

# CornerstoneKidsInc.org

## **Cornerstone Kids, Inc. Year in Review Summary of 2008 Activities**

The program operates Monday through Friday from 2:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. with a dedicated staff of eight and a small pool of volunteers.

### **Accomplishments/Activities and Donations-2008:**

- In January, St. Andrews Episcopal Church Outreach Committee donated a brand new set of encyclopedia by World Book 2008 to the program.
- In February, the Cornerstone program became a member of First Book through the National Book Bank Program. The children received free books throughout the year to take home to read. Mrs. Mildred Brisker, of St. James House of Prayer also donated books to the program. A “Valentine Ice Cream Social” was held for the children by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hedges.
- In March, three 4th -grade students passed the entrance exam to attend The Academy Prep Center of Tampa and they are now attending the Academy.
- A teeter/totter was purchased by the Board of Directors for the children to use on the playground.
- Parents & friends were invited to Cornerstone Kids “End of Year Musical” in May.
- The Summer Enrichment Program was fun-filled and exciting. Fieldtrips were taken to Chuck E Cheese, Pin Chasers, USA Skates, MOSI and a Water Day was held on site. Other enrichment activities offered included

chess, crocheting, beginners Spanish, Ophelia Project for girls, storytelling, and arts & crafts. Enrichment activities were facilitated by volunteers and Cornerstone instructors.

- In July, Cornerstone presented an “End of Summer Program” for parents, family members and friends. Thirty-five children were given school supplies, backpacks and reading books. School supplies were provided by Cornerstone Board of Directors.
- In August, the Board of Directors held a successful “Garage Sale & Fish Fry” fundraiser.
- In the fall Cornerstone Kids collaborated with The Boys Initiative Program and the Ophelia Project of Tampa Bay to provide a course for boys and girls ages 8-11 that focused on the areas of relation aggression and friendship. Each program met once each week for 10 weeks.
- Cornerstone Kids, Inc. participated in the Eckerd Family Foundation Scholarship Initiative.
- St. Andrews Outreach Committee purchased three bean bags for classrooms and two educational computer games for grades K-2.
- In October, Cornerstone Kids participated in “Lights On After School” to raise awareness of the importance of after-school programs. An Open-House was held for parents.
- Bess the Book Bus visited Cornerstone in October and December. On each visit she read stories and each child selected a book of their choice to take home.
- Our annual Thanksgiving bag and turkey distribution was held on November 24th. Cornerstone Board of Directors provided the food items for the families.

- Cornerstone Annual Christmas Program/Party & Gift Distribution was exciting and entertaining. Each child was given new shoes by the Alegria's Kickin for Kids Program. We are grateful and blessed for the Christmas gifts that the children received from many generous donors, too numerous to mention by name.
- In 2008, over 6,000 well-balanced, nutritious meals were served by Cornerstone Kids Café. America's Second Harvest is our largest food provider. St. John The Divine Outreach Committee in Ruskin and Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Lee donated a large supply of serving items to the program.

The following foundation, corporate and other grants were awarded to Cornerstone Kids, Inc. in 2008: **Bank of America Foundation, Conn Memorial Foundation, Hillsborough Sheriff Enrichment Grant, Jubilee Ministry, Travelers Foundation, and St. John's Outreach Committee Grant.** Through grants, fund raisers (**Lincoln –Douglass Ball**) and monetary donations from private donors, churches/outreach ministries in the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida, community service organizations, friends, board members and St. James House of Prayer parishioners, the program is able to meet its yearly budget. Thanks to all of our contributors for their financial and in-kind support. Thanks to the members of the Cornerstone Board of Directors for their hard work, strong support and encouragement all year.

Olatha Leggett,  
Program Director