

## Fourteen New Scholarships Awarded

New Futures continues to receive record numbers of applications for its scholarships, and this fall was no exception. After extensive review of the scholar application forms, academic records, essays, and recommendation letters, plus an interview with each applicant, our Selection Committee awarded 14 new scholarships this past November.

We are continually impressed with the accomplishments and determination of these scholars, and are pleased to see many of them pursuing short-term certification programs or associate's degrees, which will get them on the road to promising careers quickly. We'd like to introduce you to a few of the new additions to the New Futures "family."



Latosha Jackson, a single mother with 3 young children, is currently a Certified Nursing Assistant who enjoys caring for her patients. However, her job does not bring in enough income to support her and her young children. Hope and a Home has been helping Latosha with housing, and she is excited to be able to use a New Futures scholarship to pursue a

Licensed Practical Nursing certificate. Latosha looks forward to an expanded role in caring for her patients and the ability to support her family on her own. She will be attending UDC.

Ebenezer Essilfie came to the US from Ghana with \$200, with which to pay for his college education.



Shocked to find that \$200 wasn't anywhere close to what he'd need, he did not give up. He obtained some funds from Capital Area REACH and the state of Virginia, and even used his credit card at times to stay in school. Struggling to

keep up with the ever-increasing balances due, his final year of college was in jeopardy. With the help of his New Futures scholarship, Ebenezer will be able to complete his degree in accounting and realize his dream of becoming a CPA.

Erica McCard was raised by her grandmother in a DC housing



project. After her grandmother became ill, Erica dropped out of high school and became a ward of the state. Eventually placed into a foster home, Erica returned to school to get her diploma. In time, she found her way to the Year Up program, where she discovered that she had a love

and a talent for computers. Erica plans to use her scholarship to obtain computer certifications and pursue a career in Information Technology.

## Partner Organizations with Fall '09 Scholars:

- Capital Area REACH
- Hope and a Home
- Latin American Youth Center
- Liberty's Promise
- Jubilee Jobs
- Year Up

## New Futures Holds Career Fair

New Futures is continually trying to expose young people to the many career options available to them through post-secondary education of all types. While there are many college fairs throughout the city, very little information is available to inform students about options for professional certifications and associate degree programs, which can often lead to promising careers in relatively short periods of time.

With the help of numerous community colleges and vocational schools in the area, New Futures held its second annual Career Fair in October. One hundred and fifty young people from our thirteen partner organizations attended, and were excited to learn about the many career options available to them.

NPR was on site to cover the event -- to hear their piece on the Career Fair and New Futures' unique approach to address all types of post-secondary education, go to:

<http://www.tinyurl.com/NFNPRstory>

Be sure to click through the photo gallery that goes with the story.



## New Scholarships Awarded (cont.)



Celia Franco came to the US on her own in 2005 with no knowledge of the English language. She enrolled in ESL and high school classes, while working many hours a week to support herself and send money back home. There were times when it looked like she wouldn't make it, when she had no money for food or transportation, and

had to depend on friends for housing. However, with her personal perseverance and help from Liberty's Promise, Celia graduated from high school. She now looks forward to using her New Futures scholarship to continue her ESL classes and to obtain an associate's degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography at Montgomery College.



Kenneth Lewis grew up in NE DC, and after falling into the "street life," he dropped out of high school. He later changed his ways, went on to get his GED, and joined the Army. In the Army, he discovered his passion for computers and networks, and after finishing his active duty, joined the Year Up program to learn more.

Kenneth is planning to use his New Futures scholarship to obtain computer certifications and pursue a career in the IT field.

Born into a dysfunctional family, Lauren Dixon and her sister were raised by her grandmother, a retired nurse. Lauren completed high school, but has been working in low wage jobs since graduation. With



the help of Jubilee Jobs, Lauren obtained a job at Ace Hardware, where she has received promotions and awards for perfect attendance. As part of their Move Up program, Jubilee Jobs has been working with Lauren on a plan for additional education and a better paying job.

Lauren will be using her New Futures scholarship to attend the Potomac Massage Therapy Institute and become a licensed massage therapist.

These are just a few of the new scholars you will be hearing about in the future and perhaps meeting at our upcoming benefit.

### New Futures BOARD

Mike Gould, Greg Banks, Susan Brinkerhoff, Steve Ettinger, Lara Hinz, Denise Jackson, Irene Klores, Romana Li, Sara Maddox, Earl McJett, Ilene Rosenthal, Laura Schuetz, Christina Steinman, Emily van Agtmael, Louise W. Wiener

### New Futures PARTNERS

Academy of Hope, Capital Area REACH, Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School, Community Club of the NY Avenue Presbyterian Church, Covenant House, For Love of Children, Hope and a Home, Jubilee Jobs, Latin American Youth Center, Liberty's Promise, New Community for Children, See Forever Foundation/Maya Angelou Public Charter School, Year Up

## Career Guide for DC Youth Published

As mentioned in the Career Fair story on page one, young people in DC have little access to information on the full array of careers available to them though post-secondary education. In the effort to increase college enrollment for DC youth, there is tremendous focus on 4-year institutions, but little exposure to targeted associate degrees and professional certifications, which can be an excellent option for many young people.

New Futures decided to fill this information gap by creating an extensive Career Guide, highlighting promising careers that can be obtained with less than four years of college. For each of the 27 featured careers, information is provided regarding the educational requirements, certification options, job environment, job outlook, and career growth opportunities. In addition, for each career, information is provided for several schools in the area which offer the related programs along with the general program costs and schedules. Each of the schools included in the guide was visited by our staff to ensure it provides a quality educational experience.

The guide has been applauded by our Community Partners, who have found it to be a much-needed resource when working with their young students. Recognizing the value of the document, New Futures is working to share it with a broader community of educators in the city, so that it can help other young people beyond those working with our partner organization to be better informed about their options after they complete high school or GED programs.

A copy of the Guide can be found on our web site, [www.newfuturesdc.org](http://www.newfuturesdc.org) (click on the Career Guide link in the upper right hand corner of the home page).

## SAVE THE DATE!!!

### New Futures Annual Benefit - April 16

New Futures is busy planning for its Annual Benefit, to be held on Friday, April 16th.

This year, New Futures will be presenting a Community Leadership Award to Katherine Bradley, President of CityBridge Foundation and a staunch supporter of quality education for *all* young people.

As always, our supporters and scholars will share a fun evening of food and conversation as they get to know one another. This event is a great opportunity to meet some of these amazing young people your dollars have helped to support.

Mark the date on your calendar, and watch for your invitation in the mail.