

## Update from last issue:

Thank you to Shannon Spurlock from JSI for assisting us in the data analysis and all of the community members who participated.



### Woodlawn CDC- HIV Prevention & MHPC Mini Grant Final Report June 2009

In the fall of 2008, WCDC received the HIV Prevention & Minority Health Promotions Center Mini Grant of \$4,995 from the Rhode Island Department of Health, Office of Minority Health. The purpose of the mini-grant was to conduct formative research in the Woodlawn community for HIV/AIDS awareness education. The target population included ethnically and racially diverse, 18-24 year old Woodlawn residents, who access the services of the WCDC and the Minority Health Promotion Center.

The overall plan was to assess the capacity of the WCDC to implement HIV prevention programming. The formative research includes: conducting a community survey a focus group of the target population and an agency assessment of all WCDC Staff and Board Members. A component of the grant also included consultation services with Shannon Spurlock, M.A. of JSI Research & Training Institute Inc., in designing, conducting and analyzing data from the surveys and focus groups.

In total, 41 community surveys and seven agency assessments were delivered, and there were 23 focus group participants. Based on the focus groups, Woodlawn's priority population for HIV programming consists of males between the ages 18-24. There were three female participants and 20 male participants, the majority of who identified themselves as Black/African American.

As per JSI's data analysis, 42 surveys were conducted in which 58% of participants were female and 45% were male mostly between the ages of 19-24 and 40-44. (Percentages vary due to margin of error.) 77% of participants were Pawtucket residents, 62% of them being Woodlawn residents. 100% of participants agree the WCDC is easy to get to and 92% agree the hours of operation are convenient. 85% of participants would recommend an HIV prevention program to a family member or friend if it were available at the WCDC and 56% would attend a program themselves.

The formative evaluation conducted resulted in very supportive data towards the need for HIV/AIDS prevention education in the Woodlawn community. Participant feedback suggested an intervention model with a group setting, access to free on-site testing, and incentives to support program

participation. The surveys verified that WCDC is an appropriate venue for HIV education programming. The agency assessment demonstrated that there is support for implementation of HIV prevention programming at WCDC as there is a need for HIV/AIDS education.

Overall themes reported in the focus groups emphasized that young adults of Woodlawn are not aware of services regarding HIV information or where to get free condoms. Many young adults do not know where to get tested nor do they desire to know the results of their current HIV status. HIV prevention is not talked about amongst young adults because of the negative stigma, and in general they feel uninformed about HIV/AIDS. Most young adults in Woodlawn do not practice safe sexual behaviors; they have multiple partners and do not use condoms.

Being given the opportunity to conduct this formative research for HIV/AIDS awareness education was a great way to assess the need of HIV prevention in the Woodlawn community. The Woodlawn Community Development Corporation gathered very supportive data and hopes to apply for funds to implement an HIV/AIDS prevention education program in the near future. ■

## Woodlawn Resident Spotlight

"Woodlawn Resident Spotlight" is a place to give acknowledgement to our shining community members. If you know a Woodlawn Resident who is deserving of recognition, please e-mail or mail a nomination to [developer@woodlawncdc.org](mailto:developer@woodlawncdc.org) or 210 West Ave Pawtucket, RI 02860, attention to Shannon Carroll. (Please include full contact information for both you and the nominee, along with a one page explanation.) Feel free to call with any questions or ideas.

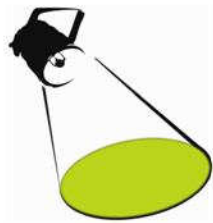
Ryan Brayall is one of Woodlawn's most enthusiastic community members! He spends every chance he has volunteering here at WCDC, from a front office greeter to community clean-ups. Everyone in Woodlawn knows Ryan, with his big smile, funny sense of humor and his love for sports...especially WWE Raw Wrestling. "Get in the ring!"

Back in October of 2008 at the WCDC Halloween Party, Ryan came in first place in

the Best Halloween Costume Contest! This Summer has been full of accomplishments for Ryan. He graduated from Tolman High School and turned 21 on May 22nd.

Ryan has been volunteering in the front office all summer and will be starting work at the Recycling Plant in September 2009!

Thank you Ryan for being such a great help and bringing a smile to our faces every day! We love you! ■



Ryan, volunteer Alex, and WCDC staff celebrating Ryan's birthday and graduation!



Blair-Victoria and Ryan at the WCDC Halloween Party.

## Who's New at Woodlawn CDC?



**Shannon Carroll** is this year's AmeriCorps VISTA as Woodlawn CDC's Community Organizer/Fund Developer. She is originally from a small town in Michigan. She is a 2005 graduate of Grand Valley State University with a BS in Communications and a 2008 graduate of Central Washington University with a BA in Theatre Management. She moved to Providence with her husband, Justin, who works at Trinity Repertory Company. In her free time she likes to go hiking, travel, and spend time with friends. She looks forward to working with the Woodlawn community and finding funding for more "fun" activities for the youth. Feel free to give Shannon suggestions of things you would like to see happen at WCDC! She can be contacted at [developer@woodlawncdc.org](mailto:developer@woodlawncdc.org). ■



**Rose Amato** is the new FASST Program Manager here at WCDC. Rose is finishing her A.S. in Paralegal Studies at CCRI, where she recently completed double internships at The Rhode Island Dept of Corrections, Adult Probation and the RI Training School. She is the recent recipient of the Walter and Eileen Jachna Scholarship and Cooperative Internship Excellence Award. Prior to that she spent many years as a non-profit program director/coordinator providing trainings, services, resource and advocacy to a variety of clients. Rose is also a state certified and trained mediator and has experience with neighborhood, small claims, landlord-tenant and divorce disputes. Rose is married with two children in college, three dogs, and visits her campsite whenever possible where she indulges in her favorite pastimes of reading and spending time with a large extended family. She is excited to began her duties as FASST Program Manager and can be reached at [rose@woodlawncdc.org](mailto:rose@woodlawncdc.org). ■



**Darnell Albury** is the new front office receptionist here at WCDC. He was born in Seaford, Delaware and moved to Rhode Island when he was 16. He has been a Woodlawn resident for the past four years. Darnell is currently working towards his GED at BVCAP and after completion will be attending college for Psychology. Darnell is very family oriented and when he isn't at work or in school, he is either shopping or doing fun things with his family and friends. Darnell would like to thank WCDC for giving him the opportunity to be apart of their work environment. He can be reached at [darnell.woodlawncdc@gmail.com](mailto:darnell.woodlawncdc@gmail.com). ■

## Program Updates

### Minority Health Promotion Center (MHPC):

**English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL):** WCDC is excited to announce a FREE trial ESOL program taught by committed volunteers Mercedes Ponce and Danielle Wolffe. Session 1 will be held Mondays and Wednesdays August 12th through September 30th from 6-9pm at the Woodlawn Community Center. Registration for Session 1 ends Tuesday August 18th. Call to sign up for information on future sessions.

**Adult Computer Classes** are tentatively planned to resume this Fall 2009. Call to sign up.

**Adult Health and Wellness Classes** are also tentatively planned to resume this Fall 2009.

**Family Exercise Classes:** Evening Family Exercise Classes will be starting this Fall 2009. Dates and times TBA.

**Family Walking Club:** New this Summer, Wednesdays at 4pm the Walking Club meets at the Woodlawn Community Center for a family friendly walk around the park. All ages welcome! And dogs too! Bring a bag to clean up after your pup! Walking Club will continue throughout the Fall.

If you are interested in registering for any MHPC class contact Joan Somoza at 401-475-7632 or [joan@woodlawncdc.org](mailto:joan@woodlawncdc.org).

### Future Attainment Success Starts Today (FASST):

Rose Amato was hired as the new FASST Program Manager this July 2009. Contact Rose at [rose@woodlawncdc.org](mailto:rose@woodlawncdc.org) if you are a youth ages 14-21 with court appointed community service.

### Pawtucket Youth Center:

This Summer 2009, the Woodlawn Summer Jobs Program, funded by the Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island, was implemented by Bryan Hamlin. Bryan joined the WCDC staff in June as the Woodlawn Summer Jobs Program Coordinator. He is originally from New Zealand but has been residing in East Providence, RI with his wife and three year old son, Maximus Angelo, for the past four years. Bryan received his degree in Sports management and Coaching from Massey University in New Zealand and currently coaches the Harvard Woman's Rugby Team.

The Woodlawn Summer Jobs program opened 32 youth job positions. 15 youth are placed in the painting crew at the Providence Place Mall and 15 youth are placed in local businesses, non-profit agencies and city departments. All of the youth participated in a Work Readiness Workshop that included leadership and skills development training aimed to help secure and retain employment.

Look for an article and photo's in our next newsletter!