

# the Word on the House

OCTOBER 2000

## FIRST HOUSE CD IS RELEASED! MORE ON THE WAY!

"I cannot believe I have my own CD." "This is a dream come true." "No way I could afford to do anything like this on my own." These are just a few of the comments from the House members who composed and produced a CD featuring their own original rap music at the close of the last school year.

The House's state-of-the-art sound studio is under the direction of (JT Thompson) who,



prior to joining the House staff, had his own music production company involving youth. He comes from a musical family and vividly recalls watching and listening to his father's band rehearsals while growing up. His father played for many notables, including James Brown and Wilson Pickett, so JT caught the music bug early in life. He was attracted to the House because of the opportunity to minister to kids, as well as continue his passion for music.

JT says the studio is a major draw with about 25 kids involved in the first CD and easily another 35 who now want to participate after observing the original project. "We get them here through the music and then we are able to minister to them," states JT. "They are not permitted to just walk up and



rap. Participation in Bible study and discipleship at the House is a requirement, and they have to observe my rules on conduct and language. Believe me, they know why they are here," he adds.

The next project is an ambitious one. They are working on a three-CD album which will fea-

ture Praise and Worship, Contemporary Hip Hop, and original readings from the House Poetry Club. JT is teaching all facets of real world music production including recording skills, engineering, distribution, promotion, securing air time, and financial management. The mock House recording company will go through all of this and hopes to earn a profit to help finance the next endeavor.

JT tells us, "The House not only ministers to the kids but does a lot for the staff, too. Largely as a result of hanging around Steve Fitzhugh and learning what it means to be saved, I celebrated a new birthday on July 17, 2000." Praise God! Remember to pray for JT and the kids as they continue to learn and grow. 🏠

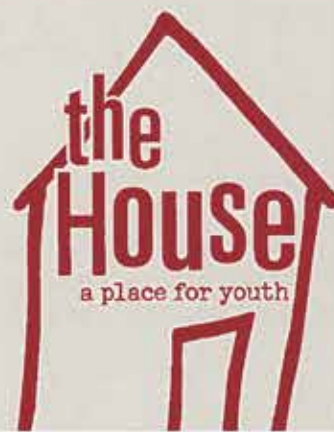
## Did you see us in the Post?



The September 21 issue of the Washington Post carried an article on The House with the following headline--Afternoon Hangout is a Spiritual Home. A copy of the full article is enclosed. Please share it with a friend who is not familiar with the ministry.

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## CONTACTING THE HOUSE



### THE HOUSE

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An Affiliate of Faith in the Family International



## THANKS TO ALL SUPPORTERS

We are grateful to everyone who has supported The House with their financial gifts and volunteer time. Without you the ministry could not succeed as it has since inception.

### Financial supporters:

Expect a personal phone call in November during which a House representative will give you a brief update and ask you to consider your continuing participation. Please pray about your involvement in this expanding ministry, both year-end giving and consideration for the coming year.

### Current and prospective volunteers:

You will be contacted before year's end regarding volunteer needs and where you may fit. For immediate information on volunteering, email Tina Henderson (SECF representative) at SECF3140@aol.com or Kim Ferguson (McLean Bible Church representative) at KFerguson@asmr.com.

We have an immediate need for volunteers to do administrative tasks such as newsletter preparation, current and prospective donor contact, proposal writing, and maintaining a visual and written history of the House. If you are able to help, email Dick Schacht at RHSchacht@aol.com. 🏠

## THE HOUSE IS SELECTED AS SITE FOR POWERUP PROGRAM

JT Musgrove, leader of the House Academics area, announced that the House will soon have an expanded and completely refurbished computer room for implementation of the nationally recognized PowerUP program.

PowerUP is the leading national organization dedicated to helping youth succeed in the digital age. PowerUP is funded by the Case Foundation to provide technology and Internet

access to children in communities which otherwise would not have that advantage.



PowerUP brings low to no cost technical resources together in the form of partnerships to meet the "Five Promises" identified by America's Promise – The Alliance for Youth as instrumental to positive youth development.

The "Five Promises" are caring adults, safe places, a healthy start, marketable skills and opportunities to serve.



PowerUP partners provide technology, funding, trained personnel, innovative interactive programming, in-kind support and other resources to bridge the digital divide. PowerUP's partners include: America's Promise; the Case Foundation; the Waitt Family Foundation; AOL, Inc./The AOL Foundation; Time Warner Cable; Cisco, Hewlett Packard; the Corporation for National Service/AmeriCorp \*VISTA; Boys & Girls Clubs of America; YMCA of the USA; Communities in Schools; National Urban League; PowerBar, Inc.; Save the Children; Sun Microsystems; HUD; and the U.S. Department of Education.

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## What happened this summer? And what about plans for the fall?

Since most of the youth worked during normal House hours during the summer, we tried to provide a series of special events, primarily in the evenings, to build unity and offer the opportunity for sharing. Events included skating, bowling, a special July 4th party, and a sleep over. Steve Fitzhugh led a series of topical studies in subjects such as abstinence and anger with Biblical application.

For the fall, our intent is to do fewer things than we scheduled after opening the House last school year. Our initial zeal for reaching the kids was simply larger than our start-up capa-

bility. Therefore, we plan to do fewer things well as we begin the new school year.

We will continue to focus programs around the 3 A's (Arts, Academics, Athletics with Spiritual emphasis).

**ARTS:** Create and produce CDs. Continue Poetry Club.

**ACADEMICS:** Initiate PowerUP training. Begin literacy tutoring.

**ATHLETICS:** Weight training. Start basketball team.

**SPIRITUAL:** Individual discipling. Group Bible studies. Begin Tuesday Night Club at Kramer Junior High, an evening of fun, music, and

worship open to all high schoolers in the community.

Simply put, we hope to transform lives through a safe house environment where Anacostia kids enjoy a variety of Christian based fellowship and learning opportunities. 🏠



## Over Sixty Golfers Enjoy First Annual House Golf Tournament

The first House golf tournament was held October 13 at Bretton Woods Golf Club in Germantown, Maryland. All participants enjoyed a pre-round lunch, played 18 holes




with a scramble format, and ended the day with light refreshments and awards. The team of Rickey Bolden, Dick

Schacht, Steve Cloud, and Ken Unzicker took first place team honors. Other individual awards were made for longest drive, straightest drive, and closest to the pin. We were blessed with beautiful weather and all had a great time.

Although the final donation total was not available at press time, the event will produce significant new funding for The House. In addition, Rickey



Bolden had the opportunity to review the ministry with those new to The House. We plan to make this an annual event, so be sure to look for next year's date. We hope to see you then! 

## EXPANSION IS COMING


The House is bursting at the seams, and the doors have been open for less than a year. About 100 Anacostia High students are registered, and we estimate there are another 100 who would like to join us when more space is available. And we have not even touched Kramer Junior High across the street. The officials at Kramer have generously allowed us to use school facilities for certain occasions which is a big help. However, we need additional space of our own.

We have been praying about this, and God is so faithful! One very active supporter and donor has generously purchased the burned out corner property and is making that available to the House. We have also reached agreement to purchase the adjacent property on the other side of the present House location. Most of the purchase price is covered by



another sizable gift.

Closing on that site will occur just as soon as God provides the remaining necessary funds.

Much has to be accomplished: an architectural plan for the three sites, a renovation plan, and determining additional staffing needs. It is still too early to report what the expansion will look like and when it will be finished. However, we do know that more young lives will soon be transformed through the love of Jesus. Stay tuned. Good news is on the way! 



## PRAISE

We give praise that our House students are back for a new year.

Thanks for a staff that is so dedicated to transforming young lives in Anacostia.

Thanks for all the faithful donors and volunteers that have permitted the ministry to grow as fast as it has.

Praise for what God is doing with our expansion and the exciting PowerUP program.

Thanks for blessing us with a person who has arranged to supply food needs.

## PRAYER

Please pray for a real harvest of hearts as we begin the new school year.

For wisdom and stability among staff as we develop and carry out the fall program. That we find God's people to fill open staff positions.

For receipt of financial resources necessary to complete the purchase and renovation of expansion properties.

For patience and understanding among volunteers as we live through the start-up period and for staff wisdom in helping to put to work the amazing gifts of current and new volunteers.

## STAFF UPDATE

Our program director, Jean Porter, elected to leave us for personal reasons and because she believed God was calling her to another career direction. Jean helped build a tremendous foundation during the few months the House has been open, and we wish her Godspeed in whatever she chooses to do. A special thanks, Jean.



We are pleased to report that **Linnea Capshaw**, who has been a vital part of the House ministry since day one, has agreed to serve as part-time interim Executive Director until the search for a new, full-time Director is complete.

Linnea operates her own consulting business, Alpha Health Partners, where she specializes in organization and leadership development for the healthcare industry as well as churches and parachurch organizations.

She has worked extensively with Rickey Bolden and Southeast Christian Fellowship Church on leadership development and discipleship. We are excited about the gifts Linnea brings to this assignment, and we look forward to learning who God is preparing to assume the permanent director position.



Our most recent staff addition is **Eric Kellum**, who recently signed on as Youth Pastor. Eric will oversee all the spiritual programs of the House ministry and join other staff in building relationships with the youth. His responsibilities include development of

a Tuesday Night Club at Kramer Middle School, daily discipleship classes, and the integration of spiritual emphasis into the athletic, arts, and academics (3 A's) programs.

Eric comes to us with extensive experience in urban youth ministry. He founded and directed an organization that brings Christ-centered, live entertainment and contemporary gospel radio to urban youth and young adults. He also served as youth leader in a number of churches and Christian organizations. We are indeed pleased to welcome Eric and look forward to the positive impact he brings to the lives of Anacostia young people. 🏠

## POWERUP PROGRAM continued from page 2

PowerUP has contributed funds and services to The House for the purchase and installation of 10 new computers with the possibility of expanding this number as we get more space. This gift fits in beautifully with the computer learning goals previously established as part of The House academic program.

Through a separate foundation grant, funds are available to hire an instructor who will be trained in the technical skills and structured learning precepts used at each PowerUP site. These precepts which come from America's Promise, a national youth organization, are based on what research shows is necessary to give inner city children the preparation necessary for a successful start.

We are excited about this program and the collaborative

opportunity God has provided which will build on current activity. To date JT and two of the kids have collected, repaired and distributed nearly 70 computers to needy families and organizations. Approximately sixty kids have taken advantage of the existing computer lab. JT tells us, "The spiritual side is part of our computer training. Earlier this year they attended a special play, and thirty kids went forward in an altar call to accept Christ." JT looks forward to continue helping to develop mind and spirit among the Anacostia kids who come to the House. 🏠



Please prayerfully consider The House in your year-end giving.

Send any gift to:

**The House** PO Box 2753 Springfield, VA 22152

We deeply appreciate your prayers and gifts.