



# THE CORNERSTONE PILLAR



On behalf of the team in the Institutional Advancement Office at Cornerstone, I am proud to introduce you to *The Cornerstone Pillar*, a quarterly, electronic newsletter for our broad and beloved community of partners and friends who support Cornerstone Schools.

*The Cornerstone Pillar* will introduce you to others in our community: our partners, friends, staff, alumni, students, and parents. The newsletter will also share with you some school projects completed by Cornerstone students of various grades and campuses. In this edition you will find student artwork, a poem from a Redford student, and an account of a Nevada 8th grade student's experience with the Northwood University Collaborative.

We hope you enjoy *The Cornerstone Pillar* and welcome any comments you have regarding the contents of this newsletter.

May God Bless You –

Hope Redmond  
Vice President, Institutional Advancement

*Changing Detroit,  
One Child at a Time.*



Nevada 5th grader Amber Ryans with her Partner, Danielle Pepin.

## Providing Scholarships Through Events

Thank you for supporting the 3rd Annual Cornerstone Night at the Palace on March 20th. 1500+ members of the Cornerstone community attended the game. The "Cornerstone Pistons Scholar" program rewarded students who achieved a 3.0 GPA and displayed excellence in citizenship, attendance and extracurricular activities. Thank you to all who helped to raise money for scholarships.

We have a busy summer ahead and we invite you to join us! Mark your calendars for our *Be A Tiger For Kids* event on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Join the Cornerstone Community in support of our children. The private pre-game "Rock-N-Roar" picnic, hosted by Pepsi, kicks off the festivities at 4:30. There will be games, face painting, food and fun for all. Kids

can run the bases after the game. We hope you will join us and bring a friend or two!

If you are a golfer, we have an array of golf events planned. See the "Upcoming Events" box below for the events and dates. Corporate sponsorship opportunities are available. Please call Pat Posch at 313-892-1860 ext. 212 for more information.

The monies raised from these events generate much-needed scholarships for many of our families. Join us this summer at one or more of these events that will help to ensure the viability of our schools for our students. Please invite others you know who are also interested in changing the life of a child through an excellent education.

### Upcoming Events:

7th Annual Eighth Grade Graduation Luncheon	June 1
Redford Partner Morning	June 9
Grove Partner Morning	June 10
Nevada Partner Morning	June 12
Nevada & Redford 8th Grade Graduation	June 17
3rd Annual Vinnie Johnson Golf Invitational	July 13
5th Annual Ford Purchasing Golf Outing	July 20
4th Annual Be A Tiger For Kids	August 18
Henkel Fore A Cause Golf Outing	August 31
Turning Point Invitational	September 14
Cornerstone Women for Scholarship 2nd Annual Golf Invitational	September 21



### Be A Tiger For Kids

at Comerica Park

August 18, 2009

[Click here for more details!](#)

*One of the things I keep learning is  
that the secret of being happy is  
doing things for other people.*

*~ Dick Gregory*

2nd Quarter, 2009

## Finding Unique Ways to Give - Jay & Carol Slavsky



Jay Slavsky with his partner, Richard Anderson.

When preparing for their upcoming wedding celebration in the summer of 2007, Carol and Jay Slavsky decided that wedding gifts, although appreciated, were not needed as they had both been fortunate in life. They decided to ask for donations, in lieu of gifts, to help others in need.

“Both Carol and I believe in paying it forward and in giving back to the community. It is important for those who can give to help others to have a better life”, says Jay. Jay first learned of Cornerstone’s mission through friend, colleague and Cornerstone Partner, Dick Beadle in 2007. For Carol and Jay, Cornerstone was the logical choice. “Jay and I believe in the

power of a value-based education. Thanks to Dick Beadle, both Jay and I were made aware of the terrific need in Detroit for a value-based education. There are some very deserving children in Detroit whose lives will be changed because of the education they will receive at Cornerstone. We wanted to help the children at Cornerstone and thought this was one way we could do so”, says Carol.

Jay and Carol worked out the logistics with Cornerstone Partner Advisor David Bologna and introduced more than 125 family members and friends to Cornerstone’s mission at their wedding celebration in Bay Harbor, Michigan. The invitation advised guests of the option to donate to Cornerstone in honor of their union as a creative alternative to gift-giving. The invitation also provided information about how they

could learn more about the mission and get involved. As the evening came to a close, Dick Beadle took the stage and passionately spoke about Cornerstone and the Be A Tiger For Kids event. The group was inspired. This creative alternative to gift giving raised more than \$4,000 for the Cornerstone Scholarship Fund. Many of those who gave in honor of Carol and Jay’s union in 2007 continue to support Cornerstone today.

For information about how you can create unique donation opportunities to benefit Cornerstone students, contact your Partner Advisor, or call the Institutional Advancement Office at 313-892-1860 ext. 212.



Carol Slavsky with her partner, Danay Lofton-Taylor

## Learning “Real World” Economics With Northwood University

Every week, Northwood University economics professor Brennan Brown can be found teaching classes at Cornerstone. However, this is not a college extension course. Rather, it is part of a collaboration between Northwood University and Cornerstone to teach the principals of economics to Cornerstone 8th Graders.

8th Grader Lashay Edwards explains it best: “Having Mr. Brown’s class has been a very fun experience this year. I have learned so much about business, companies, and what our parents go through as consumers. For example, we’ve learned about how businesses succeed because of competition and

how they appeal and draw in consumers. I also like the fact that I am learning about things that students in high school and college learn about too. I feel the best thing about Mr. Brown’s class has been how he explains and presents the material. He likes to poke fun at himself and of course we are more than willing to help him do it. I enjoy Mr. Brown’s class because I know I’m going in there to learn something and have fun at the same time.”

This “real world” approach to economics education stresses the importance of saving money, private property, and the importance of flexible wages and prices.



8th graders at Cornerstone's Nevada campus with their Economics instructor, Brennan Brown, of Northwood University.



**Picasso Project**  
~ De'Jhah McClung  
6th Grade - Nevada Middle School

**Van Gogh Project**  
~ Dallas Sims  
Kindergarten - Grove Campus



To view more student artwork, visit our gallery at:  
**CornerstoneSchools.org**

## Helping Build Cornerstone Relationships - Mona Kidder



If you've ever attended a Partner Morning, chances are very good that you've met Mona Kidder, Cornerstone's Facilitator of Culture & Fellowship Development. Mona's position is dedicated to nurturing and strengthening Cornerstone's Christ-

Centered Culture, as well as providing opportunities for Cornerstone employees to meet in fellowship. Chief among her many responsibilities are the facilitation of Partner Morning, the annual employee retreat, and Cornerstone's unique *Strands of Three*.

Mona has worn many hats in her nine years

at Cornerstone, and Partner Mornings have always been at the heart of her role. Partner Mornings are an opportunity for Partners to spend the morning, four times per year, with the student they sponsor. Heading up these mornings is an excellent fit for Mona, because helping others build relationships is one of her great strengths. She truly enjoys watching relationships between Partners and students grow over time.

Mona also applies her relationship-building talents when planning Cornerstone's annual employee retreat, held each fall. Cornerstone's entire staff meets for two days of community-building and fellowship. The experience allows staff from the entire organization to interact, to rest and be restored through worship, group activities, prayer

and discussion.

The retreat also kicks off the introduction of the topics to be discussed in Cornerstone's *Strands of Three* for the upcoming school year. *Strands of Three* puts into practice Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. Each employee is asked to join a group consisting of three members who meet weekly to pray together and grow in fellowship.

Mona's zest for life and dedication to the success of Cornerstone are evident in her personal philosophy: "To build your dreams and live your life authentically, you must have a kind heart, be honest, listen to what people are saying (especially children and seniors), and remember that nothing is possible without putting God first."

## A Cornerstone Alumnus Investing in Detroit's Future - Desmond Crenshaw



Desmond Crenshaw came to Cornerstone in 1994 when he was in the 7th grade. His mother knew Desmond was on a fast track to destruction. He was involved in a gang and not making good choices. Crenshaw credits

his mother's tenacity and the Cornerstone environment with helping him to see that he could use his brains and his influence to impact the world in a positive way.

After Cornerstone, Desmond attended University of Detroit Jesuit high school and went on to Central Michigan University. Professionally, Desmond has made a niche for himself in the city as an urban developer, buying and rehabilitating residential and commercial properties, which he then sells or leases. He is passionate about the

city of Detroit and the comeback that he sees as inevitable. He is also pursuing his passion for acting. He recognizes the film industry as an integral part of revitalizing the city.

Cornerstone means a lot to Desmond. He is currently a partner, giving back what he received as a young man. "Partner Mornings were special to me because I couldn't believe a person would invest that kind of time and money in my education. The partners have no idea what they mean to these students. ... If a person would like to change a life and in the process, change the city for the better, then they should get involved in Cornerstone. This school turned a young lost man into an educated entrepreneur who is helping to rebuild the city. We need these kids, and they need us."

### A Different \_\_\_\_\_ (Fill in the blank)

People Change  
We discover great things  
We're sage about choices  
Things are different.  
A different me,  
A different world,  
A different state of mind.  
Change is different  
And it's good  
A different everything is good,  
In mind.

~ Elisha Holmes  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade - Redford Campus  
Free Verse

### Our Mission

Our broad and beloved community of friends will make possible an excellent education for children so as to prepare them for life and leadership. On this journey we will seek to follow Jesus as a sure path to a fulfilling life and servant leadership.



### Comments or questions about the newsletter? Please contact:

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For all other questions, please call our Institutional Advancement office at: 313-892-1860 ext. 212 or visit our website:

**CornerstoneSchools.org**