

Support Quality EDUCATION

QUARTERLY UPDATE FY2016

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4



In This Issue

- Page 1 Tiara Richards: Then | And Now
- Page 2 Richard Greene Scholars | HUD Grants
- Page 3 Animal Essay Contest Thank You | Mayor for a Day
- Page 4 Arlington Public Libraries: Summer Meals | Summer Reading Club

Then

In 2010, Tiara Lewis (pictured below and right with Councilmember Sheri Capehart) was a sixth-grader at Ashworth Elementary School who placed second in the City of Arlington's Animal Services Essay Contest.

An excerpt from Tiara's award-winning essay on the topic *How Do Animals Benefit Us in Our Daily Lives?*: "These beautiful creatures captivate our lives by benefiting us in countless ways. Not just people are transforming lives in a positive way, but animals are also."



And Now

Fast forward to 2015-16, and Tiara Lewis, a senior at Seguin High School, is a Richard Greene Scholar.

This fall, she will attend UT-Arlington majoring in aerospace engineering.

During fiscal year 2016, Tiara and her twin sister, Tyra, were featured on the City's *Dream Builders* program that highlights the ways our community is helping kids dream big, nurture their creativity,

polish their skills and develop the tools they need to achieve their American Dream as young adults.

At age 15, she got the idea of a nonprofit called Music for the Mind for inner city kids or people with mental disorders or special needs to give them that community feeling.

"I believe Arlington wants their students to be great," Tiara says. "My grandma always said, we're on this earth for a reason, and the reason is to help others."

Connect with us on social media:



www.arlingtontx.gov | www.myarlingtontx.com



Richard Greene Scholars

Scholars for the 2016-17 school year are pictured above with Mayor Jeff Williams (from left to right): **Brian Gyamfi** (Bowie), **Diana Omenge** (Lamar), **Ishan Pinto** (Martin), **Grace Ramsey** (Arlington), **Ramzi Taim** (Seguin) and **Julie Tran** (Sam Houston).

The collaboration between the City of Arlington and the Arlington ISD includes 18 years of engagement with the Texas Rangers Richard Greene Scholarship Program.

“Developing tomorrow’s leaders is a prime objective of the program,” explains Norm Lyons, the City’s Community Relations Coordinator, who was in charge of the initiative before his retirement as the director of the Rangers foundation that sponsors the program.

Every year, six promising students are selected from each of AISD’s high schools to receive the \$10,000 scholarship award. During their senior year, they participate in a series of internships with community organizations and up to nine City departments or offices, including city hall, to learn about the operations of local government.

Mayor Williams has served from the origination of the program in 1998 as a mentor for the students when he was managing his engineering firm’s operations. Now he hosts the students in his city hall office helping them become familiar with the work of the City’s top elected official.

Look for individual success stories in future issues of this newsletter of what this alliance with the school district has produced as we feature the achievements of Arlington’s best and brightest, now totaling 108 graduates.

Highlights

HUD Grants

Through the Grants Management Office, the City of Arlington receives and administers federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds used for city development activities, housing programs and homeless services.

For program year 2015, more than \$4 million in funding was invested in the Arlington community. Low- and moderate-income persons are the beneficiaries of these programs:

- 61 students attended GED and/or ESL classes provided by Tarrant County College at Water from the Rock
- 394 adults received GED, ESL and technology training from the Arlington Public Library
- 7,092 elementary students at Title 1 schools received dental health education services from Dental Health Arlington

- 24 homeless and low-income children were afforded full-day quality childcare by the **Center for Transforming Lives** (formerly YMCA) *(top photo)*



- 685 students enrolled in ESL, GED and high school credit courses provided by the **AISD Dropout Prevention Center** *(center photo)*



- 1,199 youth received one-on-one mentoring, educational tutoring and after-school programming from Arlington Parks and Recreation, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Club, H.O.P.E. Tutoring and **Girls, Inc.** *(bottom photo)*



Updates

Animal Essay Contest

Dear Mayor and Council,

Do you know how much fun it was for me to partake in the Animal Essay Contest? Well, this letter will let you see how EPIC the experience was to me.

Pablo Picasso said, "Every child is an artist. The problem is staying an artist when you grow up." This essay allowed me to express my thoughts through writing. I think writing is a form of art. My most valued memory was creating the colorful characters for my essay. I am proud of the amusing personalities of my characters. Be CREATIVE...and stay creative!

I loved meeting a lot of new people like City Council members, Mayor Williams, and the other winners. I got to eat delicious cookies at City Hall. I got to see the beautiful recording studio and I was also filmed!!!

Getting a tour around the Arlington Animal Shelter was amazing. I got to see all the animals, but I was sad to see them ownerless. I was begging mommy to get a third dog – mission failed! I saw what it was like to be a volunteer at the animal shelter. One more year until I get to volunteer.



Thank you for the wonderful chance to write an essay that supports animals. Remember to stay CREATIVE...to me creativity is one of the best features of humankind.

Asaya Matsumoto

2015-16 Butler Elementary Third-Grader and 1st Place Winner in the 2016 Animal Essay Contest (pictured above reading her essay)

“*Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.***”**

Nelson Mandela

(07-18-18 to 12-05-13)

Mandela was a South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, politician and philanthropist, who served as President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999.

Be a part of the conversation on social media @CityOfArlington:

#SupportQualityEducation



Mayor for a Day

On June 28, Jacob Broom struck the gavel to open the Council Work Session as Mayor for a Day. Mr. Broom, a sixth-grader at Butler Elementary, was given a VIP tour of City Hall. He accompanied Mayor Jeff Williams to the Texas Police Association Conference at the Sheraton Hotel to witness the Mayor delivering a city welcome.

The chance to be Mayor for a Day was the result of his family's winning silent auction bid at the October 23, 2015, Butler Elementary School PTA Carnival.

Pictured above, left to right, are: Deputy City Manager Gilbert Perales, Mayor for the Day Jacob Broom and Mayor Jeff Williams.

Arlington Public Library

Summer Meals

While most children greet the start of summer vacation without a care in the world, there are many parents who find the two months of time away from school tricky, due to the absence of a free daily lunch their children qualify for during the school year.

This year, Arlington parents had a new option for replacing that midday meal. In partnership with CitySquare of Dallas, the Library provided free lunches for children ages 1-18, Monday through Friday, at three of its branch locations. The program ran June 6 through August 5.

"We've always strived to provide for parents and families during the summer in the form of free, educational entertainment in our summer reading program," Library Services Manager Ivonne Kieffer said. "Adding the lunch component was

a way to take our commitment and service to the community to the next level."

"Following a meeting related to summer meals, Max Finberg, the director of AmeriCorps VISTA, connected me to Ivonne Kieffer," Kay Thomason, director of food programs at CitySquare, said. "Given Ivonne's interest and enthusiasm, we knew that it was a great match for our program."

Once a partnership was reached, the Library was approved to hire 20 AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associates to work for a 10-week term that focused on running the meal program. In total, VISTA members served 3,912 meals to Arlington children over the course of the summer.

"Thousands of children [may have gone] hungry this summer because they [lost] access to free or reduced-price meals at school," Thomason said.



"As a sponsor of the federally funded Summer Food Service Program, CitySquare's food program [was] able to deliver free nutritious meals to children at the Arlington libraries with the service of the VISTA team."

Thomason said CitySquare was ready to spread its wings in Arlington for more personal reasons as well, noting that many of their employees, including a member of the food program, live or grew up in the city.

"CitySquare values community, [and] we are thrilled to be able to serve in the Arlington community."

Summer Reading Club

The Reading Club strives to provide children with an array of free and engaging opportunities for fun and learning while school is out for the summer. The 2016 program was no exception, with offerings that included Math and Science Camp, robotics camps, dance and yoga classes, storytelling and drama camp.

Children ages 8-12 who signed up for Math and Science Camp spent a week delving into 3D printing, math equations solved through coloring sheets, blood anatomy demonstrations using tinted water and cereal, and chemistry experiments using baking soda and vinegar.

"The science aspect of the camp brings the kids together to solve problems as a group," Programming Librarian Miranda Want said. "They get

really excited and cheer each other on, sometimes even racing each other to see who can finish the experiment fastest."

Children also had the opportunity to explore the world of robotics in two different robotics camps. Green City challenged participants to engineer an energy-efficient city maintained by robots. Space Station found young robotics enthusiasts engineering robots to perform specific tasks in outer space.

For those young Summer Reading Club participants inclined toward the arts, storytelling and drama camps provided the chance to learn new ways of expression and performance. Children and teens looking to fit a little exercise into their summer days participated in dance and yoga classes



Margaret Givens, summer camp student (pictured above on far right), says about the Math and Science Camp, "This program has inspired me to be a scientist when I grow up."

taught by local instructors.

Throughout June and July, there were 3,173 children, tweens and teens participating in Summer Reading Club specific programs, with another 10,129 children, teens and adults participating in all library summer programs. More than 9,700 Arlington residents of all ages participated in the reading challenge portion of the Summer Reading Club.