

So, just how creative *are* you? We're finding out that our supporters indeed comprise a creative and dedicated bunch. This edition of our newsletter will shine a spotlight on some fun and unique ways that we hope will inspire you to unearth your creative side in support of DC youth...as well as answering this question: what can music, chiropractic, Halloween, church, and information technology have in common?

Halloween open house brunch

Board member Candace Fitch hosted a scrumptious Sunday brunch over Halloween weekend. A fun group met at her apartment for made-from-scratch pumpkin bread (among other tasty treats) and held truly engaging discussion ranging from the struggles of adolescence to the history of hiphop—and of course sharing the mission of Interstages with some new supporters.

CommUnity on the Hill

Carol Hopson, DC, may be the most creative of our supporters so far—she managed to combine chiropractic, church, and music for a double-whammy Interstages opportunity! How, you ask?

Dr. Hopson, a member of CommUnity on the Hill, asked Noel and Herb to perform at Sunday service on November 6. To Noel's piano accompaniment, Herb brought the house down with "This Little Light O'Mine" and "Witness." The CommUnity then offered to take up a Red Basket donation for us the following week. Thanks, CommUnity on the Hill!

On top of the CommUnity's group generosity, Dr. Hopson offered members yet another opportunity to support Interstages. She held a member appreciation day at her 2440 M Street clinic, offering free chiropractic adjustments and asking for additional donations to Interstages—thus bringing together music, chiropractic, and church in an unlikely but highly successful series of events.

Looking for a chiropractor to melt away your holiday stress? Dr. Hopson may be contacted at 202-321-6221.

Peyton McCall sponsors holiday party

Saturday, December 3 will be a big night for Interstages, as our business partner, Peyton McCall, sponsors our holiday fundraiser. Hosted by Herb and Sherrie Scott, revelers will enjoy good food and fun, as well as opportunities to learn about Interstages and add their pledge card ornaments to the beautiful tree.

So, just how creative *are* you?

Really, you don't have to be all that creative to support Interstages' work. What we really need is your enthusiasm in providing us with resources, whether that includes your time, money, in-kind donations, or even just spreading the word about the newest and most exciting afterschool program to hit the District. There are so many ways to help—if you have your own ideas, we want to hear them. If not, just ask! We would love to match you with an opportunity that suits your personality, interests, and skills.

Contact us for more information:

**454 M St. NW, #2, Washington, DC 20001-4660 • t: 202-824-0740 • f: 202-315-3632
www.interstages.org • info@interstages.org**

Interstages' Executive/Academic Director Accepted to Strengthening Partners Initiative

Interstages is honored to announce that Noel Tieszen, Co-founder and Executive/Academic Director, has been accepted to the 2005-2006 Strengthening Partners Initiative, sponsored by the DC government's Office of Partnerships and Grants Development. This exciting initiative provides promising leaders of innovative non-profit organizations with executive coaching and mentoring and will help Noel move Interstages from a nascent organization through new levels of growth and development. We're excited to see what comes of this incredible opportunity.

Interstages News of Note

Like our new look?

Thanks to a grant from the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities/National Endowment of the Arts, we have a new logo! We hope you like our new look, designed by Jeanette Nelson of JJ Nelson Designs. Our full identity suite is on its way and will be fully incorporated into our newsletter, brochures, website, etc. If you would like to help with web design or marketing, we need you! Please contact Noel at Noel.Tieszen@interstages.org or 202-824-0740.

Music supporting literacy

On December 14, Interstages will facilitate a workshop with 6th-graders at Shepherd Elementary School. Herb and Noel will visit the students' library class during their poetry unit, helping to bring relevance to poetry through links to hip-hop lyrics and enhancing the literacy curriculum of the school. Supporting public schools in DC is a key element of Interstages' goals, and we hope that this experience will enhance learning for the students while supporting the curriculum their library teacher has in place. Check out our next newsletter for results of this experience!

Upcoming Events:

- Holiday fundraiser, sponsored by Peyton McCall, Dec. 3.
- Hip-hop, poetry, and literacy workshop, Shepherd Elementary, Dec. 14.

So, when are you starting, anyway?

Many supporters have understandably asked us, "so, when are you starting this thing?" Yes, it seems like a long time that we've been talking and planning, and there have been some bumps in the road. Most notably, our pending relationship with the Department of Parks and Recreation was put on hold due to significant changes in their staffing. However, we have a letter of support from DPR Director Kimberly Flowers and expect to partner with DPR for rent-free program space in the very near future (hopefully coinciding with the beginning of the spring semester). In the meantime, we've worked hard to build a strong foundation for a quality, sustainable program...so keep holding your breath! Interstages is on its way!

Special tax incentives until December 31, 2005

It has come to our attention that special tax incentives may be available to those who donate financially by December 31 of this year. Due to the natural disasters of recent months, federal law has made temporary tax-deduction adjustments to motivate people to give—both to support survivors of Katrina and to assure that other charitable organizations can maintain their revenues in the face of competing needs. Talk to your tax advisor or visit <http://www.pgcalc.com/news/reliefbill.htm> for more information.

Interstages is hiring!

We are in search of a Teaching Associate to work 20 hours per week, beginning sometime around the end of January. If you or anyone you know might be interested, please contact Noel for a full job description.

Not feeling creative? You can still make an old-fashioned donation:

(Interstages is a non-profit charity as determined by IRS section 501(c)(3). All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law. A receipt for your donation will be provided for tax purposes. Thank you!)

- **By Mail:** Write a check payable to “Interstages, Inc.” and mail it to 454 M St. NW, #2, Washington, DC 20001.
- **Online:** Log onto www.interstages.org and click on “donate now.” JustGive.org will process your credit card donation.
- **Matching Gifts:** Many employers offer to match charitable donations made by their employees. Usually, all it takes is filling out a quick form and submitting it with your gift. Ask your human resources department about how you can double the impact of your gift through a match from your employer!
- **Host a House Party:** See our website for more information.
- **Donate in-kind:** Check out our wish list below, or contact us if there are additional items you can supply.
- **Other ideas?** We’d be glad to listen!

Wish List: (Contact us with specifics if you can provide any of these items. We will give you a receipt.)

Services: Grant writing, fundraising, printing, web design, media strategy

Office Supplies: File folders, 9”x 12” mailers, chart paper, colored copy paper

School Supplies: Binder dividers/sheet protectors, loose-leaf, pencils/pens, art supplies, pencil pouches

Instruments: Piano, percussion instruments (hand drums, claves, tambourines, etc.)

Other: Office space, Staples or Kinko’s gift cards, digital camera (still and/or video)

Vision becoming Reality...Watch us grow!

If you would like to pledge a donation, add your name to our mailing list, or simply inquire about our organization, feel free to contact us directly or fill out the form below. We always welcome your input!

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Pledge Amount: \$ _____ Online By Mail

One-Time **OR** Monthly/Quarterly Installments of \$ _____

Employer (for matching gifts): _____

Email (to be added to our mailing list): _____

Suggestions/comments/interests/ideas/information you’d like to share:

Thank you for supporting DC youth!