



The Skillman
FOUNDATION
A voice for Detroit Children since 1960



Succeeding as Students: Kids and Parents Learn How at Osborn Community Education Fair

How do you get kids and parents more involved in student success? The Osborn neighborhood in Detroit made it fun and exciting by launching the First Annual Osborn Community Education Fair on Saturday, February 2, at Grace Church of the Nazarene. More than 250 parents and young people attended over a dozen workshops and interacted with nearly 40 education vendors, all aimed at improving academic performance for Osborn kids.

The Fair, which was sponsored by the Skillman Foundation as part of its Good Neighborhoods program, was the result of months of planning by dozens of Osborn residents who formed the Osborn Educational Services Action Planning Team. Raffles, giveaways, and a great lunch contributed to the festive atmosphere.

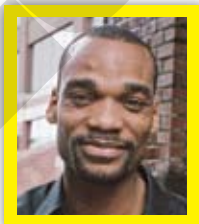
It was no surprise to Bertha Marsh, Fair organizer and resident co-convenor of the Osborn Educational Services Action Planning Team, when preliminary results of a survey of 150 Osborn residents at the Fair indicated that 85 percent felt one of the most pressing issues facing our schools today is lack of parent involvement. As a grandmother of nine, all of whom attend Detroit Public Schools, she continues her active involvement with the schools. "Statistics say that students do better when their parents are involved with their education," Marsh will tell you. That's why she was determined to launch

Osborn Community Goal:

Families have all of the resources and support necessary to make their children successful in life.

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an event in the Osborn neighborhood to bring parents and students together with all the educational resources available to them, both in the neighborhood and outside.

To gain insight into the kids' perspective, students at the Fair were invited to the Open Forum: Kids Wrap Session. Michelle Jackson, member of the Osborn Educational Services Action Planning Team, moderated the forum, which offered more than 40 Osborn young people the opportunity to share their perspectives on what they need to achieve in school, what support they want and need from parents, teachers and administrators, and what challenges they are facing, along with their recommendations to improve their education.

The City of Detroit and Detroit Public Schools were active participants in the Fair, both as presenters of workshops and vendors, and several higher education institutions were on hand.

"This was an amazing event that was put together entirely by residents, who pulled it off in an extremely high-quality way," says Bob Inskeep, of Lawrence Tech, host agency co-convenor for the Osborn Educational Services Action Planning Team, "It was like a big block party, with a personal, friendly feeling. We were wowed by the turnout and the buzz – people were really talking about the ideas and programs."

To read the complete story, visit www.skillman.org.

For more information on Skillman-sponsored work in the Osborn neighborhood, contact Osborn community liaison Quincy Jones.



Left: David Jones with the Life Changing Center chats with Jalyn Boyer, 10, about free tutoring the Center offers.

Right: Big smiles and nice giveaways were also popular at the Osborn Education Fair.

Northend Action Planning Team Meeting Dates Set

If you live or work in Northend, we need you!

Come participate in our Action Planning Teams. Join your neighbors in planning specific strategies to meet your community's goal!

When:

- Saturday, March 29, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Saturday, April 19, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where:

Wayne State University, General Lectures Auditorium
5045 Anthony Wayne Drive, Detroit, MI 48202
(Located at the corner of W. Warren Ave. & Anthony Wayne Dr., just one block east of the Lodge Freeway Service Drive).

Free Parking at Parking Structure #2
(additional parking available on W. Warren, Anthony Wayne Drive and Third Avenue).

Continental Breakfast and Boxed Lunch will be served.

Giveaways and Raffles!

Childcare provided by the Detroit Parent Network (for children potty trained; youth must be 17 and younger)

Spanish and Arabic interpreters available.

For more information, contact Cody/Rouge community liaison Kenyetta Peoples.

Northend Community Goal:

Northend is a proactive community organized to provide a high-quality education and resources to meet the need of its children and families.

Lamont R. Cole

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