



VIPS Intensifies Volunteer Recruitment

While they differ in age, education and personal interests, VIPS' volunteers all agree that helping a child to learn makes them feel terrific! "They tell us it is the most important work they ever had," reports Executive Director Terri Adelman. "Because there is such a growing number of children needing additional help with their studies, VIPS' challenge now is to make more people aware of how they can contribute. They don't need to commit a lot of time, and they don't need tutoring experience – we train. All they need is a desire to make an important difference in a child's life."

Terri is hoping that the immediate need children have for academic support will persuade more community members to join us. She also asks current and former volunteers to spread the word and encourage friends and family members to get involved.



Volunteer Naomi Morey tutors at Woods Young Elementary School using Hasbro's Candy Land game.

time to change a child's life. VIPS – and kids in Providence public schools – need more people, right now, to join in and provide a child with academic support and guidance," Terri emphasized.

"Who better to tell others what a rewarding experience it is than someone who has, or is currently, a tutor? If all of our volunteers could recruit just one person, it would be a terrific step toward further mobilizing the community to help kids who are most in need."

Adelman Goes to Harvard

After a highly competitive selection process, The R.I. Foundation gave two executive directors scholarships to attend Harvard Business School's "Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management." One of those leaders was VIPS own Executive Director Terri Adelman. The prestigious, seven-day residential program provided nonprofit executives from around the world with an opportunity to explore proactive methods for mastering leadership and approaches for strengthening their organizations. Information gained from the lessons will help position VIPS for future growth and excellence!

Former Student Credits VIPS With Changing His Life

"For me, VIPS was a life-changing place. If I didn't go, my grades probably would have dropped off, maybe I would have dropped out."



Terri Adelman with former student Pablo Ochoa.

But Pablo Ochoa did choose VIPS, and with support from staff and tutors, he not only graduated from high school, he is now attending New England Tech where he is studying construction and cabinet making. "My goal is to get an associates degree, then go into the trade and learn more. After that, I'd like to go back to school for construction management." Pablo, now 18 and living in Central Falls, got involved with the nonprofit by accident. He was in ninth grade at the time, and his classes were getting harder and his grades were slipping. "I called a friend, who said he was involved in a program on Westminster Street. He told me to check it out. It was tutoring, and it was free." According to the Central High School graduate, "When classes got harder, VIPS helped. I learned to use my time wisely and constructively. I did homework right after school. And I got help on weak subjects like physics. I also learned better grammar." Pablo credits the organization with his success in high school; he graduated with honors. "VIPS helped me keep my act together and stay organized. They're like family. They were always looking out for my best interest - people should take advantage."



Join VIPS for a Night of Food, Fun and Friends!

On Thursday, November 20, enjoy a fun-filled night featuring great food, laughter and performers – catch up with old friends and meet new ones. You can even do your holiday shopping at "Bids for Kids," an auction featuring interesting and unique items. Entertainment will be coordinated by Paula Hunter, the artistic director of youth dance group, Jump. And Providence City Council member Cliff Wood will act as auctioneer, providing laughs while he entertains bids on some "must-have" objects, trips and services.

The event will be held from 5:30 to 9:00 PM at the Providence Marriott on Orms Street in Providence. Don't wait! Get your tickets now! Call Irene at 274.3240.

VIPS Honors Community Education Leaders at 44th Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

More than 275 local business, education and community leaders joined VIPS on June 5 to honor individuals who demonstrate an outstanding commitment to public school students. At VIPS' 44th Volunteer Recognition Luncheon, former Rhode Island School of Design President Roger Mandle and former Rhode Island College President John Nazarian received Helen King Lifelong Learning Awards for their leadership



Roger Mandle, Pearl Nathan, John Nazarian and Terri Adelman

in education; and community volunteer and educator Pearl Nathan was presented with the Knowledge is Power Award for her long-standing commitment to education.

Also receiving awards for outstanding volunteerism in tutoring and mentoring were Robert Tow of Greenville; Kyle Duguay, Cumberland; Melissa Kay, Cumberland; and Janine Schwartz, Providence.

Following the opening address by Executive Director Terri Adelman, keynote speaker and Chair of the Board of Regents Justice Robert G. Flanders, Jr. saluted VIPS for "all the great work they have done." He told the Convention Center crowd, "We're at the point now where it's absolutely critical that as many of our students as possible get ready to go to college and get the skills they need to do so." With VIPS' increased emphasis on "Reading Buddies," which focuses on children in the early grades, the organization increases the number of students who will be ready for learning and for college.

A special thanks to the following sponsors: Sodexo Food Service; Aramark; Bank of America, Citizens Bank, Edwards Angell Palmer Dodge, Sovereign Bank; Amica Mutual Insurance; Helene & Bertram Bernhardt Foundation; Capital Properties; Hasbro, Inc.; Independence Bank, Merrill Lynch, Piccerelli, Gilstein and Co. LLP; Rhode Island College; BankRI; Providence Mayor David Cicilline; Buff and Johnnie Chace; Dimeo Construction; Gilbane Building; Lynch and Greenfield, LLP; MMF Realty, LLC; and Rhode Island School of Design.

A Big Thanks....

To Providence Monthly, its' wonderful staff and designer Nicole Romano, as they "lit up the night" with a cutting-edge runway fashion show, auction, and champagne at the Peerless Lofts in downtown Providence – all to benefit VIPS. Thanks for a fun and "stylish" evening!

Students Learn Urban Revitalization

By request of the funder, this summer VIPS doubled the size of its popular Learn to Earn - Urban Planning Program for Providence students, ages 14 and 15. The 50 students in this hands-on, project-based course spent six weeks/120 hours learning about neighborhoods, what makes them "walkable," and how to revitalize buildings. Final projects were then presented to invited guests that included Providence Mayor David Cicilline and new Providence School Superintendent Tom Brady.

Participants all agreed the program improved their overall knowledge and interest in academics, enhanced their ability to work in groups, improved their study habits, and gave them greater confidence. And they loved it!

Businesses and agencies that worked with VIPS' staff to provide students with background information utilized in their own work were: Gilbane Building Co, Armory Revival Co, Cornish Associates, public speaking advocate Edward Skurka, University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, Providence Planning Depart., Providence Preservation Society, Providence Plan and Apeiron Institute for Sustainable Living.



Pictured left to right: VIPS Executive Director Terri Adelman, Learn to Earn students Anthony Sanchez, Suenai Duncan, Chabeli Gonzalez, Karen Perez and Providence Mayor David Cicilline.

According to Director Karlene Toppin, "Learn to Earn provides kids with work readiness skills for high school and beyond." Learn to Earn is funded by Workforce Solutions, Providence/Cranston, and made possible by the Governor's Workforce Board.

Educate a Child and Impact the Future Please consider these tax deductible options!

Donate: Give on-line at www.vips4kids.org. Personal checks or money orders should be mailed to: VIPS, 905 Westminster St., Providence, RI 02903.

You can:

Give in **Honor or Memory** of someone; make a multi-year **Pledge**; make a **Planned Giving** gift through a bequest, insurance policy, retirement policy or other vehicle; donate at your **Workplace** through United Way, CFC or State Employee Campaign. Also, when you give, contact your company's Human Resources Department to inquire if they offer a **Matching Gift Program**. You may be able to double the size of your donation!

For more information about making a gift, please contact Phil Santos-Higgins at 274.3240. THANK YOU!