



# JOURNEY THROUGH NORTHWEST THROUGH NORTHWEST

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

BY: SYREETA MARTIN

I first came to the Newsletter project in October of 2008. As a Temple University student majoring in Journalism, it was my job to aid the kids in putting together the community newsletter that you now hold in your hands. I came in fired up and ready to reach out to the children and young teens involved in the project. I didn't just want to be the student worker helping the kids out. I wanted to be a mentor, a positive role model. I wanted to know their stories and help them figure out where they wanted to go in their lives.

The kids at the center were a lively bunch. We became

close pretty fast. The more I got to know them, the more I wanted to teach and show them. And the more I recognized that we as a black community had to come together and get back to the old fashioned idea of community raising a child. When I would watch the kids leave and warn them to be safe, I felt as if I were warning my own. There is so much out here in this world waiting, patiently, to catch our children and steer them off the path of success. There are things and people waiting to bring our children down and keep them from growing to their fullest potential. We've got to come together.

Teachers, Parents, Grandparents, Mentors and the likes, was there not a time when you were alone in the world facing all of its evils? These kids face way more than what was faced 10-20 years ago, when they go to leave your homes. They're up against the world and the new social norms that to many would leave them appalled. Why is it that we seem to think they'll be ok? Or that they'll find their way? Or even that we've all got to learn about life sometime and they 'minds well' learn now? Our children are living in a time many of us thought we'd never live to see:  
(see page 2)

## CRIME STILL RAMPANT IN PHILADELPHIA

BY: CRUZ WASHINGTON

This past year the crime in Philadelphia has seemingly taken a break- but not a big one. Last year Philadelphia had over 400 plus people murdered. As news reports said we were in a crisis. Philadelphia needed help and badly.

This year it was a little different. There

weren't just innocent bystanders getting killed and hurt, there were *cops* also. Five cops have been killed so far this year. As of October 24, 2008 Philadelphia's homicide rate was down 16% from last year. Last year by the 24<sup>th</sup> of October, the body count was 324. This year it declined by 52 bodies bringing the count to 272. (see page 2)

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## LOCAL COVERAGE

### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR *(CONTINUED)*

president. So why is it that these kids still don't know the change they can create or their capabilities?

We're all busy I know. I have 2 kids, 2 jobs and I'm a full-time college student. I wanted to tell them my story and let them learn from it. We all have our ups and downs; life throws every curve ball possible. But at no point is it ever worth giving up. At no point should a child ever feel that they can't or are lacking support. For those parents, grandparents, mentors, legal guardians and family members, love the children in your life. Take time to show them and teach them better. Love them even when they fight your love. The difference you can make in a child's life can be the defining differ-

ence between success and failure, high and low self-esteem, settling or pushing for more. Which would you like to be a part of?



### Dreams

Hold fast to dreams  
For if dreams die  
Life is a broken-winged bird  
That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams  
For when dreams go  
Life is a barren field  
Frozen with snow.

By: Langston Hughes

### CRIME STILL RAMPANT IN PHILADELPHIA

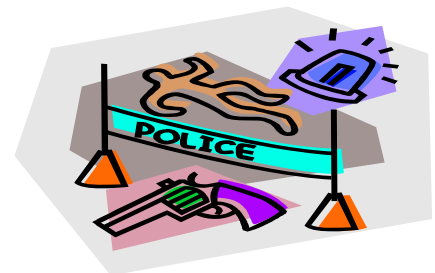
On November 29th, a young lady was shot in an Olde City nightclub called Cebu on 2<sup>nd</sup> and Chestnut St. The victim was wounded in the shin and was listed as being in stable condition at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. The club has remained closed since.

We started the month of December off with a murder. A family was gunned down in the shared bed where they slept. Two men kicked in the door of the home shortly after 5 a.m. They went upstairs and opened fire on the entire family. A 20 year-old man was shot 7 times as he jumped out of bed to get help

while a 19 year-old woman was killed in the bed. Tragically, a 5 year-old boy was shot twice in his back; the only person that was not hit was the youngest who was 2 years-old. The two killers left the murder seen shortly after.

On December 2nd, there was another shooting outside of a Kmart. The shooting occurred in the Northeast part of Philadelphia. A person was hospitalized after a gunman opened fire inside the store. The police say that the shooter was Anthony Birch. Co-workers say that it started with an argument between a female em-

ployee and her boyfriend in the front of the store. They reported that Birch pulled out a gun and fired it in the store. A male Co-worker came to the aid of the woman and he was subsequently shot.



***Hey Black Child, do you know you are strong? I mean really strong. Do you know you can do, what you want to do-if you try to do- what you can do? ~Coutnee Cullen***

## LOCAL COVERAGE

### JROTC: THE POWER OF CHANGE BY: CHARDAE WARE

I know people that have anger in them. I was one of them. That was until I joined ROTC at my local high school. JROTC really changed my attitude and view of life. Leadership is one of the most stressed personal-strengths in JROTC. They not only want you to develop great leadership skills, they want to help you to become a better person.

One of the ways they make u build up your leadership is by teaching you communication skills. When interacting with someone and feeling the need to yell or become confrontational, they teach you to walk away from it or to communicate politely. To keep you motivated they will give you choices in various activities, such as the Rifle Team,

Color Guard, or the Drill Team.

These help to keep you occupied and allow your progress to be tracked.

Good signs of progression in attitude are rewarded with trips, ribbons, and moving up in the ranks.

JROTC not only encourages people to look up to you and want to be like you, it also helps you to feel good about yourself. The rank structure helps to lift your self-esteem. With every new promotion, you will see where you're at and you can be proud of your accomplishments. JROTC is already viewed as an Army structure. When you graduate high school, they ask you questions such as: what college you want to go

to? They're willing to pay for your college degree if you're a person that was good all year.

JROTC may not be for everybody but for many, it's a chance for change and forward movement. Change is sometimes needed and forward movement leads to positive progression. If you know a teenager who is in need of the those things mentioned above, consider introducing or offering support to them in finding out more about JROTC and how it can change their lives.

### CRIME (CONTINUED)

I recently interviewed the owner of Gensis Optical located on Stenton Avenue, Mrs. Vanita Cruse, about her views on the recent violence in Philadelphia. "I think that it's bad and it's gotten out of control... we're losing respect for each other." Tyshon Henry, a student from Germantown High School, said, "I think that the crime isn't good and that we're all taking a chance every time we walk out the house. I also think that none of us

are safe in school and out of school. It needs to stop".

So when or where do people feel safe? Tyreke Johnson, also from Germantown High School, said that "I feel safer in school than on the streets. Being on the streets is like taking a chance with my life."

John Wolfe was asked about his views on the drug crime in Philadelphia. His response, "I see drug

bags, I see people making drug sales and I also smell it. Some times it's not fun to be around." But he is around it. Many are around the drug activity and have nothing to do with it. It is a proven fact the drug activity leads to violence. Philadelphia needs help with both...and fast. Until then, I ask that you all be safe and please think before you act. Lives are at stake.

### COLLEGE OR JOB TRAINING? BY: TIA PRESSLEY

As a senior in high school, I think applying for college is a great experience. you have to go to a lot of college fair's to find the one that is right for you. It is very important to know what college you are interested in because if you go to a college that is not in your interest then your money will be wasted. To get

into college you should aim to have very good grades and do really well on your SAT's or Act's.

In my experience, I think college is not as high a hope as people think it to be because a lot of people are going to college but not finishing or don't have the jobs that they want. The economy is bad right now and

many people are being put out of their jobs. Additionally, many people who have a degree can't even find jobs, so that validating paper that every one wants isn't necessarily the only way to succeed. There are jobs who are not pushing people to go to college; some just require a high school diploma.

## ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

### YOU TUBE HYPE BY: TAYON JORDAN

YouTube. We've all been on it at least once. We've all seen at least one viral classic. Whether it be "Chocolate Rain" or "Scarlet Takes a Tumble," we have all experienced some of the site's great material. But YouTube's expanding database has unfortunately allowed anyone to post anything. Like amateur hip-hop groups. They've been putting up a lot of unnecessary guff on the site and starting gang related incidents in your or my everyday life. I've heard it at school. Groups starting wars through what was originally intended to be a Social Networking Site via video.

Nowadays, anyone can post their crap and instantly achieve fame. Remember the "Numa Numa Dance"? It's ridiculous. But YouTube has its positive spin

as well. They have fun little animated cartoon shows like "Happy Tree Friends" and the "MUGEN" series. But, the darkest side on YouTube is the ability for its users to post racist or hate videos. I remember the KKK videos a few years back. They've been removed by popular demand fortunately. Another downer for YouTube is that people start posting stupid things and wind up hurting themselves just to attain attention. Frivolous really. But all in all YouTube is not that bad of a site.

YouTube allows users to connect with their friends sort of like MySpace. They show concerts and events you may have missed. I know when I couldn't go to the Coachella Festival last year the first thing I did was watch

the performances on the site. YouTube: The Controversial Milestone.

### BLACK HISTORY FACT:

**Jack Johnson** became the first African-American man to hold the World Heavyweight Champion boxing title in 1908. He held on to the belt until 1915.

**George T. Sampson** invented a clothes dryer that used heat from a stove in 1892.

### WHAT IS MYSPACE? BY: JANADA HILL

It is expected that everyone is familiar with the social networking website called Myspace. This statement, in some cases, is not true because there are some people out there who aren't familiar with this site. To fill in all of those who don't know, Myspace can be used for many things both positive and unfortunately, negative.

In many cases Myspace has helped people achieve their goals. A good prime example would be the hip-hop/pop icon Cassie. She was discovered because she was a "Myspace Celeb". This is someone who is famous through Myspace for their music, videos, or other postings. Cassie was discovered by a producer named Ryan Leslie. After that, a industry producer known as "Diddy" took notice to Cassie and joined forces with Leslie to release her self titled debut album in August of 2006. Cassie is currently signed with bad boy records.

The negative sides of Myspace are important because, if you do not have any knowledge of it you are a perfect candidate for being taken advantage of over the internet. One thing that can lead to you being hurt through Myspace is accepting someone you do not know as a friend.

It is important to accept only those you are familiar with because the person you accept can possess negative motives. For example, they can put you on a page known for gossip and spread all types of mean things about you. Then when someone you know reads it they then view you negatively. Someone you have as a friend on Myspace can do this because they have access to at least one picture which is your default picture, if you have one. Another thing that can negatively impact you on Myspace is, giving out personal information such as your phone number, address, zip code and so on. No matter what, always use precaution in any

internet-related activity.

Myspace has been in existence since 2002. Myspace is international and it attracts about 230,000 new users daily. Myspace was inspired by Friendster, another social networking website. In 2002 when Friendster launched, many employees with Friendster accounts saw Friendsters' potential and decided to mimic the popular features of the site and call it "Myspace."

Those who I have talked to that at one point had a Friendster account but deleted it because they wanted to create a Myspace account, said that Myspace was simply better. Obviously, Friendster was just a fad and Myspace is more than that. It plays a part in peoples lives, including mine.

Two different views on Myspace.

I asked two people in different age brackets a few questions about

## ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

### WHAT IS MYSPACE? (CONTINUED)

Myspace to see how they responded to each. It appears that people who are younger are more exposed to Myspace and more knowledgeable of it and those who are older are not. Tia Pressley, 17, was asked if she had a Myspace to which she answered, "Yes, I like communicating with my friends and checking my messages." When asked why she created a Myspace, she replied, "My friends encouraged me to join."

Mrs. Doris Harris, a woman of a wise age, was asked if she had a Myspace to which she answered she didn't. When asked why she replied, "It never interested me." And why didn't it interest

her? "I spend a lot of time on the computer doing research. I don't have time."

I believe that the difference between the reason why older people don't have a Myspace and young people do is because older people appear to be a lot more cautious than younger people. For example, there was a time when I asked my grandmother why she doesn't have a Myspace and she said "I don't need a Myspace."

When I asked why she thought she didn't need a Myspace she replied "I'm not trying to talk to predators nor make friends on the website." Later on she

made it clear to me that she doesn't trust Myspace.

Overall, everyone is not familiar with nor likes Myspace. It seems to come down to the old saying: "Different strokes for different folks". Myspace isn't for everyone. If you are an internet/Myspace user, you should always be cautious and never give out personal information such as your name, address, phone number etc. Always remember: STAY SAFE!

### MOVIE SPOTLIGHT: NOTORIOUS BY: TEVIN RIDDICK

The movie **Notorious** was released in theaters January 16<sup>th</sup> 2009. The movie was about the life of the famous rapper Notorious B.I.G. The Notorious B.I.G., whose government name was Christopher George Latore Wallace, was born May 21, 1972 and died on March 9, 1997. He was gunned down at the age of 24 in California. Christopher Wallace was signed with Bad Boy Records; a record label owned by his close friend Sean "Diddy" Combs.

I think the movie Notorious was interesting because it showed the life of Notorious B.I.G. There are certain parts in the movie that I didn't like. For example, they showed Notorious selling drugs to pregnant women. I felt that they shouldn't have shown the scene when he sold crack cocaine to the pregnant women because it was too explicit for children. A positive point in the movie was that they showed his transformation from the selling of drugs to becoming a famous rapper.

Ms. Wallace thought it was important to create a movie about her son because she wanted to show all different sides of her son, such as how good of a parent he was. She also said this movie was to be about a man with a heart. Ms. Wallace wanted the world to see her son was more than a rapper.

I feel that the appropriate age to watch this movie is 17 and up. There is some violence and negative imagery suitable only for mature audiences.

### IN STYLE: POLO AND OLD NAVY BY: ABDUL ADAMS

The hottest fashion today is Polo made by Ralph Lauren. People who inspire kids now to wear this brand are Lil' Wayne and Jay-Z.

Tevin Riddick, age 16, says he wears Polo for girls attention and because it's in style. Khalimah Marrison, age 12, says that she wears polo also because its in style. I wear polo because I like

the cotton material and the way it feels on my skin. I also like how it fits. In addition to that, I like the shoes they make. James Brooks, age 37, says he wears polo because he sees all the younger kids wearing it. Most people now say that they wear Polo and Old Navy because it's simply in style.

So, does it matter what you wear? I

wonder why people get ridiculed when they wear Dickies or non-brand clothing. I feel like people should wear whatever makes them feel comfortable and I think people should be their self: Don't worry about what people think.

## SPECIAL COVERAGE

### THE FIGHT FOR HEALTHCARE BY: SYREETA MARTIN

Layla Leys is a 20-year-old junior at Temple University who anticipates graduating like any other student. Unlike any other student, Leys also waits, after being denied twice, for the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare to agree to provide medical coverage for her seven-month-old son, Landon. Not only does she wake up every day to various assignment due dates, her son's different needs, a full-time job and a cancer-stricken mother, she also awakens to approximately \$78,000.00 in past-due medical from emergency visits and hospitalizations Landon underwent while sick early on. Lack of health coverage isn't just affecting student-parents, like Leys, who are in college; it's affecting Americans of all ages and ethnicities.

Party affiliations aside, Americans sent a loud and clear message during the historic 2008 election: the healthcare system is in a state of emergency and reform is past due. This message forced medical coverage to become one of the most important issues that presidential candidates Barack Obama and John McCain addressed during their campaigns. Various cutbacks in the welfare and public health budgets and "gray area" eligibility requirements have prevented those in need from obtaining health coverage. Additionally, those who make too much to be on Medicaid and too little to afford coverage through their employer or an independent company, also suffer. Americans could no longer simply stand to go without, or have bare minimum,

health coverage.

Leys is part of 72 million working-age Americans who have medical bills or who are paying off medical debt. According to a health survey by The Commonwealth Fund, between 2005 and 2007 the percentage of this particular category of Americans jumped from 34 percent to 41 percent. The weakening economy and demands of ever-increasing debt are crippling families financially and physically. The Commonwealth Fund states that of the estimated 50 million American adults who were uninsured in the last year, 58% were in families where at least one person was working full-time. It seems that when families sit down to make budget cuts in order to meet their basic needs, health coverage is sacrificed.

With the cost of health care coverage in general rising, more and more Americans are going without it. Employers take entirely too much out of ones' paycheck to even consider coverage through the company. Independent insurance companies know this and view it as a possible "preying advantage". When researching sites on the internet which promoted a "connection service" (obtaining your basic state of health and then sending your information to local agents for you to be contacted), I found that they generally attempted to charge some type of finders fee or wanted the consumer to purchase a plan directly through them.

"I make approximately \$650 bi-

weekly after taxes without overtime," Leys says of her full-time job, "After I do my budget I come up \$160 short every month." I asked Leys, a single mother, to put together a rough overview of her budget, to get an idea of exactly where her money goes each month. Why was health coverage the main need being sacrificed? The reason was soon revealed in the figures and their allotment. She makes a monthly net income of \$1300. She pays out approximately: \$240 bi-weekly for babysitting fees, \$40 for her CapitalOne card, \$680 for rent, \$40-50 for diapers, \$180 for Verizon services, \$100-120 for gas, \$55 for her cell phone, and \$100+ for groceries and miscellaneous items. These figures don't factor in her tuition payments which she previously received help with from her father. At a minimum, she comes out in the negative by \$135.00 every month. "I'm concerned that I'll sink deeper into debt since I'm barely managing off my paycheck as is," she says, with an unmistakable look of worry.

Leys biggest struggle has been convincing the state that she needs help obtaining health coverage for her son. "First, they say I'm a full-time student who also works full-time... so why can't I pay for his insurance out of pocket?" she says, frustrated, "I simply can't afford a monthly premium because I already come up short on my bills- just ask my landlord!" Initially, she was covered under her employer's health plan. Coverage for her and Landon became an issue when she was in-

## SPECIAL COVERAGE

### THE FIGHT FOR HEALTHCARE (CONTINUED)

formed that her employer would take out \$290 per bi-weekly check. Forty-four percent of her paycheck would go to health coverage for her *and* her son. Leys' solution: drop her employer-sponsored coverage and use that money to take Landon to a community clinic where individual immunizations are of lower cost than full coverage. Emily Duffy, a Pediatric Behavioral Health Consultant for the Primary Care Department of Drexel University, confirms Leys barrier, "Many families are struggling with meeting their families' basic needs: food, shelter, clothing, and safety. In accordance with Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs it is very difficult for a family to attend the other needs including health maintenance (well child care visits) when they live day to day trying to meet the basic needs."

Due to lack of medical coverage, Landon had gotten behind on his immunizations. "He only had his first set of shots... which I think is in the 2-3 months [range]." she says. And just how important are a child's immunizations? A child's immunizations help prevent diseases that can cause hospitalization or death. Duffy says, "The immunizations are crucial for the long term health of the individual, family, and community." As more parents began delaying immunizations, the US saw a resurgence of diseases that had been eradicated or reduced significantly by immunizations. Forty-four percent of a person's paycheck *surely* cannot go just to health coverage. There *must* be

some type of state-sponsored coverage or other program that is in place to help people like Leys. Right? This is where that "gray area" of eligibility requirements becomes apparent. In a two-person household, \$14,000 is the maximum allowable income before being considered above the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). However, the FPL isn't calculated and determined like we would do a budget, allotting certain monies to shelter, food, transportation, etc. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, "if one tries to consider the thresholds as a budget, all that one can say is that they were developed in 1963-1964... it is not possible to say what share of the poverty line goes for any specific consumption category." So really, these numbers are generated from back in the sixties or by a group of government officials who all agree on the same numbers? This is clearly not a solid foundation from which to determine someone's need of help.

Both Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) use the FPL when determining eligibility. When applying for Medicaid, the head of the household (HOH) for two people, can make no more than \$14,000 annually. If they do in fact exceed this limit, which in Leys case she does by bringing in \$15,600, the case is referred over to CHIP. CHIP, however, requires the HOH (for two people) to make \$18,620-\$28,000 in order for children ages 1-5 years to be covered free of charge. When applying for a low-cost coverage, the minimum

requirement for a two person household and for those ages 0-18 is \$28,001. Leys makes too much for Medicaid coverage and too little for the CHIP program. CHIP advertises that no family makes *too much*, but they don't inform you that there is a "*too-little*". Medicaid is thought to cover *anyone* who is struggling and in need of coverage. They leave out that you *can* struggle, just not \$1,000-\$4620 over the FPL. Duffy states her opinion quite frankly, "The state of the health care system is fragmented and inefficient." So where does this leave those like Leys or those who make too much for independent programs or employer coverage? An easy one: uninsured or underinsured. It leaves them choosing between daycare and healthcare. But Leys has taken a slightly different approach. She has reached out to those at the Pennsylvania Health Law Project (PHLP), who are experts and consultants on access to healthcare for low-income Pennsylvanians. Through PHLP, Leys discovered that after being denied three times for coverage through the state system, she could legally sue them. She now waits, for the third time, to see if the state will finally recognize her son needs health coverage. "They just need to develop a [alternative] health care program besides Medicaid and CHIP that acts as a catch-all for the Americans who do not fit into either category," she says. From her struggles alone, nothing could be truer.

## ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

~ CELEBRATION OF BLACK POETRY ~ SUBMITTED BY: NYHEERA CORBETT

### NEGRO WOMEN

by [Lewis Alexander](#).

The sky hangs heavy tonight  
Like the hair of a Negro woman.  
The scars of the moon are curved  
Like the wrinkles on the brow of a  
Negro woman.

The stars twinkle tonight  
Like the glaze in a Negro  
woman's eyes,  
Drinking the tears set flowing by  
aging hurt  
Gnawing at her heart

The earth trembles tonight  
Like the quiver of a Negro  
woman's eye-lids cupping tears...

### SIGNALS

by [Johari Amini](#).

Is yo eye so empty  
in the moonlight of yo smoke  
u cant see me waitin  
for u to sway my way  
sway fine & black & so cool  
a swift swayin tree  
swayin bendin down  
& catchin me up into yo movement  
pleasing u?  
is yo eye so empty  
in the moonlight of yo smoke  
u cant see me waitin

O my man  
our beginning will be

as beginnings be  
total through all the sweet secretions  
from your prime cause  
and I will be a woman-fire  
orbiting your night  
and you will protect my burning soft-  
ness  
because you wont be  
out of it when I need you....



### THE FIGHT FOR HELATHCARE (CONTINUED)

When asked about her chosen presidential candidate and his promises on the very issue that she battles this moment, she smiles. "I voted Obama because I feel he understands the situation of working class America, although we are not legitimately poor, we are still struggling," she says, pausing briefly. "His plan for America's health care system was stronger because he focused on reform and tackling the insurance companies to get them to do what they were designed to do: help pay for necessary care [for those who need it]." Looking from the infant face of Landon, to the piles of paper

representing \$78,000.00 in medical debt due to lack of coverage, it couldn't be clearer: the health-care system and its consumers are in a complete state of emergency.



(continued from page 3)

However, you should consider going to CCP (Community College) to higher your education. Community College is a good school to attend to. My point here is that the people who have the money (whether it be through qualifying for financial aid or personal money), the smarts (with a solid dose of common sense), and are really willing to finish college, should go if they have an idea of what they'd want to do. The people that choose not to go to college or think it's not for them, should consider job training or going to CCP to higher their education.

# ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## FOOD FOR FULFILLMENT AND WORDS FOR THOUGHT

BY: NYHEERA CORBETT

My number one favorite food is cheesecake. I love cheesecake because I think it is very delicious. I also love cheesecake because there is a variety of different ways you can eat it, such as adding chocolate syrup, strawberries, and blueberries. Personally I eat it plain or if available I eat strawberry swirl. If you have not tried cheesecake yet I think you should because the taste is excellent. Some people even try it with peanut butter. But here is a recipe of plain original cheesecake so you can try it yourself. I hope you enjoy it!!!!

### Ingredients

#### Crust:

- ~ 1 cup graham cracker crumbs
- ~ 1/4 cup sugar
- ~ 7 tablespoons butter, melted

#### Filling:

- ~ 12 ounces cream cheese, softened ~ 1 cup sugar
- ~ 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ~ 3 eggs
- ~ Chocolate glaze, for serving, recipe follows
- ~ Cherries, for serving
- ~ Whipped cream and/or powdered sugar, for serving

### Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. overnight.

#### Crust:

In a medium size bowl, combine the graham cracker crumbs with the sugar and butter. Mix well and place in the bottom and sides of an 8-inch spring form cake pan. Make sure to press against the sides and bottom of the pan. Place into oven and bake for 8 minutes. Let cool.

#### Filling:

Prepare the filling by beating cream cheese. Mix in sugar and vanilla while beating until well blended. Add in eggs and combine. Pour mixture into prepared crust. Place on a cookie sheet and bake for 45 minutes. Remove from oven and let cool to room temperature. Refrigerate overnight.

## WORDS FOR THOUGHT:

### Excerpt from Hey Black Child:

Hey Black Child  
 Be what you can be  
 Learn what you must learn  
 Do what you can do  
 And tomorrow your nation  
 Will be what you want it to be.  
 ~Countee Cullen

### Excerpt from Still I Rise:

You may shoot me with your words,  
 You may cut me with your eyes,  
 You may kill me with your hatefulness,  
 But still, like air, I'll rise.  
 ~Maya Angelou

Excerpt from *President Barack Obama's Presidential Acceptance speech*:

*There are mothers and fathers who will lie awake after the children fall asleep and wonder how they'll make the mortgage or pay their doctors' bills or save enough for their child's college education.*

*There's new energy to harness, new jobs to be created, new schools to build, and threats to meet, alliances to repair.*

*The road ahead will be long. Our climb will be steep. We may not get there in one year or even in one term. But, America, I have never been more hopeful than I am tonight that we will get there.*

*I promise you, we as a people will get there.*

~President Barack Obama



## **MEET OUR REPORTERS:**



*My name is Nyheera Corbett and I attend Cardinal Dougherty High School. I am 18 years-old and I am in the 12th grade. My experience here at the Youth Development Center and the Newsletter project in particular was fun! I got to write articles and contribute my voice and interests to this publication. This was a great experience for me.*



*My name is Tevin Riddick and I am 16 years-old. I go to George Washington High School and I'm in the 11th grade. Being that I love to play football I plan to them for my school team. My experience here at the Youth Center has been interesting I like that I got to do an article on something that I was interested in: the movie Notorious. It was a pretty good experience overall.*



*My name is Tia Pressley and I am 17 years-old. I attend Stephen A. Douglas High School and I'm in the 12th grade. This has been a good experience. I liked my time here at the Youth Center because they helped me with getting my college essay for Yale University together. I also liked contributing an article to this publication.*



*My name is Abdul Adams and I am 15 years-old. I go to C.E.P. and am in the 10th grade. It was okay contributing to my thoughts on fashion to the newsletter. I met some cool people here. As more people came, I started to relax and open up some. I liked how they had food for us and let us do internet research. It was a cool experience.*

*The reporters noted below couldn't make it for the appointment of the pictures but we definitely want to thank them for their time and contribution to this publication. They did a great job and we're all very proud of them:*

*Chardae Ware- 17 years-old (M.L.K High, 12th grade)*

*Tayon Jordan- 16 years-old ( Delaware Valley High, 11th grade)*

*Cruz Washington- 15 years-old (Germantown High, 9th grade)*