



## 2010-2011 Highlights

## Ms. Donna Stewart Earns TTP's Highest Award for Parent Leadership in 2011



Turning the Page's parent leadership initiatives help parents **identify their strengths, build social capital within their school communities and take action** for school improvement. This year TTP trained **50 parents** to become successful change makers.

*Ms. Donna Stewart (far right) poses with other parents at TTP's 2010 gala.*

Every year TTP recognizes a top parent leader with the Buffy Atkins Memorial Award. This year's winner: Ms. Donna Stewart. Ms. Stewart has worked tirelessly to bring meaningful change to M.C. Terrell Elementary school.

- In 2009, she **increased school pride by finding a new marquee** for M.C. Terrell Elementary, making dozens of phone calls to salvage one from a closed school nearby.
- After becoming PTA President in 2010, she **spearheaded multiple cross-community partnerships** in Ward 8.
- In response to needs identified by her school's report card, Ms. Stewart organized **both a Literacy and a Math Night for families** at her school, inspiring parents to ask for even more programs.

As a result of Turning the Page's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Parent Leadership Conference in March of 2011, Ms. Stewart led a parent collaboration effort that brought together parent leaders from across Ward 8, sharing strategies to overcome common barriers and challenges. Ms. Stewart's unwavering dedication and enthusiasm to her children, her school, and her community, is truly an inspiration.

Ms. Buffy Atkins, who passed away in March, 2007, was the mother of seven adopted children, including Tyler Atkins, an AmeriCorps\*VISTA member with TTP in 2003-2004. Ms. Atkins was a licensed foster parent who inspired many young children through her work in early childhood special education. This award recognizes parents as well AmeriCorps\*VISTA members.

## Community Nights Bring New Skills, Books & School Pride to D.C. Families in 4 Wards

Community Nights help parents instill a lifelong love of reading and learning in children, the foundation of academic success.

TTP hosted **56 Community Nights** this year, featuring parent workshops, read-alouds with children and author visits, reaching:

- 800 students
- 500 parents
- Seven public elementary schools in wards 5, 6, 7 and 8

Overall, Community Nights added **more than 3,000 books to participating families' home libraries.**



*Mrs. Eloise Greenfield shares a book families at King ES.*

In 2010-11, **14 acclaimed authors** visited schools. Author Eloise Greenfield writes about **strong, caring African American families** and communities like the ones from her childhood in DC. At TTP partner schools this year, she shared her book *The Great Migration: Journey to the North*. After, she discussed instilling a **love of reading** in students and autographed her books.

## Families Create Art & Memories in TTP Workshops



*The Johnson Family poses for a photo at Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary*

TTP's **Literacy Through Photography** program was designed using principles and methods from **Duke University's award-winning, research-based curricula**. The program pairs children with cameras to **document their own lives through photography and then write essays** based on the photographs, culminating in a public exhibit.

In 2010-11, as a supplement to its extensive classroom program, Turning the Page debuted Family Workshops to nearly **30 families in four schools**. Families created a photographic and written response to the question, **"What makes our family special?"** The pilot program received great feedback — for example, one parent said the program taught them "how to come together as a family."



*Handprints of Payne Elementary parents committed to their children's education.*

TTP supports the **power of teachers** to create **positive change** and **build important connections** between **parents and schools**.

In 2010-11, TTP's teacher leadership programs:

- Brought **more than 100 teachers** together for ongoing collaboration
- Strengthened **teachers' relationships with school parents** at seven schools across four wards.

## Teachers Design a Parent Pledge for Student Success

Colorful handprints line the wall at Payne Elementary — each from a parent who **pledged to support their children's success in school**. Parents agreed to check homework, read at home, bring students to school on time and attend events. The creative pledge campaign was designed by veteran teachers from **TTP's leadership-building initiatives**.

## Mission

Turning the Page links D.C. public schools, families and our community so that, together, we can ensure D.C. students receive valuable educational resources and a high-quality public education.



Turning the Page

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