



Summer 2009 Informational Update

Middle Earth Launches New Website and Offers Prizes with Online Contest

Middle Earth had an extreme makeover this summer and you can see it online! Visit our new website at www.middleearthnj.org. In addition to getting a more polished look, our new website features a blog that covers a wide range of adolescent issues that invites your feedback, a monthly poll, a Facebook page, and a section for testimonials. You can also sign up to receive this newsletter via email to help save postage costs and the environment.

Enter our contest for a chance to win a different prize each month. This month, answer three questions correctly and you'll be placed in a drawing for a dinner for two at the Verve Restaurant (www.vervestyle.com) in Somerville.

Summer Employment Readiness Program

Middle Earth enrolled 25 students in our Summer Employment Readiness Program. Twelve of those youth attended a carpentry shop at the Vo-Tech. Thirteen students were placed in on-site work experiences, which included working at the YMCA summer camp in Hillsborough, Wee-People Day Care Center, Kingdom Kidz Day Care Center and the VA House in Plainfield. Youth were paid minimum wage for their work experience. All the youth attended program at Middle Earth two days per week where they received employment readiness skills, life skills training, leadership groups, substance abuse groups, individual program planning and case management. Transportation was provided to and from all program components. Of the 25 youth enrolled, 21 successfully completed the program and were taken on a trip to Great Adventure.

21st Century Summer Camp Program

The 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) is a comprehensive after-school program that serves middle school aged students from Bound Brook and South Bound Brook. In addition to operating during the school year, Middle Earth offers this program as a summer camp during the month of July. Eighty-nine students were enrolled — 44 females and 45 males. Each day, students received academic enrichment programs with certified teachers, recreation including fitness activities and arts and crafts, and a nutritious breakfast and lunch. The students also enjoyed weekly field trips to attractions such as the Philadelphia Zoo, Intrepid Battleship, New York Aquarium, Somerset Patriots Stadium and Dorney Park.

Thank you sanofi-aventis, U.S.!

The 2009 Tour of Somerville Cycling Series was a success! We want to thank everyone involved, but especially sanofi-aventis, U.S. for their title sponsorship.

Seeking Board Volunteers

Middle Earth is seeking volunteers to serve on their board. No experience is necessary and board training is provided. A nonprofit's board members guide the organization's mission and strategic planning, oversee finances and budget, ensure adequate resources, strengthen programs and services, and assess performance. If you are interested, please call us or visit our website for more information.



Stars and Promises Holiday Concert

On Friday, December 11, The Peter Mayer Group will perform a holiday concert at the United Reformed Church in Somerville. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and benefit local charities. You can obtain more information, learn about the beneficiaries, and listen to the band's music at: www.middleearthnj.org/starsandpromises/.





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Middle Earth Designated “Promise Place” by America’s Promise Alliance

Middle Earth was recently designated a “Promise Place” by America’s Promise, The Alliance for Youth. This national foundation designated 47 Promise Places across the country and only 2 in New Jersey, including Middle Earth. The Foundation, which was founded in 1997 by General Colin Powell, raises awareness, encourages action and engages in advocacy to provide children the key supports they call the Five Promises: (1) caring adults; (2) safe places and constructive use of time; (3) healthy start and healthy development; (4) effective education for marketable skills and lifelong learning; and (5) opportunities to make a difference through helping others. The Foundation awards its designations to those organizations, such as Middle Earth, whose programs incorporate all five of these resources to ensure that all young people are ready for life.

America’s Promise discovered that children who receive at least four of the Five Promises are much more likely than those who experience only one or zero Promises to succeed academically, socially and civically. They are more likely to avoid violence, contribute to their communities and achieve high grades in school. Receiving at least four of the Five Promises also appears to mitigate gaps across racial and economic boundaries. Unfortunately, 20% of American youth receive only one or none of these promises, which greatly impacts their ability to lead a healthy and productive life.



4-H Fair

Each August, Middle Earth hosts a food booth at the Somerset County 4H Fair. The fair offers us the chance to support another youth agency, offer volunteer work to our youth and raise funds since all the proceeds benefit our agency. Thanks to everyone involved this year!



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