We dedicate this newsletter to our January - June 2010 sponsors by highlighting their work and service.

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ACCOLADES TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADS

Congratulations to our 16 seniors who graduated from high school on June 11, 2010. Many of our students have overcome severe obstacles to meet their academic goals. We are pleased and humbled that our graduation rate is again close to 100%.

House student Jordan is the Valedictorian at Anacostia High School and has earned a full college scholarship. Eight other House graduates received awards from the faculty at Anacostia for academics and community service.

Thirteen of our high school seniors have been accepted to college. In addition to local colleges, our students will be attending schools in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Texas, and West Virginia. They join the seventeen former House students currently enrolled in college. For all these young people, their experience at The House and their encounter with Christ has empowered them to go beyond expectations.

High School Graduates
Avion, Teyona, Latasha, & Ariana

The House Baptism

At least twice each school year we provide an opportunity for House students who have made a confession of faith in Jesus Christ to make a public demonstration of faith. This spring eight candidates completed a baptism class and were baptized at Southeast Christian Fellowship Church.

The House Youth Pastor, Warren Smith baptized each student who shared their conversion experience. The Family of Faith Choir led in singing and House students filled the sanctuary to support their classmates in this extraordinary event.

Anita Salley, an intern at The House from Akron, Ohio, said after the event, “I have never seen students celebrate and support each other at a baptism.” Life change at The House is a choice for life over death and a second chance at hope and destiny.

Unfortunately, students in underserved communities like Anacostia are rarely celebrated. It is our privilege to applaud and recognize these students.

First Annual Congressional Reception

Bill Oorbeek of the Oorbeek Group hosted a reception this spring on Capitol Hill that introduced 70 political leaders to The House ministry. This was the first time The House was able to connect with political leaders in Washington on such a large scale. “I really wanted to raise the profile of The House and highlight the great work the Lord is doing only a few blocks from the Capitol,” said Bill Oorbeek.

House student Cory, a recipient of the Bill and Melinda Gates $50,000 scholarship, and his mother Stephanie testified about the difference the House has made in their lives.

Thank you Bill and guests for raising nearly $20,000 and opening the doors for others to be involved in this important work!
Sixty golfers hit the course Thursday, May 20, 2010 at South Riding Golf Club in Virginia for the 10th Annual Old School Invitational golf tournament to raise money for (and awareness of) The House and its programs. The Old School has been raising money for The House for five years. Corporate sponsors for 2010 included Pulte Group, Old Republic Title, Capture Discovery, BB&T, CRG, Elite Document Solutions, DANAC and others.

Participating golfers were blessed with terrific weather and for some, the blessings ended there. Shanks, strip steaks and duffs were plentiful. In better news, the winning foursome logged an impressive 13 under par in the tournament’s best ball/captain’s choice format.

Old School Board Chair, John Atkinson, emceed the post-tournament banquet with Board Member, Kevin Pigott. Prizes were awarded for first, second and third place, as well as the longest drive and closest to the pin.

“The event was a complete success,” said Atkinson. Pigott added, “We are deeply indebted to our sponsors and participants. And we thank God for the perfect weather and the fine food.”

The Old School Invitational hosts a golf tournament every spring with all tournament proceeds going to The House. The Old School Invitational is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organization. To learn more about The Old School, please visit the website at www.oldschoolinvitational.org

ANNUAL BANQUET SALUTES THE SAGE OF ANACOSTIA

Special gratitude and recognition are extended to the 20 sponsors who helped make this one of the most successful banquets in our 10-year history.

We were privileged to have many friends from the early years of The House, including Co-founders, Rickey Belden, Steve Fitzhugh, and Lon Solomon, who reminded us of the many miracle youth who have entered our doors. Current students inspired and entertained the 300 guests with their musical talents and testimonies. These young people magnify the impact that God has made in Anacostia through The House DC.

The Honorable Ken Starr, recently appointed President of Baylor University in Waco, Texas and a founding member of The House Advisory Board, gave a moving talk about our nation’s history, including Frederick Douglas, “the sage of Anacostia.”

The Frederick Douglas home, located not far from The House, is an important museum in metropolitan Washington, DC. It stands as a shining monument to a great man of deep faith who overcame profound adversity. His example provides a constant reminder to the young people of Anacostia that they too can rise to achieve great things for themselves and for humanity.

Thanks goes to everyone who have been the helping hands of The House DC. We could not do it without you. Because of your support, we go forward into our second decade with renewed hope and enthusiasm.