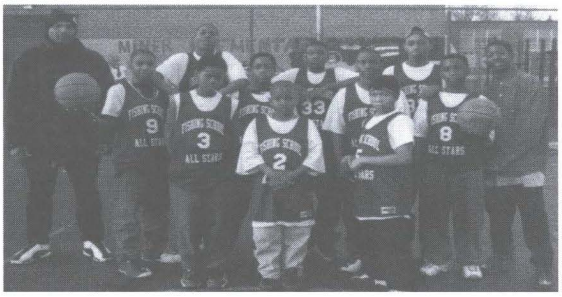
The Kids Testimonial Choir debuted on April 6th as part of an arts fest that featured drama, dance, poetry, and song. Singing popular selections like "Lord, I Lift Your Name On High" and "Worship Christ," eight youngsters from The Fishing School joined eight children from The Neighborhood Learning Center for their inaugural performance held at Washington Community Fellowship, 907 Maryland Avenue, NE.

The Choir was formed in January of this year and is a joint project with the Neighborhood Learning Center/Urban Family Development. The purpose of the choir is to give our children, their parents, and the community an opportunity to express their hopes, thoughts, and dreams in song, especially by singing their original compositions. India Brown, 11, likes best "that we get to make up our own moves and motions. We're very creative."

The Choir practices at Wylie Street each Thursday for an hour under the inspirational direction of Mr. Kertwin Daniels. According to Wanetta Johnson, 12, "We have a teacher who can sing also. Mr. Daniels cares about our work, he's just like a father. He's great."

The smiling faces of the choir members showed an obvious joy of performing. For Anastacia Johnson, 9, singing before an audience was a definite confidence boost. "When we got on the stage, everyone cheered for us." The Choir also performed on Saturday, May 19th, during the 7th Annual Block Party of the 400 block of 9th Street, NE.

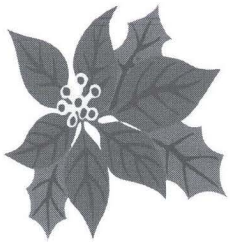
PLAY BALL!



The Male Youth Enrichment Program All-Stars basketball team finished their season with a 4-4 record in the D.C. Recreational League. These 15 players, ages 9-12, now turn their attention to baseball and take the field for the fifth year as the Yankees. Last year, the team won the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation's District Three Championship.

The Yankees lost their opening game against Taft, 11-1 on May 8th. However, Derrick McCrae, MYEP Coordinator and Coach, is optimistic about improvement as evidenced by the team's 16-4 victory over Harry Thomas Recreational Center in their second game. The Coach is confidant that his team can repeat as champs this season. Their 16 game schedule runs through June.

In order to be eligible for the team, Coach McCrae insists that players maintain their grades. He also speaks regularly with parents and teachers to ensure that his players also behave at home and school. The Coach is grateful for the help of Ms. Evans, Ms. James and Mrs. Ouedraogo, three mothers of team members, who assist with coaching and managing the team.



HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

On April 16th, The Council of Churches of Greater Washington, DC entertained 40 of our students at our Wylie Street location, including several from our Meade Street site. Representatives of area congregations encouraged our students to pursue their aspirations, led songs, played games with and gave presents to the students. All, especially the children who were to have attended the White House that day for the annual egg hunt that unfortunately was canceled due to rain, had a good time.

COMMUNITY FOCUS



On Saturday, March 31st, The Fishing School joined with the city to clean up Wylie Street. Twice in April, seven Fishing School students volunteered at Rock Creek Manor Nursing Home to assist senior citizens. *To suggest a community service project, please call Ms. Sellers at The Fishing School, (202) 399-3618.*

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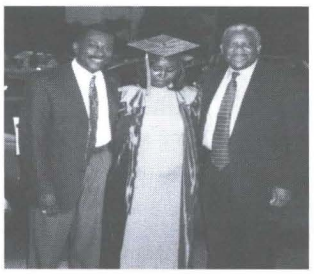
FishingSchool@aol.com

We're on the Web
www.fishingschool.org

The Fishing School

If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. Teach him how to fish and he will feed himself for a lifetime.

Volunteer Spotlight: Lewis Anderson



Mr. Anderson & Mr. Lewis with Gloria at her graduation.

Each Tuesday faithfully for over seven years, Lewis Anderson has arrived on Wylie Street to tutor students in math. He first heard about The Fishing School when someone at his church, Washington Christian Center in Temple Hills (MD), mentioned the program. His first visit in October 1993 made him a believer in Tom Lewis' vision to make the lives of the kids better.

"Sometimes, I come in really tired, but after being with the kids, it energizes me," said Mr. Anderson who has a demanding job as the Chief of Classification and Compensation for the National Parks Service. Growing up, math was a challenge for him and sometimes he was required to repeat a class. Yet while a student at Howard University, his perseverance paid off and he began to do well. He delights in encouraging young children not to be frustrated or frightened by a subject that was once his weakness.

Notes on every tutoring session have been entered in the same spiral notebook he brought with him on his first visit. Because of his longevity of service, he has been able to see many graduate. He especially notes with satisfaction that young boys who stay in the program usually complete high school.

Mr. Anderson beams with pride when he mentions Gloria Wilson's success in overcoming many personal obstacles to graduate with good grades from high school last year. He first began helping her with pre-algebra in the 8th grade. Gloria plans to enter Montgomery College this summer. While in the 10th grade, she won a Free the Children Scholarship of $2000 each year for four years of college tuition. The year of her award, she had the highest academic average of all the applicants.

CONTRIBUTE TODAY

You make a big difference in the lives of our children when you give to The Fishing School. Financial contributions from friends, areas businesses, churches, and organizations are an important reason why we are able to provide a safe and nurturing environment. *Please mail your tax-deductible contribution to*

The Fishing School, P.O. Box 60674, Washington, DC 20039.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Fishing School needs **mentors** and **guest speakers** for our Male Youth Enrichment Program and Female Youth Enrichment Program. **Tutors** are needed each weekday for our Homework Assistance Program, Reading Tutorial Program, Spanish Program, and Computer Program. To get more information, contact Ms. Tejeda at The Fishing School, (202) 399-3618.

"You get more back than you give out. You have the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping a child improve their mind. You do make an impact."
Lewis Anderson, 7 year volunteer

The Fishing School thanks all of our supporters, including Arcana Foundation, Association of Legal Administrators (Capital Chapter), Banyan Tree Foundation, Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, Clark-Winchcole Foundation, The Community Foundation of the National Capital Region, D.C. Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation, William H. Donner Foundation, Max & Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, Mark Watson Eager Foundation, Lois & Richard England Family Foundation, Fannie Mae Foundation, German Orphan Home Foundation, Heron Foundation, Kimsey Foundation, Junior League of Washington, Marpat Foundation, Gilbert & Jaylee Mead Foundation, Eugene & Agnes Meyer Foundation, Nation's Capital Progress Foundation, New York Avenue Foundation, Spring Creek Foundation, Hattie M. Strong Foundation, The Summit Fund, Philip L. Graham Fund, Freddie Mac Foundation, Gannett Foundation, International Monetary Fund, and Kaiser Permanente.