

OUR MISSION: To increase the availability of responsible mentoring relationships for at-risk youth in the Greater Omaha metropolitan area and to provide more scholarship opportunities so that these young people can become employable, productive citizens.

**one kid
at a time**

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Sharing time, expanding worlds

ALL OUR KIDS, INC.

connecting one kid at a time

A publication for supporters, partners, mentors, and all our kids

2007, Issue 1

PREPARING FOR ANOTHER GREAT RACE!

Spring is in the air! That means it's time to pack up the snow boots, dust off the sneakers and get ready for the *ConAgra Foods Race for the Kids* beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 12th, on the campus of ConAgra Foods in downtown Omaha.



“We are very grateful to everyone at ConAgra Foods, the presenting sponsor of the Race, for all they do to make this such a wonderful event for the children of Omaha,” said Julie Hefflinger, President of All Our Kids, Inc. “The Race, now in its sixth year, continues to get bigger and better. We know we couldn't do it without the support of ConAgra Foods.”

The non-competitive one-mile fun run/walk is open to all students from pre-school through grade 12. Parents, grandparents and mentors are also encouraged to participate by walking or running with their children or taking part in a special “Friends and Family Heat.” Children in pre-school or grades K-2 must be accompanied by an adult. There will be a total of eight heats

which will be staggered by grade level – high school, middle school, grade 6, grade 5, grade 4, grade 3, grades K – 2, pre-school and Friends and Family.

The fun doesn't end with the races, there will be plenty of excitement for everyone to enjoy before, during and after each heat – including games, physical fitness activities, healthy refreshments, music and more. Even a few celebrity guests will be on hand to join in the fun. KETV news personalities will serve as emcees for the event.

“KETV has again graciously agreed to serve as our media sponsor. The staff has always been very supportive and is so much fun to work with,” Hefflinger said. “Of course, we can't forget to thank the other businesses and organizations that have donated to this year's event. Their donations have helped us keep entry fees to a minimum — \$5 per student and \$10 per adult.”

Everyone who registers before Friday, April 27th will receive a free T-shirt. In addition, all registered students will be eligible to win one of 20 bikes given away in a drawing held immediately after the final heat. Students also have an opportunity to help their schools' physical education programs. The twenty schools with the greatest percentage of students participating in the Race will receive a \$100

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one kid at a time



As the old man walked the beach at dawn, he noticed a young man ahead of him. The boy was picking up starfish and flinging them into the sea. Finally catching up with the youth, he asked him why he was doing this. The youth answered that the stranded starfish would die if left until the morning sun.

“But the beach goes on for miles and there are millions of starfish,” countered the man. “How can your effort make any difference?”

The young man looked at the starfish in his hand before throwing it to safety in the waves.

“It makes a difference to this one,” he said.

Author unknown

Preparing For Another Great Race!

continued from the cover:

donation for their schools’ fitness programs and have their name printed on the back of the official Race t-shirt.

“We’re looking forward to another exciting morning of fun and fitness,” Hefflinger said. “The Race has become an annual event for many area families. We hope to see them again this year – as well as a lot of newcomers!”

The *ConAgra Foods Race for the Kids* is one of several local programs designed to promote physical fitness, better eating habits and healthy lifestyles among young people and their families. Area health care providers, public health officials, educators and others have joined forces in an effort to

battle childhood obesity and improve the metro population’s overall health.

“It’s a community-wide effort,” Hefflinger said. “We know that one in three Nebraska school children is overweight or at risk of being overweight. We need to work together in order to make sure today’s children grow into healthy adults.”

Registration materials for the *ConAgra Foods Race for the Kids* will be distributed through area schools and will be available at local Hy-Vee stores. All proceeds from the event will help to fund All Our Kids mentoring and scholarship program. For more information, call All Our Kids at 930-3000.

“Wild” Nights at the Orpheum

Thanks to generous donations from the All Our Kids board members and the Holland Performing Arts Center, one hundred lucky students and mentors were given tickets to see *The Lion King* performed on stage at Omaha’s Orpheum Theatre.

“The Holland Center donated 100 tickets to the show, and we made them available to all of the students in our program,” said Jessica Miller, All Our Kids Program Manager. “We had tickets for four different nights, so we took one group of sixth graders, two groups of seventh graders and one group of ninth and eleventh graders. The students were able to call and request tickets until each of the four groups were filled.”

Miller said it’s important to take students to major performances, like *The Lion King*, because it exposes them to events that they may otherwise never have opportunity to experience. It also gives the students a chance to strengthen relationships with one another as well as their mentors and All Our Kids staff members.

“Overall, it was a very positive experience for the students, and they were grateful for the opportunity to attend the show,” Miller said. “They were all fascinated with the beautiful costumes and props. Many commented that they had never seen anything like it before and wished they could see it again!”

TO BECOME A MENTOR FOR ALL OUR KIDS, CALL 930-3000.

Tickets Still Available for Wine Event

More than 20 winemakers from across the country will soon travel to Omaha to share their premier wine selections. The renowned winemakers will join more than a thousand local guests at the vinNEBRASKA Wine Event, a special benefit for All Our Kids, Inc.

The two-day event gets underway Friday, March 23rd, with a winemaker's reception and gourmet dinner at the Happy Hollow Country Club, which will include an appetizing meal consisting of eight courses, each expertly paired with the perfect selection of wine. A professional winemaker will be at each table to help guests fully enjoy the tasting experience. In addition, silent and live auctions will be held through out the evening festivities.

On Saturday, March 24, the vinNebraska Wine Event continues at the Holiday Inn Central with Hors D'oeuvres and wine tasting from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. A Grand Auction, featuring several unique and exquisite gifts and wine-related items, will be held from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

"We expect 225 guests on Friday night and more than 800 on Saturday," said Julie Hefflinger, President of All Our Kids, Inc. "There will be a number of very special items up for auction this year, including some beautiful vacations, concert tickets and much more. We're looking forward to another wonderful weekend!"

In addition to the auction items, there will be a raffle for an exquisite piece of jewelry donated by Borsheim's valued at \$5,000. Tickets are available at \$20 a piece or 3 for \$50.

Attending this year's event will be representatives from many renowned wineries, including Smith Madrone, Goose Cross, Vignobles JH Laville and many others.

Sponsorships for Friday's event are \$2,500 for a gold table and \$5,000 for a platinum table. Tickets for Saturday's Wine Tasting and Grand Auction are \$75. For more information, please call 930-3000.

Students Explore Career Options



More than 200 students from All Our Kids recently were given an opportunity to learn how to make their dream jobs become reality. The sixth grade, middle school and high school students joined their mentors for a trip to one of two Career Fairs held last month at Clarkson College.

"We feel it's important for our students to explore future career possibilities at an early age," said Melissa Mayo, All Our Kids Program Manager. "These fairs are a great way for our students to gather information about a number of different professions. They also are able to learn about the level of education required for each profession represented."

Omaha Steaks International sponsored the career fairs as part of the new Career Exploration Academy, created in part by Omaha Steaks. More than two dozen careers were represented, including law enforcement, photography, medicine, journalism and the armed forces.

"The students had a great time learning about future possibilities," Mayo said. "They got a chance to visit with many different professionals and get some first-hand perspective about the jobs that interest them."

M a k e a d i f f e r e n c e , b e a m e n t o r