ROCKWOOD GRAD FINDS NICHE WORKING TO IMPROVE LIVES

by Peggy Magee

When Jay Washington, Sr., 38, talks about what he gained from his education in the Rockwood district, he recalls sitting in his American History class at Lafayette High School and learning about the U.S. Constitution. When the teacher explained the kind of cooperation and compromise demonstrated by the forefathers, Jay envisioned his classroom full of diverse students to be representative of “We the People.” The 1992 grad explains: “It was as if the Constitution was being played out right there because all of us were learning to work together in order to successfully function in America.”

It was the opportunity in Rockwood to experience diversity, to interact with people of other backgrounds and cultures, that Washington cites as having the greatest impact on him. “I am comfortable with any type of person in any situation,” he reports.

Other times, he must tend to the tragic realities of life as he and his colleagues work to rescue struggling families from desperate circumstances. In explaining situations that the club encounters as it focuses on providing academic and athletic programming to thousands of families annually, Washington notes, “Currently we have a mother and her four kids for whom we are helping find housing and work opportunities for mom. We have reached out to partners such as the Urban League and United Way.” For families in need, the club routinely reaches out to partners such as the families in need, the club routinely reaches out to partners such as the Urban League and United Way.

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As Washington takes on the daily tasks of his job at Mathews-Dickey, he does so with enthusiasm and a sense of purpose. He is pleased to be working on behalf of the families of north St. Louis city and county. “I’m in their corner. People have been in mine.”

WINTER WEATHER
Transportation Notes

With the approach of winter weather, please be sure that your children are dressed for the morning temperatures and out at their stops on time. If the bus does not arrive on time, please wait 15 minutes past their scheduled pick-up time before calling VICC Transportation at 314.721.8657.

In the event your district lets out early due to inclement weather, please be sure that your children know what to do and where to go once they get off their bus or taxi. If they are going home to an empty house, please be sure that they have a key or know where to find one, or have arrangements to be picked up by a friend or neighbor.

If your school district remains open, but road conditions make it unsafe to transport students from the city to the county, local television stations, channels 2, 4, and 5, as well as radio station KMOX-1120, will broadcast the following message: “Desist transportation for the voluntary student transfer program in the following school districts will not operate (list of districts will follow). If your district is listed, you are more than welcome to transport your student(s) and from school by other means, but VICC Transportation will not be provided. It will be you or your children’s responsibility to find out about and make any work missed due to weather-related transportation absences.
As VICC’s CEO, I believe that our program makes a difference and that it should be continued for as long as possible to benefit not only city students choosing to transfer, but also the students attending county schools who gain from being educated in a more diverse environment.

The articles in the current issue of Parent Link would support that belief. These graduates highlight the value of Parent Link and their fellow students received by participating in the program and the advantages their experiences have provided.

For that reason, I am particularly pleased to report that the VICC Board of Directors recently voted to extend the time period for the acceptance of new students for an additional five years. That means that the ability to continue to enroll new students at least through the 2018 - 2019 school year. In addition to this extension, districts remain committed to educating their current and new enrollees for as long as those students and their parents or other caring family members desire them to participate in the program, up to and including high school graduation.

I recently read an article which discussed important aspects of attending college in order for students to learn and be successful. A number of successful students who are aware and understand family involvement and have access to college scholarships, as included in the program, are more likely to be successful. A number of successful students who are aware and understand family involvement and have access to college scholarships, as included in the program, are more likely to be successful.

Finally, a score of new and veterinary mentions of being critically important. Obviously having an open and honest relationship with students and involving parents in any “important” decisions that they have as well as their successes and achievements. As a result, Parent Link...