



P . A . R . K .

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Donald W. Reynolds Facility

P.A.R.K. Benefits from Charity Golf Tournaments

By Melanie Jackson, Community Outreach Coordinator

Golf tournaments are popular events in Central Arkansas, and P.A.R.K. has benefited from this. Two companies, J. M. Products, Inc. and Affiliated Foods Southwest of Little Rock have generously shared the proceeds from their charity golf events with P.A.R.K. helping to make a difference in the lives of Central Arkansas youth.



Keith Jackson & Michael Joshua, JM Products,

This event, named for the former chairman of Affiliated Foods Southwest and P.A.R.K. friend Jerry Davis, was held October 27 at Pleasant Valley Country Club.

The Classic was another success and P.A.R.K. was once again blessed with a sizable donation

allowing them to make a substantial donation of \$22,500 to P.A.R.K.

Not only did J.M. Products make a financial contribution to P.A.R.K., but they also donated a large quantity of hair care products to the L'Oreal Women Center inside P.A.R.K.'s facility. This center is a salon where the young ladies in the program can go to pamper themselves and others.

from Affiliated Foods Southwest. P.A.R.K. has received close to \$500,000 from this tournament since 1996.

Thank you to these two generous businesses for believing in the future, our youth of today.



J. M. Products, Inc. (hair care manufacturer), co-sponsored by International Paper, for the first time chose P.A.R.K. as one of two organizations to benefit from their tournament held September 22, 2008. And this year they set a record in the total funds raised,

Again P.A.R.K. has been on the receiving end of the Jerry W. Davis Charity Classic, sponsored by Affiliated Foods Southwest.





Keith's Corner

Sound Minded Advice in Trying Times

Now is not the time for fear or panic! But it's the time to use our sound mind. "God did not give us the spirit of fear, but of power, love and of a sound mind," (2 Timothy 1:7). Again, this would be a great time to say, "*There's nothing to fear but fear itself.*" It's very difficult to follow the media or current events and not wonder about the direction of our country. I might not have all the specific answers for how to climb out of the state of our economy; however, I do know that now isn't the time to fear. Now is the time for FAITH. Pastor Happy Caldwell said it like this, "Fear knocked at the door and faith opened it and no one was there." Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen."

Now is the time for a sound mind! "Come now let us reason together" (Isaiah 1:18). We need to evaluate. Evaluate what's important in our lives as our 401(K's), SEP accounts, retirement, and pensions are on their way down. The question becomes, "How do we work our way back to the top being the head, not the tail, above only and not beneath?" This is where our faith has to go to another level.

Whether you use the name evaluate, analyze, or sound mind, this would be a good time to think it out. I will admit, I'm writing this to encourage myself and for selfish reasons as we examine the need versus the wants in order to survive the "Titanic" financial crisis. Don't quickly disregard the churches, ministries, charities and foundations that are a vital part of your community. I pose a question as we arise from this crisis some twelve to eighteen months from now. Can we afford to neglect these important institutions in our area? The fact is if everyone who is able to help doesn't continue to support these organizations now they may not be around to support our community later.

*Eliminate Fear

*Have Faith

*Use your sound mind

Mission and Goals

- **P.A.R.K.** is a non-profit organization, which was established in 1995 by Keith Jackson
 - Keith Jackson is a native of Little Rock who graduated from the University of Oklahoma and went on to play professional football for 9 years
- The **mission** of P.A.R.K. is to provide "high-risk" students the opportunity to further their education by completing high school so they can attend college.
- There are three major **goals** for each student in the program
 - To ensure their academic achievement and allow them to expand their horizons
 - To build their confidence, self esteem and spiritual awareness
 - To instill in them the importance of helping others
- These goals are achieved by providing a positive atmosphere built on love, nurturing and discipline

A Parent's Appreciation for P.A.R.K.'S Roll in Her Child's Life



Karlton (Wade) Wamble, Class of 2005

P.A.R.K. has seen many kids graduate from its program and many young men and women return to the program with updates on their lives. Some have furthered their education, some went into the workforce, some the military, and some have started families.

It is always a pleasure to see and hear from the former students, but it is extra special to hear from former P.A.R.K. parents expressing their gratitude for P.A.R.K.'s role in their child's life.

Just recently Keith received a letter from a one such parent, who wrote:

Dear Keith:

I just wanted to drop a line to once again say thank you for all P.A.R.K. has done for Wade and to give you and the P.A.R.K. Family an update on what he is doing.

As you know, Wade completed two and one-half years of college at the U of AR at Fayetteville before he convinced me he was ready to join the Air Force. Wade left in April for Basic Training at Lackland AFB in San Antonio. He graduated as an Airman First Class May 22. He receives his stripes, compliments of his P.A.R.K.-sponsored college credits. After basic training, Wade remained at Lackland AFB for technical training as an Airborne Mission Systems Apprentice. He graduated on August 27. I was privileged to pin his wings on him dur-

ing the graduation ceremony. His chosen career field is in Communications.

Wade is currently at Fairchild AFB in Spokane, WA, where he is participating in survival training. He said the training is pretty intense. Upon completion, his first duty station will be at Tinker AFB in Oklahoma City which is our second home.

Wade is very pleased with his decision to join the military. He promises to complete his education. Hopefully he will be able to attend OU while stationed at Tinker. Please continue to pray for him as he embarks on his new career.

May God continue to bless you and the P.A.R.K. Family as you continue to make a difference in our community.

Sincerely, Keena V. Wamble

Calendar of Events



<i>November</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>January</i>
21st - P.G.F. Workshop & Ladies Night Out 25th-26th Thanksgiving Holiday	5th - UCA College Tour 19th - P.A.R.K. Christmas Party TBA - Watershed Christmas giveaway - P.A.R.K. Ambassadors 22nd - Winter Vacation	6th - Students return 6th-8th - Test taking Tips 22nd - Leadership Workshop TBA - UALR College Tour

DEALING WITH CLASSROOM CONFLICT

By Wendylin C. Bryant, Summer Group Leader



The relationship a student has with a teacher is not only an important aspect of education but also of character. Students often share negative views of their relationship with a particular teacher from “My teacher doesn’t like me,” to “She’s always picking on me,” to possibly more elaborate allegations. These negative views affect a student’s overall ability and motivation to succeed in the classroom. P.A.R.K. recognizes this as an educational road block and recently offered a STAR Workshop (becoming star students) to address these issues.

September 23-25, P.A.R.K. students had the opportunity to attend a workshop entitled *Your Teacher Hates You?* Some of the main items covered in the workshop were “Dealing with New Teachers—Is Being Cool Really Worth It?” and “Mature Ways to Handle Student/Teacher Confrontation”. Students also had the chance to share their experiences of strained educational relationships with their present or past teachers. After sharing these experiences, they were guided in deciphering the underlying reasons for the strain and creating better plans of action for the future.

Although this was my first STAR Student Workshop presented this semester, I am no stranger to P.A.R.K.. I have served in various roles over the past years including student group leader from Fall 2005 to Fall 2006, assistant Spanish tutor in the Summer of 2006, and recently conducting Career Orientation and Effective Communication classes. I am in my fifth year of teaching Oral Communication and Drama for the Arkansas Department of Education Distance Learning Center where I take on the task of delivering instruction to many different schools via video conferencing. I’d like to believe that I bring to the P.A.R.K. family that which is vital: unconditional commitment and an unquenchable thirst for knowledge. This is the seed I desire to plant in the P.A.R.K. students.

This workshop was catered to be interactive with the students while allowing them to see that they have control over negative situations and have the choice of stepping into a negative situation. This was done by using testimonies given by fellow peers in the workshop and helping them to make the connection of how their attitude during a situation often helps to dictate the outcome.

The most important aspect of the workshop was helping the students to see that many times teachers get onto them because they are disappointed about the amount of untapped potential their students are not using. Often teachers get upset because they know their students can do the work but are putting in half effort and settling for mediocre outcomes. This connection was made with the programs of P.A.R.K. as well as by letting the students see that it is in their best interests to take advantage of teachers and programs that are supporting their educational success.

P.A.R.K. realizes that there are many factors that affect student success and is doing its part in providing avenues away from these situations and helping to build bridges to overpass their situations. This workshop is just one of the many events P.A.R.K. is providing to help students have a positive atmosphere in all aspects of their lives.

Exchanging Cultures

Students from Newcastle upon Tyne in England spend time hanging out and enjoying quality time getting to know P.A.R.K. student during their recent visit to Little Rock as part of the Sister cities exchange program



Noel Garling, a Senior with a purpose



Her Christian faith is at the core of who Noel Garling is. She enjoys attending church and teaching her Sunday school class, and this Mills University Studies High School senior explained how P.A.R.K. has helped her in her faith journey.

“P.A.R.K. to me means exactly what it stands for. It has helped me, because it gave me a way (to act) in situations whether it was doing drugs, smoking, having sex or other peer pressures.”

Monique Hickman, Education Outreach Coordinator says, “Noel shows what a positive atmosphere can produce in a kid. Noel started the program a timid girl, at times unsure of herself. She became a member of the all-girl group P.G.F. (Project Get Fit), and we began to see a transformation. Noel just recently won the election for 2008-09 P.G.F. President. She is active in school as well as

P.A.R.K. She is a leader that many students, especially the young ladies, look to for responsibility and guidance.”

Garling is indeed a leader. In addition to her P.A.R.K. involvement, she is a member of FCCLA, FCA, the band, and the flag line at school and has received various awards in math, band, and science. She is on the Usher Board at church while also teaching Sunday school.

Garling credits P.A.R.K. in helping her with her G.P.A. and in exposing her to other things. “I never really thought I could ever make a three-point anything,” she commented. “It (P.A.R.K.) has opened doors for me to see parts of the world, famous people, et cetera, that I probably wouldn’t have had the opportunity to do so.”

This family oriented young lady who enjoys singing loves doing family related events with her mother and two brothers. In fact, she lists this as one of her hobbies.

In the words of Mrs. Hickman, “Noel has a very bright future ahead of her!”

Vickie Shavis , Receptionist



P.A.R.K. receptionist, Vickie Shavis, has just celebrated her one-year anniversary, and she is happy to be here.

“What I enjoy about P.A.R.K. is that I get to be me,” commented Shavis. “It’s not a three-ring circus around here. It’s a very low-key atmosphere, and that’s what I am all about!”

What else is Ms. Shavis about? Her hobbies include singing, modeling, decorating, traveling, and doing hair, but not necessarily in that order. “My dream is to own my own hair salon/boutique.” (Perhaps the girls in the Maybelline Center should go to her when trying out new hair styles.) “I am a very outgoing,

fun-loving, willing to listen, and more of a dare devil type person,” she said. “I have three beautiful children!”

Those who don’t know Ms. Shavis well may think she is quiet and shy when first observing her. She explained why that is just not true. “I am a people person, and also I like to watch people. When you see me sitting quietly I am studying that person and feeling him or her out.”

If you visit P.A.R.K., the first person you are likely to encounter is Vickie Shavis, so remember to smile and leave her your best first impression.

Happy Anniversary, Vickie Shavis.

IF THEY DIDN'T HAVE YOU

By Kareem Moody, Program Director

At the end of a long day that happens to be a part of a long week that is linked to a difficult month, I find myself agonizing over the conclusion of another nine weeks grading period. It is a time when students, parents, teachers, and program staff are graded for the effort that has gone into each family's educational efforts. As I think about who is to blame for the low grades, lack of motivation, or poor attendance that contribute to poor performance I can't help but sift through the thoughts of how parents need to take more responsibility of raising their kids and stop looking to the schools for help. I think of the teachers and school officials who could do more to provide an atmosphere that is conducive to learning and quit thinking that afterschool programs should be an extension of school. Then I look to those after school programs and tell myself, "*If they didn't have you...*"

We have come to a time in our City, State, and Nation where problem-free is not enough. As we learn valuable lessons in the battle to save our youth it is evident that we must create opportunities for young people to thrive. We must not only equip our young people with the tools they will need to live healthy productive lives but also the resources and know how

to keep those tools sharp and keep them engaged in quality life-fulfilling endeavors.

Positive Atmosphere Reaches Kids continues to provide an environment where young people can learn and grow into productive, involved citizens. Many donors, volunteers and other well wishers tend to think that they are not making an impact just because they are not dealing with kids on a day to day basis. I often wish you knew how valuable your contribution to the thriving student equation really is. I wish I could call you every time a kid leaned to P.A.R.K. for a listening ear or a tough lesson is taught here that will help a child later in life. I wish you could know when a parent calls looking for answers to some of those tough "raising teenager" questions or when families first realize their child is safe in the evening after school.

Just in case I don't find a four leaf clover or the genie doesn't jump out of the bottle I will take this opportunity to simply tell you and let you know that these kids will have a chance to live healthy, productive, thriving lives due in no small part to the donations, prayers, support, and well wishes you offer. They are lucky to have you.



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