



**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR:**

**Thur., Oct. 28th
Oct. Recognition &
Halloween Party
5:30pm**

**Sat., Oct.30th -
Thur., Nov.4th
Breakfast with
Champions
8am-10:30am**

**Wed., Nov. 3rd
Volunteer
Orientation
1pm and 6pm**

**Sat., Nov. 6th
Rock Climbing
at Hester's
11:30am-4pm**

**Sat., Nov. 13th
Ice Skating at Iceland
6:30pm-9pm**

CENTER HOURS:

**Monday-Friday
11:30am-8:00pm**

Are We Really All the Same?

A Volunteer's Experience

Written by: Renee Hook

A few years ago, my youngest child entered Kindergarten. It seemed that all of the sudden, I had a very quiet house and time on my hands. While enjoying the Fall Meet with my family that same year, I noticed a small ad in the racing program, looking for volunteers for The Backside Learning Center. After studying Spanish in high school and college, I was eager to find a way to enhance my Spanish speaking ability. I also was looking for a way to reconnect with the "outside world" on a professional level, since I had spent the last several years as a stay at home mom. I thought maybe my dormant professional skills could be stoked and put to good use at this place on the Backside.

Nothing could have prepared me for what has transpired since that fateful day when I came to the Center, looking to "reinvent" myself. For the past three years, I have worked as a teacher in beginning and intermediate ESL classes. Upon getting to know the first students, I knew that my life perspective would be forever changed. Day after day, backside workers have come into the class, smiling, so happy to be there, so grateful to have the chance to learn; many carrying their meager supplies in a plastic Kroger bag. One particularly bright young man

explained to me, how his mother always asks if he went to "school", during their frequent phone conversations and how he proudly says yes and tells her how much he is learning about the English language and American culture.

Some who patronize The BLC have attended school, some even having gone to college in their native country. Many, however, have little education and come from Third World poverty and are far from family and home (some not much older than my own teen age son). Amazingly, these workers put in a seven day work week, so grateful to have the mere opportunity to make a decent wage to send home. They go about their daily lives with such a positive spirit and resolve; one can not help but to be greatly humbled by getting to know them.

Many backside workers visit The BLC to attend English class, to use the computer lab or library or simply to feel camaraderie through a caring network of volunteers. The irony of my personal experience with The BLC is, I came here looking to teach and help and consequently, I have been the one who has been taught a great deal. Working along side these exceptional men and women has given me immense gratification and

clarity that I could not have imagined.

In our American culture that seems to take so much for granted, I am still amazed by the pure graciousness of the backside workers. They appreciate EVERYTHING, whether it's a sharpened pencil to write with or a piece of candy passed out in class. Seeing this gratitude has changed me and is something that will never leave me.

So, yes, my Spanish has greatly improved and in the process, has provided my students with some real entertainment, as I fumble through their language while trying to teach them mine. Perhaps the most important thing I want to convey to those who wonder what The Backside Learning Center is all about, is the simple fact that the old adage is true. As human beings, we are all basically the same. We all laugh, cry and celebrate the good things in life. If anyone doubts this, a brief conversation with any of these exceptional people would surely make him/her a believer.

**Experience Breakfast
with Champions**

*Behind-the-Scenes Tour
of Churchill Downs*

You go to the racetrack and watch your horse race to the finish line, and then you, hopefully, sprint off to cash in your winning ticket. But have you ever thought about everything that goes into getting a horse to the starting gate?

The Backside Learning Center is offering a once-in-a-lifetime, "up close and personal", opportunity to watch

the horse champions of the world prepare for Breeders' Cup 2010.

Saturday, October 30 through Thursday, November 4 from 8 am to 10:30 am, you can watch the special Breeders' Cup horses' morning workout session, tour the backside of Churchill Downs, talk with a trainer and support a great cause.

The "Breakfast with Champions" includes a walking tour of the barn area of Churchill Downs, viewing of the Breeders' Cup horses during a special workout session, conversations with a trainer or assistant trainer at their barn, photo opportunities and a

continental breakfast. Not only do you get to watch the best horses of 2010 workout, your contribution helps to provide educational services to the people who care for the horses everyday.

The cost of this exclusive opportunity is \$200.00 per person, a portion of which is a tax-deductible donation to the Backside Learning Center. Book your tour early as tours are limited to ten people each morning. **To make your reservation call 502-634-6543 or email:**

backsidelc@derbymuseum.org.

An Unsung Hero to be Recognized

Daniel Orantes will be the honored recipient of the White Horse Award. Daniel was nominated by Jack Cox for this award because of his selfless rehabilitation of partially paralyzed exercise rider, Calixtro de Jesus. Daniel helped pay Calixtro's medical expenses, gave his bed to him and slept on the floor, and even carried him up and down stairs. As part of Daniel's community, we recognize that he is an everyday hero. He, like so many others on the backside, supports a wife and two children residing in his native Guatemala.

The White Horse award recognizes an individual who has performed the most heroic act nationwide on behalf of another human or horse. Daniel will be presented the White Horse Award at a Luncheon Breeders' Cup week. You can purchase tickets and be there in support of Daniel on November 4th.

The White Horse Award Luncheon will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on November 4th in the Triple Crown Room of the Jockey Club Suites at Churchill Downs. Tickets are \$75, and are available by email at info@rtcanational.org or by phone at (502) 863-8792.

Invest Your Time

Tutor

Drive for Field Trips

Front Desk Help

Data Entry

Administrative Assistance

Invest Your Resources

Items most needed:

- 1- Subject Notebooks
- Ink Pens
- Bags of Candy
- 501 English Verbs Book (2)

Sponsor an Event:

- Horsemen's Golf Scramble
- Ladies Day at the Races

Make a Pledge

Thank You!

Active volunteers

Jack Cox
Tom Ball
Jaclyn Cox
Mason Cox
Sara Dorman
Bob Duggan
Kate Dunn
Levin Elpers
Steve Gaines
Christine Gilarski
Barbara Goudy
Erin Grace
Renee Hook
Delores Huffman
Shalonda Jeanette
Alayne Wright
Helen Jubran
Cassie Kocher
Terri Knabel
Emily Laybourne
Jan Margerum
Janie McDonald
Raphael Maxson
Lou Ann Morris
Ron Orwick
Bob Olive
Jeni Rogers
Gisela Torres
Arlene Torrens
Sally Troutman
Pat Vickers
Bart Whithouse
Melissa Whitley
Maggie Whittle

Ladies Day Planning Committee

Kimber Albarado
Julia Bacon
Donna Barton Brothers
Stephanie Deeley
Sara Dorman
Kitty Drake
Renee Hook
Jan Margerum

Donors

The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels: A grant to purchase a new server and books in Spanish
The Kentucky Derby Museum: Binders
Dr. Foster Northrop: GED books

4th Annual Ladies Day Silent Auction Donors

Actor's Theatre
Anabel's Oriental Rugs
Annie Locke's Power Moves
B's Purses
Baptist East/Milestone Wellness Center
Bennie & Friends Salon
Betsy's Hot Yoga Louisville
Blackberry Farm
Breeder's Cup
Calobrace Plastic Surgery Center
Churchill Downs
Clay and Cotton
Clodhoppers
Corbett's: An American Place
D&W Silks, Inc.
Delores Huffman
D.J.'s Detailing
Dudley's
Gratz Park Inn
Greathouse Designs
Herradura—Brown-Forman
Hot Locks
Irish Rover
Jan Margerum
Jo Ross
Keeneland Racetrack
Kimber Alberado

4th Annual Ladies Day Partners:



4th Annual Ladies Day Silent Auction Donors (cont.)

Long Run Golf Course
Massage Envy
Melanie Cadima
My Racing Heart
Pat Vickers
Permanent Cosmetics by Leah
Physician's Center for Beauty
Porcini's
Rae Hatherton
Rodes for Him & For Her
R&R Limo
Skye Chiropractic
The Bodega at Felice
The Trail Store
Volare
Woodford Reserve-Brown-Forman
Work the Metal



The Backside Learning Center
2010-2011 Annual Campaign
Pledge Agreement

This agreement is entered in and by _____ (Donor's Name) and The Backside Learning Center, Louisville, Kentucky.

The Donor pledge a gift of \$_____ to The Backside Learning Center in support of the 2010-2011 Annual Campaign. The gift / pledge will be fulfilled with the following schedule:

Donor Information (please print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ E-Mail _____

Business phone: _____ Home/cell no.: _____

Pledge Payment Options:

Enclosed is a check payable to The Backside Learning Center.

The balance of this pledge will be paid beginning:

_____ (month/year) annually semi-annually as follows:

Details: _____

I choose to use a Credit Card: Type (Master Card, VISA) Other: _____

Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____ Security No. _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Donor Signature

Your gift is tax deductible as provided by law. An acknowledgement letter will follow the receipt of pledge payments made.

Thank you for your support!