



February 2006-Birthdays

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
			Jason Collins			Tiff Evans
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
				Shree Davis		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Leanne Harsha		Ian Born			Danny Barry	
26	27	28				
David Carter		Darrell Gulledge				



REAL LIFE YOUTHBUILD MCLEAN COUNTY

FEBRUARY. 8, 2006

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YOUTHBUILD ALUMNI LEADING 4 REAL

Congratulations to; **Alicia Leonard, Ardelia Moore, Bertram Anthony Brown Givan, Calveda Curtis, Jeanette Abdul-Saleem, Josh Kidd, Tajania Winfrey, Nicholas Darrough, Mike Collier, Myia Sullivan, Paula Evans,** and to the other Alumni who are attending college this semester. The staff here at Youthbuild support education. We acknowledge you all and we will continue to keep in touch with you while you pursue higher education.

We give a big appreciation to **Calveda Curtis.** Calveda is assisting YB staff with transportation for the students. Thanks a lot we appreciate all your hard work.

Mike Donnelly has established

the Illinois basketball team for fifth and sixth graders. Mike has worked at the Western Avenue Community Center for two and a half years. Mike is also the Program Director at Western Avenue Community Center. Thanks for demonstrating the true meaning of leadership! Keep up the good work, Mike.

Ashleigh Turley is still employed at State Farm as a Customer Service Rep. Ashleigh is also expecting a baby girl in mid February. Good luck and congratulations! on your bundle of joy.

Give it for **Bertram Givan,** Bertram completed his Business Essentials class last semester at Heartland Community College and is now enrolled as a full time student. We support you all and acknowledge every effort you put forth to reshape your lives and your community. That's Leading for real.

"Education is the passport to the future for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today." Malcolm X



YOUTHBUILD STUDENTS AID KATRINA REBUILDING EFFORT

On February 4, 2006 eight Mclean County students will leave to aid in the rebuilding of affordable housing in hurricane stricken Gulfport, Mississippi. Organizers announced the opportunity for YouthBuild students to spend a week rebuilding affordable housing in ravaged Gulfport Mississippi today

as part of the YouthBuild month of service that honors Martin Luther King. Monday, students spent the morning building affordable housing locally and it was announced that some of them would have the opportunity to travel and spend an additional week aiding hurricane victims. YouthBuild student,

Charles Abbott states that "it won't be easy spending nine days away from my two children, but hopefully one day they will realize their Dad helped people that needed it in a big way." The service trip is sponsored by Youthbuild Far West, located in Murphy, North Carolina.

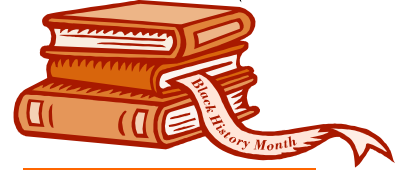


NEWS YOU CAN USE

Heartland Head Start is now accepting application for the 2006-07 school year. Head Start offers free preschool and family service for families who meet income guidelines with children 3 or 4 years of age by Sept 1. Families of children with special needs are encouraged to apply. Head Starts helps children and families grow socially, intellectually, emotionally and physically through nutrition, classroom and community education. Call 662-4880 for enrollment or more information.

Family "Fun"amentals are free parenting classes offered each Monday, from 6:00- 7:30 pm by Home Sweet Home in their Education Center, 303 E. Oakland, Blm. Classes focus on children behavior/misbehavior and techniques to manage behavior and improve parent/child relationships. Child care provided upon request at no fee. To register, call 862-4686

FREE tax preparation service for: families with incomes of **\$38,000** or less; individuals \$15,000 or less; Beginning Jan 28, these B-N sites will offer VITA assistance: Bloomington Housing Authority, 104 E. Wood, Blm. Mon, Tu & Th, 5:30-7:30pm and Sat, 10am-12pm. - Miller Park Pavilion, 1020 S. Morris, Blm. Mon, 9am-1pm. - Normal Public Library, 206 W. College. Mon, 5:30-7:30pm. Taxpayers should bring all W-2's, 1099 I, Social Security Cards, ID, and any paperwork from public aid showing total amount of cash received, etc. Also, they should inquire about Earned Income Credit and Child Tax Credit which are tax benefits for people who work.



PEOPLE IN BLACK HISTORY

February is Black History Month. The following people are noted for contributions that they have made to American History.

Mae Jamison- was the first African American woman to visit space on the Endeavor in 1992. Prior to joining the NASA in 1987. DR. Jamison worked in both engineering and medicine.

Ella Fitzgerald- her remarkable artistry and incomparable vocal delivery have touched and inspired generation of Americans. She sold over 200 albums, around 2,000 songs and sold over 40 million records and received 13 Grammy awards in her remarkable lifetime. *(It looks like she sold 200 albums then 40 million albums?)*

A man without knowledge of himself and heritage is like a tree without roots
Dick Gregory

YOU CAN BUILD YOUTHBUILD!

Please Join Us!
February 21, 2006 at 5:00 p.m.
at YouthBuild McLean County

You are invited to come and enjoy



FREE BAR-BECUE DINNER

We will have

a roundtable discussion about how we can assist you in your goal to complete your higher education.

There will be multiple \$25 door prize



drawings.

Please RSVP to Tasha at 827-7507 ext. 0 by February 17

Would you like to be featured in the newsletter? Please contact Latasha Rials at (309) 827-7507 ext. 0#

We are on the web!

Youthbuildmcleancounty.org

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R E A L L I F E -

**R E S P E C T , E D U C A T I O N ,
A C H I E V E M E N T , L E A D E R S H I P - L I V I N G
I T F O R E V E R**

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE ALUMNI PROGRAM?

See and Understand that **Completion of Courses is Essential for Success and Security Respect Education, Achievement, Leadership- Live It For Ever**

The Alumni Department is changing its focus to be on celebration of graduates who are attending college level courses and who are demonstrating **LEADERSHIP 360**, meaning that they are being leaders in their lives, the lives of their families, the YouthBuild Program and in the community, every day, in every way. We will be creating incentives for alumni who fall into that category. Examples of alumni who are demonstrating **LEADERSHIP 360** are Ryan Dowell and David Carver (David will be featured in our next issue).

Ryan is truly a person who exemplifies that you can change your life (and that of those around you) by

consistent determination and a high level of motivation. Moreover you can live those changes everyday, year after year and continue to change your small piece of the world by persistently doing what is right.

Ryan got married to his wife Beth in 1999 and remains highly committed to his family. Cory, his 9 year old son, came to live with them as their foster child in 1999 and they adopted him in 2001. As a family they keep busy with Cub Scouts, basketball, and baseball. Ryan plays on the YouthBuild softball team, as does his wife, Beth. They bought their first home in 1999 and their current home in 2004. They live in a small suburb outside of Bloomington.

Ryan started his own construction company in 1999. He started with a small loan for tools from YouthBuild McLean County. The loan was paid back within 3 months. The reason, Ryan states, that he started his own business was concern over feeling that he was being taken advantage of by contractors who made the big money and left their employees with little. He started R and R Construction, which specialized in siding. He hired three YouthBuild graduates into his successful and growing business.

In 2004, Ryan was recruited for a Construction Instructor position at YBMC because of his strong work ethic, his strong service ethic, his success in the construction field, his experience as a business owner and supervisor, and his extraordinary, proven, leadership ability. The idea of working to give young people the same chance that he had was appealing to him.

Ryan is one of the best instructors that YouthBuild has ever had. Jeana Pisell, one of his current students states, " Ryan is awesome, you can go to him about anything and if he can help you he will do it. He knows what we are going through, he remembers...it is like he turned his life completely around. He is a role model. I know he was involved in drugs and stuff, but he constantly talks about his wife and kid. He is where I want to be when I am his age."

You will be able to read more about **LEADERSHIP 360** in upcoming issues of the newsletter. If you are demonstrating **SUCCESS FOR REAL LIFE** please let us know so that you can be recognized!