

Dear Friends:

It is with great excitement and sadness that I write you. As many of you know, my predecessor, Jennie Armstrong, decided to retire as Executive Director. She did a wonderful job leading this organization and her compassionate wisdom will be missed. At the same time, I am excited to continue in her stead as Executive Director as we work to serve individuals by providing the job and life skills training that is so desperately needed in this community. I look forward to any suggestions or advice you may have through a call, email or by just stopping by our offices across from White Memorial Presbyterian Church. As a staff, we continue to be humbled by your support of this ministry and diligent in carrying out the mission of moving people to self-sufficiency (stable job, stable home and stable family).

Sincerely,
[Steve Swayne](#)

Job Placement and Training Update:

- 32 participants placed in jobs YTD
- 82 participants trained for jobs YTD
- 87% job retention rate in the past 6 months
- 80% job retention rate in the past 12 months

Life Skills Update:

- 34 participants will graduate on March 26, 2009
- 38 participants currently enrolled in Life Skills

Lend a Helping Hand

StepUP is looking for volunteers to serve as co-partners in the Life Skills program. Co-partners are mentors who assist adults learning budgeting and goal-setting skills. You will work one-on-one with a program participant in a classroom setting with instructors. StepUP meets on Tuesday evenings at White Memorial Presbyterian Church. Co-partner training will take place on Tuesday, March 3, from 6:00 until 8:15 p.m. For more information contact [Jennie Armstrong](#).

Save the Date!

Life Skills Graduation
Thursday, March 26 at 6 pm
Pickard Hall
White Memorial Presbyterian Church



Steppin' Out for StepUP
Friday, May 1 at 7 pm
North Carolina Museum of History
Featuring Entertainment by Realty Show Band



For more information contact [Molly Shepherd Nichols](#).



Partnership Elementary recognized children's program participant O'Shaela Wilkins-Peebles with the Spotlight Student Award on February 3, 2009. O'Shaela's teacher, Mr. Pete, said of her, "When I think of a spotlight student, O'Shaela immediately comes to mind. Over the past several years at Partnership, her diligent work-ethic has helped her overcome her academic challenges. When schoolwork becomes difficult, O'Shaela continues to strive to achieve understanding. Whenever this young superstar gets frustrated, there's never any quit in her game. This positive mentality has made her a role-model to all peers at Partnership Elementary. She has exhibited this leadership ability at Partnership's after school program, where she was the school's first ever junior-counselor. There isn't a teacher or friend that hasn't been touched by her kindness, her drive, her sincerity and her brilliance."

Congratulations O'Shaela!

Nursery Staff Needed

StepUP Ministry is looking for a nursery staff member. This person needs to be comfortable with children ages 3 months to 5 years. The position is part time on Tuesday nights from 5:30pm until 8:30pm. This candidate will be responsible for weekly assessing the children, communicating with Children's Coordinator twice per week, attending Children's Committee Meetings once every other month, and attending StepUP Children's Program events. Compensation is commensurate with experience.

For more information contact [Colisha Gilbert](#).

Upcoming Events

March 9 - Communications Committee - 12 pm
March 9 - Executive Committee - 5 pm
March 10 - Life Skills Committee - 8 am
March 16 - Jubilee Jobs Committee - 12:15 pm
March 26 - Life Skills Graduation - 6 pm
April 2 - Children's Committee - 6 pm
April 6 - StepAhead Committee - 12 pm
April 13 - Board Meeting - 7 pm
May 1 - Steppin' Out for StepUP - 7 pm