



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Program News

page 1

- Word on the Street

page 2

- Grants & Partnerships

page 3

- Student Spotlight

page 3

- Get Involved!

page 4

- Announcements

page 4

Program News

Safety Concerns Set Transportation Service in Motion

As the winter months rolled around, the loss of daylight hours was becoming a major problem for many of our girls. By the end of the program at 6:00 in the evening, daylight was long gone and the night in full swing. Because most of our girls live close by the recreation center, they had been walking home by themselves after dismissal. Not only did this pose a safety threat, it was also beginning to affect attendance and enrollment as parents pulled their children out of program before nightfall.

In response to these concerns, Interstages worked with the families, police department, and business community to implement a private transportation service that takes each of the girls home after the program. Thanks to Capt. Harrington, who arranged a meeting with pre-screened drivers, and Friends of Hillcrest Recreation Center, which helps offset some costs, we can now ensure that all of our girls get home safely after the program.



Students Perform “Songs of Protest and Empowerment”

On the first Saturday in February, the girls of Interstages, Inc., gave a memorable performance, entitled Songs of Protest and Empowerment, at the Town Hall Education, Arts, & Recreation Campus (THEARC) in DC’s Ward 8. A celebration of black history month, the performance consisted of selected songs from the abolition, civil rights and labor movements. Following the performance was a small awards ceremony honoring the many achievements of our girls.

Special thanks go out to Ms. Grace Whitmire and her family for helping us set up for the performance. We couldn’t have done it without you!

Around Town

Have you ever wondered what a typical day is like for an Interstages student? We want every day to be a unique and exciting experience for our girls. One of the ways that we achieve our goal is by incorporating interactive field trips into the program. Here are just a few of the places that we have been so far this year:

- Anacostia Community Museum — “Banding Together” exhibit
- Anacostia Gallery — local artwork
- Kennedy Center — MLK Tribute Concert
- THEARC — The Nutcracker
- Burke SHS — Young Women’s Drumming Empowerment Project



Above, Aaronha, Make’la, Shakiera, and Shauntice pose before a DC City Council hearing

Word on the Street

News of Interstages' success is spreading like wildfire! For such a young organization, we are honored to be receiving so much recognition and are excited about all the growth opportunities coming our way. Want to read more about our program? Check us out in the following publications and websites:

East of the River Article

We are proud to announce that our organization was featured in the nonprofit profile of the January 2007 issue of *East of the River*. The article, written by Gabriel Pacyniak, is a narrative of his experience spending a day with Interstages in December.

East of the River is a free monthly newspaper that covers everything from entertainment to economic development in the areas east of the Anacostia River. Read the online version of the Interstages feature at:

<http://www.capitalcommunitynews.com>



Touch DC

Created to help the local nonprofit community increase their organizational capacity, Touch DC is an online gathering place for nonprofits, donors, and volunteers. By providing transparency to the region's nonprofit sector, they help individual donors find out about the great work that nonprofits are doing in the community. They also provide a safe and convenient way to donate funds online and find local volunteer opportunities.

For the next year, Interstages will be highlighted as a feature nonprofit on the Touch DC website. Five organizations are selected for each of the eleven topic areas; Interstages can be found in the youth development category. The website features a short profile of each organization and the option of making an online donation. To view Interstages' profile, visit Touch DC online at :

http://www.touchdc.org/issues/youth_dev/

Catalogue for Philanthropy

Interstages is also a featured nonprofit organization in the 2006-2007 edition of the Catalogue for Philanthropy. Inclusion in the Catalogue is regarded as a stamp of approval in the philanthropic community, so we consider this one of our biggest honors. Distributed by mail to over 30,000 individuals and families in Greater Washington, the Catalogue provides a vehicle for reaching a much larger audience than would be possible otherwise. Published in November, the Catalogue for Philanthropy is already attracting generous contributions from individuals, businesses, and family foundations.

Since 2003, the Catalogue has been raising the public awareness of philanthropy and facilitating satisfying relationships between donors and recipients. To find out more, order a free copy of the Catalogue, or to view the Catalogue online, visit:

<http://www.catalogueforphilanthropy.org>



Grants & Partnerships

Rainmakers Giving Circle



**Washington Area
Women's Foundation**

Launched in 2003, Rainmakers Giving Circle's mission is to improve the lives of young women in the Greater Washington Metropolitan Area by applying combined resources to support their empowerment, foster their self-esteem and achieve their full potential. An extension of the Washington Area Women's Foundation, they also provide grants to support programs for young women.

Interstages is delighted to announce that we received our largest grant to date from the Rainmakers Giving Circle in December of 2006. The grant will be used to help us expand the program and increase our capacity to serve 18 girls!

Thompson Hine Women's Initiative

With a mission to be the pacesetter in the legal community and in the advancement and promotion of all professional women, Thompson Hine launched their Spotlight on Women initiative in 2006. As part of their initiative, Thompson Hine selected Interstages as an ongoing partner in their effort to support the advancement of young women.

In December, Thompson Hine awarded Interstages a grant to cover liability insurance costs and highlighted Interstages in a colorful ad in the *Legal Times*. The firm also hosted an Interstages information breakfast for Thompson Hine employees, raising awareness of Interstages programs and garnering donations of cash and school supplies. We are excited about the future of this partnership and look forward to working with Thompson Hine...stay tuned for news of an Interstages-Thompson Hine career event!



Hungry For Music

Hungry For Music is a grassroots volunteer-driven charity organization with a nationwide and international reach. It exists to inspire children by bringing positive musical and creative experiences into their lives. Through the donation of musical instruments, concerts, and workshops, they have touched the lives of thousands of people.

Hungry for Music has touched the lives of our Interstages girls by donating a digital piano to the program. The keyboard, which has been on our wish list for months, helps us to prepare for performances and give the girls individual music lessons. Thank you, Hungry for Music!



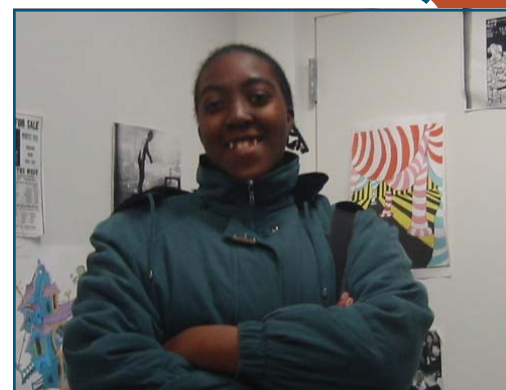
Spotlight on Sarah

Sarah is an 8th-grader who joined Interstages in September. She has the unique experience of being home-schooled. Here's what Sarah has to say:

Favorite Interstages Activity: Academic Focus Time — because she likes practicing math!

Academic Goal for Spring 2007: Changing among fractions, decimals, and percentages

Outside Activities: Sarah likes to play video games, but she wishes she could ride horses and go out more.



One thing Sarah wants you to know: "I'm shy."

Get Involved!



Want to help, but don't have much money? Relax, there are many ways for you to support Interstages without hurting your wallet! Here are some ways that you can get involved:

Search for a Cause



GoodSearch is a search engine which donates 50 percent of its revenue to the charities and schools designated by its users. It's a simple and compelling concept.

- Use GoodSearch exactly as you would any other search engine.
- The money GoodSearch donates to Interstages comes from its advertisers — the users and the organizations do not spend a dime!

To support Interstages, simply click on the following link <http://www.goodsearch.com/> and enter "Interstages" as the name of the organization that you wish to support. From that point on, you will trigger a small donation every time you search! It's a quick, easy, and inexpensive way to support the girls of Interstages!

We hope you'll use GoodSearch as your main search engine from now on AND tell your friends, family and co-workers so they, too, can start using GoodSearch to support a good cause. Spread the word!

12 Simple Things You Can Do...

Make 2007 your year to give back to DC youth! Every month, there is a small step that you can take to impact our girls in a big way.

February: Spread LOVE

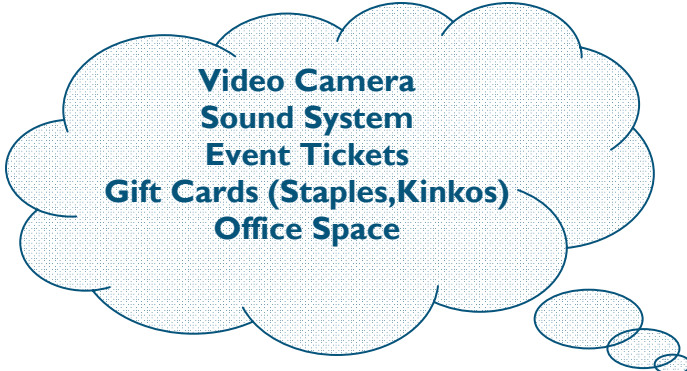
Volunteer as a weekly academic tutor or music lesson teacher. Contact Rosemary Ndubizu at rosemary.ndubizu@interstages.org.

March: Provide Administrative Support

Interstages' new database will be taking shape in March. We'll need your help entering and maintaining our data.

Grant a Wish

Here are a few things on our wish list that you may be able to provide:



Video Camera
Sound System
Event Tickets
Gift Cards (Staples, Kinkos)
Office Space

Announcements

Interstages is Hiring!

- Music Specialist—Full-time position available immediately. Direct youth work, curriculum development, and community outreach.
- Volunteer Management Intern—8-week summer internship for a motivated college student. Application deadline: March 30.

Special Thanks

We would like to give a special thanks to our interns Anna Ernst and Kameko Jacobs, first-year students at Oberlin College. While interning with us for the month of January, Ernst and Jacobs worked on curriculum development and were instrumental in helping to move our organization forward.