



Dear Friends,

Community Family Life Services held a festive Anniversary Gala and Silent Auction, “Mind, Body and Spirit,” on April 24, 2010 at Georgetown University-O’Donovan Hall. More than 200 persons were in attendance to celebrate the positive life transformations of children, families, and adults in our programs. Our Mistress of Ceremonies, Courtney Robinson of ABC7/WJLA TV, led us through a very rich evening of testimonies and expressions of gratitude, live and silent auctions, and community Samba dancing.

Among the 70 silent and live auction items available--including weekend getaways, autographed Michael Jackson albums, Redskin tickets, and an assortment of gift baskets--the art created by the children of Community Family Life Services’ after-school program at Leckie Elementary School was an incredible highlight of the evening. The children felt especially valued and appreciated with their artistic contributions. Our clients shared personal testimonies of the uplifting and stabilizing impact Community Family Life Services and our honorees are having on their lives. I would like to second all the testimonies of our clients in acknowledging MERCK, Danya International, Greater DC Cares, DC Children and Youth Investment Trust, PhRMA and Mr. Horst von Oppenfeld for caring and making a difference.

Community Family Life Services’ staff, the CFLS Breakfast Group and the Gala Committee were exemplary in their service and hospitality to insure the evening’s success.

Community Family Life Services raised more than \$102,000 to advance its mission to provide individuals and families with the tools they need to become self-sufficient and we made many new friends and supporters.

On behalf of our clients I thank you so much for your continued support.

Best,
 Claudia Thorne
 Executive Director



The 2010 anniversary Gala celebrated the success and achievement of our clients and the entire CFLS community. This year we acknowledged the philanthropy of MERCK, Danya International, Greater DC Cares, DC Children and Youth Investment Trust, PhRMA and Mr. Horst von Oppenfeld. The celebration of all honorees was brought to life by personal testimonies given by CFLS clients and staff.

Gabriele Tibbs, a long time staff member of CFLS, spoke on behalf of Mr. Horst von Oppenfeld, a CFLS supporter extraordinaire. We are lucky to have the chance to work along side of Horst throughout his many years as a CFLS supporter, volunteer, advocate and friend.

CFLS clients Gregory Perkins, Keisha Coulibaly, Nina Bodrick and children from our afterschool program spoke about their CFLS experiences and honored MERCK, Danya International, Greater DC Cares, and DC Children and Youth Investment Trust. The following are excerpts from their testimonies:

“Since I have been here in the program, I have gained self-esteem – for myself and have become a very positive mother to my children.”

Keisha Couliby

“This month, I enrolled into school and am now working towards certification in Medical billing and coding. None of this would have happened without the help of some of the most dedicated, hardworking and caring people I have ever met at Community Family Life Services.”

Gregory Perkins

“During my time at CFLS’ after-school I experienced a great time on field trips, art class, even going outside to play.”

Afterschool Program Participant.

“My employment counselor helped me to get into UDC’s Nursing Assistant Training program. Which I am very proud of. She also helped me so I can have appropriate clothing for my part-time retail job. I feel safe in my apartment because of the resident case manager. I am more independent and am very thankful to CFLS. We go on a lot of family trips like Kings Dominion, Circus, and so on. They have a great mentor program. And I thank God that this agency is here helping young single homeless mothers get back on track.”

Nina Bodrick

These powerful testimonies were brilliantly summed up by a heartwarming video produced by PhRMA. Please click on the link below to watch the video and please pass it along to your friends, family, colleagues and neighbors.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2LLPEXHyrEY>

CFLS would like to thank every individual who helped make the 2010 Annual Gala and Auction a resounding success!

