PAGE 1



## Volume 21, 1st Edition 3rd Quarter, Fall/Winter 2015 Beech Community Services

Thousands Attend the 9th Annual "Jazz on the Ave"

Beech

1

6

8

8

Companies

Area Children 3 Trick-or-Treat Along Cecil B. Moore Avenue

Cecil B. Moore 3 Community Mourns the Death of a "Warrior"

- Academic & Housing 3 Scholarships Available to Philadelphia Students
- Local Non-Profits 4 Received Financial Support
- Home Loan Program 6 for Philadelphia Residents

Philadelphia 2016 Host Committee Announces Merchandise RFP

- Things To Do! Community
- Resources Guide

### Thousands Attend the 9th Annual "Jazz on the Ave"



Thousands turned out for the 9th annual "Jazz on the Ave" Music Festival featuring Philly Soul Stock, hosted by Beech Community Services on Saturday, August 15, 2015. The all-day event took place along 4 blocks on Cecil B. Moore Avenue from Broad to 17th Streets.

This year, the weather was superb and the crowd attendance was impressive to say the least. Hundreds of children were treated to hours of play and activities that included clay sculpting, rock climbing, face painting, and the moon bounce. The Philadelphia Police Department was on-hand and provided free IdentiCards for children; and several social service agencies were on location and provided pertinent information for parents as it related to education and childcare.

While the children engaged in the many free activities, their parents browsed and shopped with the many craft vendors that sold a variety of unique wares; and ate at some of the city's best food trucks that offered an array of scrumptious foods. There were a variety of diverse food choices for the palette, and were served up by such vendors as Kayla's Kitchen, Streetside BBQ, Chef Haneef, Atiyaola, and Lil Trent's, to name a few. Many of the arts and crafts vendors sold hand-made merchandise from around the world and all had something unique and different to sell. There were over thirty crafts vendors in attendance, such as Snatcheda mobile clothing store, Sumaki's Unique Boutique, the Silk Tent, Little Mamukesh Bazaar, Spann the Man, and Heirloom Boutique. The festival was kicked off with an opening performance by national drill champions, the Modern Legends Drill Team, who got the crowd ready for the amazing free concert, which is always the highlight of the day. The festivalgoers were treated to live performances by some of the best flourishing artists and experienced musicians from Philadelphia and several metropolitan cities like New York and Baltimore. The main stage featured performances by Lee Mo featuring Vertical Current, Suzanne Burgess, Worldtown Sound System, Abstract Truth, and headlined by Philly's own Jeff Bradshaw & Friends featuring Eric Roberson,



Syleena Johnson, and Elle Varner. The festival was hosted by respected Philadelphia radio hosts Patty Jackson, Jeff Duperon, Loraine Ballard Morrill, and Dyana Williams.

The Philly Soul Stock (PSS) stage at 17th & Cecil B. Moore Avenue was definitely a great addition to "Jazz on the Ave." The added stage attracted hundreds of new festival attendees which brought a younger group of spectators to Cecil B.

continued on page 2









**Beech Community Services** 

**Featured Information** 

### Thousands Attend the 9th Annual "Jazz on the Ave" continued

Moore Avenue to enjoy the musical talents of several up-and-coming young artists. PSS have been providing professional soundstage and musicianship for young artists for over seven-years. They have been instrumental in the emerging careers of several artists that have graced the PSS stage such as Suzann Christine, Beano, Dave Watson, Chartel, Jeremy Isaac, Tommi, Kvyamira, The Idea, Boots Green, and MPR.

The planning for the 10th anniversary of "Jazz on the Ave" is underway. The official date and details will be announced in early February 2016. For up-to-date information on the festival, follow us on Twitter **@JazzontheAve**; like us on Facebook at **Jazz on the Ave**; and on Instagram **@jazzontheave.philly**. Do not forget, leading up to the festival, you will be able to win many cool prizes. All you have to do is follow or like us and remember to tag us in your posts and use the hashtags **#JazzontheAve #JOAPhilly** and **#SnapwithJOA**. You may also visit the website at **www.jazzontheavephilly.com**.

Beech Community Services would like to extend many thanks to the numerous volunteers, community residents, organizations, and business owners that assisted and participated in this year's festival. We also extend a special thank you to Megan Mills, Alexes Johnson, Ameerah Williams, Monica Williams, Keturah Bah T'om, Nu Millennium Sound, Shalimar Thomas, Captain Eileen Bradley, Monica Hankins, Charles Wells, Supreme Angel Protection Services, Andrea Swan, Jeff Hester, Patty Jackson, Dyana Williams, Loraine Ballard, Jeff Duperon, Dawn Frazier of Leave the Details Too Me Catering, Devon Brown, Shaquille Hewett, Chief Branville Bard, Officer Shanna Moore, 22nd Police District, Temple Campus Police, Allied Security, NAACP, Mechelle Sabb, Deborah Griffin; and, a very special thank you to our community partners; Pub Webb, the Lunch Box and the Universal Negro Improvement Association for their generous donations, and to our media partners; The Philadelphia Tribune Newspaper, Fox 29, The Black Professional News, WDAS, WRTI, Philly Speaks – 100.3, and WURD.













## **Featured Information**

**Beech Community Services** 

### Area Children Trick-or-Treat Along Cecil B. Moore Avenue



Beech Community Services organized the 9th annual "Avenue of Treats" celebration on Friday, October 30, 2015. Hundreds of community children participated in an amazing evening of festive fun trick-or-treating along Cecil B. Moore Avenue, Avenue North, and Progress Plaza.

"Each year, the number of children that attend the event grows and more parents are participating too, and wearing some very creative and trendy costumes. It is a good feeling to witness families and community residents participate in the event and come together, in a fun, and safe setting," states Christine Brown. "Efforts like this have, and continue to be a part of the Beech values, mission, and responsibility to a strong community," said Ken Scott, President of Beech Companies.

In addition to trick-or-treating, the children were entertained by characters Ninja Turtles, Olaf from Frozen, and Hooter. Other highlights of the event were the haunted house, face painting; and, warm apple cider and candy bags for the adults.

Thank you to the many community residents and Temple University student volunteers that assisted with making "Avenue of Treats" a success. "I would especially like to thank, A Peace of PR, Temple Athletics Department and Athletic Teams, Christa Rossi, Shaquille Hewlett, Captain Eileen Bradley, Monica Hankins, Jessica Gray, JumpStart, Robert Nottingham, Black Student Union, and the Cecil B. Moore business owners and organizations," states Christine Brown.

### Cecil B. Moore Community Mourns the Death of a "Warrior"



"The Cecil B. Moore community has lost a 'true warrior,' a champion for justice, and an infinite passion for her community," stated Christine Brown about the death of community advocate and mentor Evelyn Gray who passed away on October 6, 2015.

All that knew "Ms. Ev" can attest to the fact that, she was "down" for the cause and the community. If you were ever in need, she

would always try her best to assist you but not without sharing some great advice about "back in the day." If you were too young to know the history of "Columbia"Avenue, North Philly, and more importantly, the Cecil B. Moore community, she would definitely educate you with her many mind-blowing stories about the "struggle." She marched with Cecil B. Moore and was not afraid to be in the forefront of the black empowerment movement.

For the last ten-years, Ms. Gray was a willing-worker for Beech Community Services. She dedicated her time and energy to many community events like the Columbia Avenue Old School Reunion, "Jazz on the Ave," and "Avenue of Treats." Many times, you could find her at Temple of Praise Baptist Church laying floor tiles, painting, collecting donations, or whatever needed to be done in and around the church. One of her highlights was delivering the Cecil B. Moore Community Times. She believed in keeping the community up-to-date and informed. She would often haul her great granddaughter Devyn with her when she delivered the newsletters. Looking back, Ms. Gray was grooming her to take her place.

The Beech Companies would like to extend a very special thank you to Zack, Nate, and Sammie Webb, the owners of Pub Webb for hosting the repast, and for all the support and assistance offered to the family and friends of Evelyn Gray during this difficult time.

### Academic & Housing Scholarships Available to Philadelphia Students

The *Beech Scholarship Fund* will begin accepting Scholarship Applications in January 2016 from graduating high school seniors and current undergraduate students attending, or currently enrolled at Temple, Cheyney, or Lincoln Universities.

All applying students for the fall 2016 semester must live in Philadelphia County and be a minority student of color with a minimum GPA of 2.75 with a major in the Arts, Business, Education, Engineering, or Liberal Arts.

To obtain an application and for scholarship guidelines, visit www.beechinterplex.com/bcs\_scholarship.asp.



**Beech Community Services** 

### **Featured Information**

### Local Non-Profits Received Financial Support

The Alston Beech Foundation (ABF) awarded \$25,000 in grants to local nonprofits at the 25th Anniversary Meeting and Luncheon of the Consortium of Cecil B. Moore Organizations, held at the Clef Club of Jazz and Performing Arts on December 10, 2015. Organizations that received an award have shown considerable efforts that compliment and foster continued revitalization efforts in the Cecil B. Moore community.

"This celebration and opportunity to provide funding to local non-profits comes at a crucial time for these organizations," states Ken Scott. "With the state budget still in impasse, we understand that every dollar counts and will help keep the doors to many of these organizations open."

The funds awarded to the twenty-five organizations will be used for a variety of senior, youth, educational, entrepreneurship, social service, and quality of life programs in the community.

To be eligible for the ABF grant, organizations must be a non-profit and classified as tax exempt with a 501 (c)(3) status. For-profit organizations are not eligible for funding. For a complete list of grant requirements, visit www.beechinterplex.com/alston-beechfoundation.asp.

#### The Alston Beech Foundation provided grants to the following organizations:

Affordable Housing Center of Pennsylvania: The organization provides housing counseling services to low and moderate income households; prepares firsttime homebuyers to purchase a home; advocates and assists homeowners with delinquent mortgage and real estate taxes. For more information, visit www.ahcopa.org, or call (215) 765-1221.

Alliance for Progress Charter School is a mission-driven, K-8 charter school in North Philadelphia. Founded in 1998, AFPCS offers enhanced educational opportunities to ensure the achievement and success of every student through a technologically rich and individualized learning environment. Contact them at (215) 232-4892, or visit the website at www.afpcs.org.

**Baptist Ministers Wives and Ministers Widows Union of Philadelphia** was organized in 1933. The purpose of the organization is to create a closer social and religious fellowship among Baptist ministers' wives and widows of the Philadelphia area.

**Father's Day Rally Committee, Inc.** is a comprehensive prevention/intervention program that works with African-American boys, ages 13-17 years old, using a culturally competent leadership model. The program is designed to help male youth achieve success. Visit www.fdrc.net for program information.

**The Gesu School's** Youth Education for Tomorrow program provides students, 1st through 3rd grades, with literacy development support in a structured, safe environment. The goal of the program is for students to perform on grade level in literacy. Gesu is an independent Catholic School, Pre-K through 8th grades, located in North Philadelphia. To obtain enrollment information, call (215) 763-9077 or visit the website at www.gesuschool.org.

**Grands As Parents, Inc.** was formed in 1996 to assist, support, and advocate for the rights of grandparents. The organization focuses on creating changes in society to ensure that children grow fruitfully into adulthood. For organizational information, call (215) 236-5848.

**Greater Brewerytown CDC** teaches youth how to start and maintain a business through their Youth Entrepreneurial Program. The program is administered on Saturdays and runs for the entire year. To obtain program or organizational information, you may visit the website at www.greaterbrewerytowncdc.org, or you may call (215) 769-5220.

**Institute for the Development of African American Youth, Inc.** provides a college-bound preparation program to assist youth with taking SAT, PSSA, and Keystone Prep tests. The program began in 1991 and has enrolled an average of 75 youth annually. For program information visit, www.idaay.org or call (215) 235-9110.

Kulu Mele African Dance and Drum has been a regarded cultural institution for nearly 50 years. The company performs year-round throughout Philadelphia and tours nationally and internationally. Its extensive arts education program serves thousands of Philadelphia schoolchildren annually. You may reach the organization by visiting their website at www.kulumele.org.

Juanita Rowe Foundation for Women, Youth and Family holistically empowers neighborhoods to reconnect to each other to build stronger communities by providing a family-like environment and support network. The Foundation creates viable programs and workshops that effect change, through community outreach, resources, and mentorship. For foundation information, contact Ms. Rowe by email: mlovechrist@yahoo.com.

**Montgomery Townhouse Residents Association** operates a comprehensive program that is designed to curtail illegal drug use and sale with the community, to provide positive alternatives for children, teens, and adults to insure the well-being of all members of the community. For additional information, call (215) 765-2340.

Mothers In Charge, Inc. works with elected officials on legislation to support safe neighborhoods and communities for children and families and collaborates with community and faith based organizations. Mothers In Charge advocates for families affected by violence and provides counseling and grief support services for families when a loved one has been murdered. To contact Mothers In Charge, visit the website at www.mothersincharge.org, or call (215) 228-1718.

**Musicopia** is an after-school percussion program targeting high-risk students in grades 7 through 12 from public and charter schools throughout Philadelphia. The program teaches participants percussion skills and inspires them to develop self-discipline, self-confidence, and a desire to graduate. The program is the only Drumline in the city that is open to students of all skill levels. To get more information call (215) 829-9522, or visit www.musicopia.net.



**Featured Information** 

**Beech Community Services** 

**North Central Victims Services** is an organization located in the 22nd Police District in North Philadelphia that addresses the social and legal issues faced by victims of crime. Through education and prevention, NCVS advocates for individuals as well as neighborhoods that have experienced crime. If you are a victim of a crime or know someone that is, call (215) 763-3280 for assistance.

Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists (PABJ) is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1973 by journalists concerned about the lack of black journalists in the media and the dearth of coverage of the black community. The mission of the organization is to strengthen ties among blacks in all media; sensitize the media to biased news coverage; promote diversity in newsrooms; sponsor scholarships for black high school students interested in journalism; honor excellence and achievement in the media; offer workshops to enhance the skills of black journalists; and offer workshops that teach the community how to gain access to the media. To contact PABJ, email pabj.info@gmail.com.

**Philadelphia Club of Frontiers International, Inc.** is a volunteer service organization whose mission is to serve children, youth, and adults of the Delaware Valley. The primary goal of the organization is to expose and develop children, youth, and adults in the community educationally, economically, and socially with the hope to improve their quality of life. To contact them or to get program information, visit them at www.phillyfrontiers.org.

Scribe Video Center was founded in 1982 as a place where emerging and experienced media artists could gain access to the tools and knowledge of video making and work together in a supportive environment. Scribe provides training in all aspects of film, video, and audio production. They offer classes in computer-based interactive media to individuals and community organizations. Scribe gives emerging and mid-level video makers the skills and opportunity to use video and film as tools for self-expression and for representing and supporting their communities. To become a member or to obtain more information, call (215) 222-4201 or visit them at www.scribe.org.

Smith Memorial Playground & Playhouse has been a treasured destination for over 100-years. Smith provides opportunities for unstructured creative play for children 10 and younger. The organization was at the forefront of a national playground movement, and served as a model for the importance of play for children's physical and emotional health. Visit the organizations website at www.smithplayground.org or call them at (215) 765-4325 for information.

**Teenshop, Inc.** program is an innovative series of workshops, field trips, college tours, and community service projects. It was designed to encourage academic excellence and promote abstinence, so membership was limited to students ages 13 to 18 who were not parents. Workshops are held every two weeks on Saturday mornings from September to June, and the adult presenters are experts in their diverse fields, including arts and culture, money management, social graces, and health and fitness. Call (215) 851-1843 or visit their website at www.teenshop.org for additional information.

**Tree House Books** is a literacy enrichment center that is focused on enhancing people's lives through books. The primary goals of the organization is to distribute 200,000 books to North Philadelphia residents between 2015 and 2025, improve the reading proficiency of children enrolled in their phonics program, double the amount of time, on average, that students are reading for pleasure, and work to ensure that students enrolled in our programs are reading more books, per year. Contact Tree House by calling (215) 236-1760 or visit them at www.treehousebooks.org.

**The Business Center** is a 501(c)(3) that provides the education and business networking programs needed to strengthen the business formation necessary to contribute to improving Northwest Philadelphia's minority business ecosystem. Their programs better position small business and startups to develop and vet their business concepts and further establish their reputations. Visit The Business Center website at www.thebizctr.com or call (215) 247-2473.

**Uptown Entertainment and Development Corporation (UEDC)** undertaking is to stimulate the economy in blighted areas by creating commercial enterprises, neighborhood revitalization and services including education, planning, housing, and youth. Incorporated in 1995, UEDC has organized programs and provides opportunities for residents to obtain employment. You may reach UEDC by calling (215) 236-1878 or visit the website at www.philadelphiauptowntheatre.org.

**Urban Affairs Coalition (UAC)** unites government, business, neighborhoods, and individual initiatives to improve the quality of life in the region, build wealth in urban communities, and solve emerging issues. UAC serves to strengthen grassroots agencies through fiscal sponsorship; improve chances for youth and low-income families; and assist minority-and-women-owned businesses through an array of programs, services, and public policy initiatives.

**Wagner Free Institute of Science** is a provider of free educational programs to over 35,000 Philadelphia children and adults each year. Wagner provides a wide variety of educational resources to the community, including special lectures and events, after school and summer programs, museum lessons, and field trips. To get program information, visit their website at www.wagnerfreeinstitute.org or call (215) 763-6529.

**West Girard Community Council (WGCC)** was founded in 2004 by citizens of Fairmount and Brewerytown neighborhoods in North Philadelphia with the goal of responding to the lack of affordable quality food in the neighborhoods bordering West Girard Avenue. For more information about WGCC, visit them at www.westgirardcc.org or call (215) 232-2728



#### **Beech Community Services**

## **Featured Information**

#### Home Loan Program for Philadelphia Residents

The Renovate & Repair Loan Program (R&R) is designed to meet serious housing issues for many of Pennsylvania's homeowners: how to make their home a healthy, comfortable place and a financial asset. The R&R Loan Program collaboration between PHFA & Beech has been developed to assist homeowners in avoiding common pitfalls in home improvement projects such as homeowners being taken advantage of by unscrupulous lenders and contractors, poor quality and unnecessary repairs.

#### Keystone Renovate & Repair Loan Program (R&R loan) is to help:

- Prevent homeowners from becoming victims of unscrupulous lending practices (i.e., high interest rates and costs, more money borrowed than needed, pre-payment penalties, etc.).
- Homeowners prioritize their home repair spending so that the work that they are having done is what the homeowner really needs. Improve Pennsylvania's aging housing stock for its current residents and future generations.

#### R&R loan can be used to:

- Pay for repairs and improvements that increase the basic livability of the home, including additions and construction that makes the home safer, more energy efficient, or more accessible to people with disabilities or people who are elderly.
- Remove or fix code violations, hook up to municipal water and sewer systems, and improve or install code-compliant septic or well systems.
- Payment for emergency repairs to critical life-safety systems in the homes, as long as the loan application is made to the Local Program Administrator within 30 days of the repair.

#### Features of R&R loan:

- Provide an attractive interest rate.
- Help determining the repairs and/or improvements to be done.
- Provides peace of mind in knowing that the right home repairs are done and were completed in a timely manner with quality workmanship.

#### **R&R** loan will not pay for:

- Luxury and cosmetic items such as hot tubs, pools, gazebos, etc.
- For more information, or to schedule an appointment, call Beech's office at (215) 763-8824.

### Philadelphia 2016 Host Committee Announces Merchandise RFP

The Philadelphia 2016 Host Committee for the Democratic National Convention announced a Merchandise RFP, seeking an experienced firm capable of manufacturing, marketing, selling, and fulfilling orders for a variety of Host Committee merchandise. The merchandise would be available for purchase by residents, delegates, media, and visitors through online stores and at physical locations in Philadelphia for the duration of the Democratic National Convention next July.

"The Convention provides local businesses with a great opportunity to showcase their products and manufacturing capabilities while creating unique, Conventionspecific keepsakes for residents and visitors to take home with them,"said Kevin Washo, Executive Director of the Philadelphia 2016 Host Committee. "Merchandising businesses from across the Greater Philadelphia region should take advantage of this opportunity to increase their companies' visibility and help promote the Convention locally and across the country."

The RFP can be found by visiting the website at www.phldnc.com/vendors. All interested vendors must submit a notification of their intent to bid on the RFP by Wednesday, December 23rd. Final proposals are due to the Host Committee on January 15, 2016. Vendors must be able to provide merchandise in the following categories:

- Clothing of all kinds, including outerwear and headwear
- Paper products, including books, napkins, and
- promotional materials
  Desk accessories, crystal lucite and
- crystal lucite, and acrylic gift items
- Mouse pads and other computer accessories

- Electronic/phone accessories
- Souvenir photos
  - Jewelry items
  - Key chains

• Buttons

Magnets

- Towels
- Writing instruments
- Drinkware (mugs, cups, glasses, thermoses, etc.)
- Official Host Committee Democratic National Convention poster(s)

bags)

· Lanyard and

credential holders

(including tote bags

and plastic shopping

• Bags of all sorts

Merchandising firms will be required to create and maintain a website from which customers can order Host Committee merchandise as well as arrange to sell their products at the Wells Fargo Center during the four days of the Convention, at certain Philadelphia hotels, and at other Convention facilities from July 21 through July 29, 2016. The Host Committee will assist the merchandising firm with securing retail space at a downtown Philadelphia location to sell its products as well as with leasing warehouse space within four miles of the Wells Fargo Center to store their products.

Whenever possible, Host Committee merchandise should be made in the United States and produced by union labor.

The merchandise RFP will be awarded early next year.



## Beech Companies

# Cecil B. Moore Community Newsletter



## **Featured Information**



## **Things To Do!**

#### The Comcast Holiday Spectacular

Dates: November 24, 2015 – January 3, 2016

Visitors gather in front of the Comcast Experience video wall, one of the world's highest resolution LED displays, to catch the magic of The Comcast Holiday Spectacular. Throughout the free 15-minute show, dancers from the Pennsylvania Ballet move to music from The Nutcracker, a magical sleigh floats over the Philadelphia countryside and actors from the historic Walnut Street Theatre perform — all to a seasonal soundtrack presented by a 64-piece orchestra. Shows run at the top of the hour from 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. (excluding 5 p.m. on weekdays).

#### **Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest**

Dates: November 27, 2015 – March 6, 2016

Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest transforms Penn's Landing into a winterized riverfront park. A cold-weather version of Spruce Street Harbor Park, Winterfest houses an Olympic-size skating rink overlooking the Delaware River, ski chalet-style lodge, and winter garden with recycled shipping containers, a heated tent, holiday trees, fire pits, and plenty of cozy seating. New this year, the site will include tons more seating (both indoors and out), a 360-degree deck around the skating rink, expanded food options, more twinkling lights and awesome, new themed events. The winter garden will also offer the added bonus of brand-new winter warming huts situated around some of the firepits.

#### Rothman Ice Rink at Dilworth Park

Dates: November 13, 2015 – February 28, 2016

Those looking to ice skate in the heart of Philadelphia can pack up their coldweather gear and head to the ice rink at Dilworth Park. The rink, which offers excellent skyline views, is open to skaters of all levels and all ages. This season, the Rothman Cabin, a heated tent located at the tip of the ice rink, will debut. Inside of the tent, skaters can warm up with food and drinks including toasty hot chocolate, coffee, burgers, fries, and more.

Cecil B. Moore Community Times is published by Beech Community Services. Publisher: Christine Brown, Director of Beech Community Services President/CEO of the Beech Companies: Kenneth Scott



#### **Community Resources Guide**

Philadelphia Recycling	215-686-5560
Redevelopment Authority	215-854-6500
Philadelphia Housing Authority	215-684-4000
PHDC Weatherization	215-448-2160
PHDC Basic Systems Repair Program	215-448-2160
LIHEAP	215-560-2970
Community Legal Services	215-981-3700
Utility Emergency Services Fund	215-972-5170
Save Your Home Philly	215-334-4663
Philadelphia Corporation for Aging	215-765-9040
Veterans Advisory Commission	215-686-3256
Day Camp Programs	215-683-3600
Child Care Information Services	888-461-5437
Philadelphia Department of Recreation	215-683-3601
School District of Philadelphia	215-400-4000
GED Hotline	215-751-8376
Temple Small Business Development Center	215-204-7282
Department of Human Services	215-683-4347
Domestic Violence Hotline	800-799-7233
North Central Victims Services	215-763-3281
Crisis Hotline/Community Behavioral Health	215-413-7171
Philadelphia Operation Town Watch	215-686-1459
Philadelphia Police 22nd District	215-686-3220
City Council – 5th District Office	215-686-3442