



Seth Meiller Foundation

SUPPORTING DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE AND RAISING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS TO SHOW HOW EACH OF US CAN MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE



Year in Review

We continue to support the four SMF targeted programs. These include Francis Scott Key Elementary/ Middle School (FSK)'s Life Skills Program (where Seth taught), Special Olympics of Baltimore, Echo Hill Outdoor School (EHOS) (also where Seth taught), and the KidsGrow Program within Parks and People. The overlapping nature of these target programs has helped SMF to achieve our mission of reaching a broad cross section of under-privileged students with exceptional educational and environmental opportunities to enrich their lives and learning experiences.

SMF would like to wish many thanks to Jenny and John Stnons again this year for volunteering on-board Living Classrooms' skipjack Sigsbee on October 15, 2008 with the Life Skills Program Francis Scott Key students. Eight FSK Life Skills students learned navigation skills, caught and touched fish, oysters and jellyfish, and had a wonderful day on the Patapsco River. SMF representatives were also lucky to be a part of the FSK Life Skills field trip to the Baltimore Museum of Industry on May 12, 2009.



SMF helped to send classes from two Baltimore public schools to Echo Hill Outdoor School for Five-Day Experiences the week of March 30-April 4, 2009. Both Hamilton Elementary (50 students) and Francis Scott Key Elementary/Middle (17 students) Schools were excited to be outside and learning about the environment and the Chesapeake Bay. A huge thanks to Emily Strulson for representing SMF and for her beautiful photographs documenting the incredible week.



The Parks and People KidsGrow program served hundreds of students from several Baltimore schools in various experiential and environmental programs. These culminated with a year-end trip to Echo Hill Outdoor School for 50 students May 28-29, 2009 sponsored by SMF and was a highlight for all students.

For the Special Olympics, SMF volunteers attended and supported the Ice Skating Competitions in March of 2009, the Swimming Competitions in May of 2009, and the Field Games in May of 2009. These competitions celebrate all athletes for their skills and determination in the games and allow each competitor to shine in their own way. An example of the bonds between our targeted programs is demonstrated by FSK Life Skills students competing in the Special Olympics Field Games.

If you are interested in helping SMF support our targeted programs and would like to volunteer in one of the many activities or trips SMF supports, please contact Jesse Meiller at jesse@sethmeillerfoundation.org



Student Focus: Janay Scott

Jonay Scott is an excellent example of how the SMF is helping to "make the world a better place" in realizing Seth's goals in life. Jonay is one of ten students in the seventh grade in the Life Skills Program (a special education program designed to service students with intellectual limitations) at Francis Scott Key Elementary/Middle School (FSK)- the program in which Seth taught. Jonay has been a Perfect Attendance Awardee since Fall of 2006. Aside from being in school everyday ready to learn, she also exhibits outstanding behavior that her classmates can emulate. As a result of Jonay's hard work in school, she achieved proficiency in both Reading and Mathematics in the 2008 Alternate-Maryland School Assessment (ALT-MSA: a testing program designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities).

Arsenio Delang, the Life Skills teacher at FSK, has emphasized that the success of Jonay and her classmates were realized with the help from the Seth Meiller Foundation. This year, through financial support from the SMF, FSK acquired an LCD projector and a wireless printer that made lessons in the Life Skills Program more interactive. SMF has been able to provide assistance toward the technology integration goals at FSK with the tireless support of FSK's principal, Mrs. Mary Booker. SMF was also able to help with the purchase of additional instructional materials in Language Arts, Social Studies and Science for the Life Skills Program and covered expenses for trips on a Living Classrooms boat as well as a trip to the Baltimore Museum of Industry. SMF hopes that our support can help Jonay succeed in her greatest challenge and hope to master reading.

2008 Fundraiser A Success!

The 2008 Fundraiser was a huge success with 250 supporters of the SMF attending the event culminating in a year end total of \$30,209 raised to support targeted programs of the Seth Meiller Foundation. SMF supporters attended the event ready for the seventies-theme party and most came out-fitted in fabulous 70's costumes. There was much excitement about the raffle for the flat-screen TV and the prize-wheel was a fabulous new hit at the event as well.



Many guests grooved to the sounds of the 70s.

SAVE THE DATES! Saturday October 10th 2009

Baltimore Marathon
Come cheer on our 10 committed runners supporting SMF. Participants will be raising money and running all or a portion of the Marathon.

Saturday October 24th 2009

Open House 4:00- 9:00pm

Friendly Inn

Ellicott City, MD

Blue Grass Band @ 9pm

Raffles, Games and Prizes

More information on both of these events will be mailed in the coming months.

The Future of SMF

We are very pleased to say that we have completed our first full five years of operation with the Seth Meiller Foundation. It's amazing that in just five years, we have been able to raise significant funds to support a variety of programs throughout the region on an ongoing basis. We have created a capital growth fund in excess of \$170,000. At the same time, we are proud to report that we have granted over \$100,000 to our target projects during these five years as well. We plan to continue to support targeted projects, as we focus our efforts on enhancing our financial base in order to develop a self-sustaining perpetual annuity. This will allow the Foundation to achieve its mission for as long as we can imagine.

All foundations, including the organizations we support through our target projects, face the

question of whether to turn over their revenues on a yearly basis to serve immediate program needs, or to devote them to longer term activities aimed at sustaining their future. The SMF Board has chosen to strike a balance between these goals. We will continue to annually support projects that we target, however we will shift our fundraising priority towards the development of an endowment that will let us support programs for many, many years to come, without the long-term concern that a down-turn in the economy or a dip in annual fundraising could impair our ability to make progress towards our mission. We have set a target of establishing a \$350,000 endowment within the next five years, doubling our current balance. Achieving this goal will let us continue to deliver meaningful contributions to our target programs for many years, but we need your support. Our hope is

that by setting this goal publicly, we can continue to energize our supporters letting you partner with us to see how your individual contributions support both the annual as well as the long range progress towards our goal, year after year.

The projects that are supported on an annual basis are all in the same situation as we are and they seek to provide longevity as well as immediate response for current needs. Each year the many people that contribute to the SMF have allowed us to accomplish our mission. The generosity of individuals and our corporate donors is inspirational and very much appreciated by all who work towards the SMF's goals. The impact and benefits of your donations are illustrated in this newsletter in SMF's successes in reaching many young people in Baltimore and throughout the region.

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Anyone that is interested in helping with our annual fundraising events please contact
Laura Schwartz at lschwartz@sethmeillerfoundation.org
or Becky Meiller at rmeiller@sethmeillerfoundation.org