

## Twenty-One New Scholarships Awarded

New Futures continues to receive record numbers of applications each scholarship award period, and spring 2010 was no exception. We had the very tough decision of choosing those students we felt would benefit most from our scholarship funds and support out of many promising candidates. We continue to be impressed by these determined young people, and their positive and optimistic outlooks despite the challenges they have faced and overcome. We look forward to watching them grow and develop as they learn new skills and gain educational credentials, and put themselves on the path for a successful life for themselves and their families.

We'd like to take this opportunity to introduce you to a few of these new members of the New Futures "family."



Brittany graduated from high school, but did not pursue further education at that time. After several years of dead-end jobs, with two young children to support, Brittany knew she needed to find a promising career. She enrolled in the Year Up program, where she discovered the computer support field. She plans to use her New Futures scholarship to pursue 5 IT certifications through a comprehensive IT certificate program at George Mason University.



Jermaine grew up in low income housing, where he regularly witnessed drug use by those around him. With a lack of guidance from home, he didn't always make the best choices, and did not finish high school. Determined to do something with his life, he worked to obtain his GED at Maya Angelou

Academy. He enjoys drawing, sculpture, and carpentry, and is interested in studying architecture. He plans to use his scholarship to attend Morgan State University.



Shamia is a single mother of two, who currently works as a teacher's assistant at a child development center. She plans to use her New Futures scholarship to obtain an associate's degree in early childhood education from UDC so that she can obtain a higher skilled position in the child care field and possibly open her own childcare business someday.

## Partner Organizations With Spring Scholars:

- Academy of Hope
- Community Club of the NY Avenue Presbyterian Church
- For Love of Children
- Hope and a Home
- Latin American Youth Center
- Liberty's Promise
- See Forever / Maya Angelou PCS
- Year Up

## New Scholar Workshop Held

New Futures knows that the transition to post-secondary education can be challenging for anyone, and in particular for those who are coming from a GED program or a less than optimal high school environment. In an effort to help our scholars succeed at school, in 2009 New Futures began holding New Scholar Workshops for each new group of scholarship recipients.

The workshops have been well received by the students, and we have continually worked to enhance and fine tune the programs for optimal benefit to the students.

Our newest group of scholars participated in their workshop on June 28th. For this summer's workshop, we added a new component. As part of the program, a panel of successful New Futures scholars shared their experiences with the group, offered advice, and took questions. Having the opportunity to learn from others just like themselves proved to be a very positive and inspirational experience, and gave the scholars an enhanced sense of determination to achieve their own educational goals.



## New Scholarships Awarded (cont.)



After losing his parents and six siblings to the violence in his native Angola, Edgar escaped to the US. Traveling on his own in search of an asylum assistance program, while sleeping in bus stations and churches and scraping together money for ESL classes, he has been through a lot. With the help of an LAYC

housing program and the legal assistance program he finally found, he is getting his life on track in the US. He would like to continue his ESL studies and pursue a degree in political science. Edgar plans to begin his studies at UDC's Community College, with the funds from his New Futures scholarship.



Lucy's family came to the US from Viet Nam three years ago. She felt frustrated and out of place, having to wear used clothes and attend school in a language she did not know. However, as her English improved, so did her self esteem. She is now doing well, and wants to help others in need. She would like to work with

those with mental illness, and plans to study psychology. She will use her scholarship to begin her program of study at Montgomery College.



Nakoda was raised by her grandparents, who did their best to raise her despite living in an area filled with violence, death, and drugs. After some difficulties of her own, Nakoda was enrolled in a small charter school, where the individual attention was just what she needed. She went on to finish high school

with a 3.0 GPA her senior year. She found work at a bank, and worked to balance her job with the needs of her young son. After later being laid off, she searched for programs to help her establish a career. The Year Up program got her started in the computer field, and she now plans to obtain an associate's degree in information technology at NOVA.

## Spring Benefit a Great Success!

New Futures' annual spring benefit was a great success, with new funds raised for scholarships and a fun evening of food and community spirit. Our Community Leadership Award was presented to Katherine Bradley for her remarkable commitment to education and children in our community. NPR radio host/executive producer Diane Rehm was on hand to share in her friend's award, as were DC Councilmembers Jim Graham and Mary Cheh.

New Futures scholar Daniel Centeno shared his experience of attending culinary school with his New Futures scholarship and his current work at a local restaurant. Scholar Kameka Walters shared her experience of overcoming the challenges of taking a rough start at college and turning it into graduation with honors. Kameka now works in the social work field, and plans to pursue graduate school next year.

As always, our loyal supporters enjoyed meeting the many scholars present at the event and sharing stories. The coming together of all members of the community proved to be a positive experience for all.



## Three First-Time Grants Received!

The **CityBridge Foundation** has generously awarded \$15,000 to New Futures in support of our programs. Like New Futures, CityBridge supports quality education for all DC children. Having great admiration for the foundation and its programs, New Futures is proud to receive support from such a well respected organization.

The **Junior League of Washington** has awarded one of their two annual \$25,000 targeted grants to New Futures. For ten years, JLW has focused on the issue of literacy, as defined by one's ability to gain those skills necessary to function on the job and in society, achieve one's goals, and develop one's knowledge and potential. The Junior League was especially impressed with the *New Futures Career Guide*, and in addition to providing general support for the New Futures program, this grant will fund the 2010 update and distribution of this guide to promising careers requiring less than four years of college.

The **United Way of the National Capital Area** awarded New Futures a grant of \$12,866 as a part of their Community Impact Fund program. As a new member agency of the United Way, New Futures was thrilled to gain this level of first-time support.

### New Futures BOARD

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

### New Futures PARTNERS

Academy of Hope, Capital Area REACH, Carlos Rosario International PCS, 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 PCS, Year Up

