

"Rise and Shine", CWEP's  
30th Anniversary mural

# Community Women's Education Project 2007 Annual Report

# A Message from the Executive Director and President of the Board of Directors

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Dear Friends:

As we finalize another year at CWEP providing services to the families primarily in the Kensington community, we are reminded of the realities of the need for secondary education and job readiness programs. Over the course of this past year, numerous inquiries from prospective learners requesting to enroll in the Pre GED, GED, English as a Second Language, Adult Diploma Program, or the Computer Program were received—too many for CWEP to accommodate. Learners have experienced and are now privy to the truism that they can't get and sustain a job without a high school education. However, a high school education isn't enough. According to the *Report of the New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce* and several policy briefs recently released from the *National Commission on Adult Literacy*, adults need a minimum of 2 years of college to secure a self-supporting wage. Additionally, learners from low income communities like Kensington will be called upon to assume a role as a productive worker to replace of the retiring labor force. With that in mind, the **Next Steps** initiative was redesigned to support students in their quest for higher education and subsequent employment.

Other notable projects at CWEP this past year were the **CWEP Outdoors** and **Music and Health Literacy initiatives** in CWEP's Kids Early Learning Center. The **CWEP Outdoors** project resulted in a new red roof, replaced water pipes, and a new playground fence and safety surface. The CWEP facility literally had improvements from top to bottom.

The children in the CWEP's Kids Early Learning Center are always encouraged to "Rise and Shine"—like the anniversary mural on the third floor and cover of this report—and do so through the music and health literacy programs. The instructors are instrumental in using music to enhance the children's growth and development while the health literacy initiative introduced new nutritious snacks to the preschoolers.

Over the last three decades, CWEP has strategically utilized the resources provided from a cadre of supporters that have helped learners' achieve their education and employment goals. We are thankful for the generosity of so many that have helped CWEP to fulfill its mission. As CWEP prepares for the next decade—implementing the strategic plan, educating staff, making more building improvements, implementing work-based programming, and establishing new partnerships—we look forward to advancing the lives of the learners that grace our facility.



Alexis T. Brown  
Executive Director



Claudia Tucker-Keto  
Chair, Board of Directors

# Community Women's Education Project

## *Investing in the Future Through Education*

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### About the Organization

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Community Women's Education Project (CWEP) is a community-based education organization that was founded in 1977 to address the social and economic inequities that affect at-risk families. For thirty years CWEP has served as a gateway to self-sufficiency for vulnerable adults who are facing the challenges of low literacy skills, learning disabilities and failure in school and work, often coupled with mental health issues and drug and alcohol use. A leader in the adult literacy community, CWEP provides a continuum of education programs, vital support services and connections to the workplace. Our strategies have enabled over 17,000 adults to prepare for and obtain employment that will sustain their families. Our 40,000 square foot historic facility in Kensington is a unique community resource that, in addition to CWEP's adult education programs and state-licensed child care center, house classes from the Willard Elementary School, and a Head Start program.

## CWEP Programs

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CWEP facilitated a variety of programs, classes, and support services for women, their children, and out-of-school youths (17-21 years old). The goal of the program is to enhance their literacy, critical-thinking and decision-making skills, which is necessary in preparation for next steps to higher learning, training, and employment. The clients—primarily low-income, single, female-head of-households—participated in the programs including:

- GED classes taught on and off-site
- The Next Steps Program, intensive literacy and job readiness instruction
- English as a Second Language (ESL) classes on and off site
- Multi-level Computer Courses, for beginning and intermediate students, as well as the International Computer Driving License certification program
- Family Literacy, an integrated program for adults, their children, and teen parents
- Post Secondary Education and Employment preparation
- The Adult Diploma Program, alternative to the GED programs for participants seeking a high school diploma rather than a General Educational Development (GED)
- Achieving Reunification Center (ARC), co-located services for parents in the DHS system seeking reunification with their children

## Support Services

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CWEP provided comprehensive support services enabling participants to remain in the programs and achieve their goals toward employment and post-secondary education or training including:



- Quality education for the children of participating families in *CWEP's Kids*, the only nationally accredited (by NAEYC) early childhood education and care center in Kensington
- Personal, career and academic counseling; case-management; referrals; and tutoring
- Transportation to and from our programs
- Emergency food provided by the Philadelphia Food Bank
- A free breakfast and lunch program with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

# New Programs and Activities

## CWEP's Kids Program Development Initiative

To improve the educational functioning level and basic skills of the at-risk children in *CWEP's Kids*, our nationally accredited child care center, this past year marked the beginning of CWEP's Kids Program Development Initiative, a program designed to align the preschool curriculum more directly with the Pennsylvania Early Learning Standards for Pre-kindergarten. The initiative focuses on advancing the following Pennsylvania Standards: Language and Literacy, for cognitive development; the Creative Arts, to support self discovery; Personal-Social, to support social interactions, self care, and self reliance; and, Physical-Health, to support gross and fine motor skills and health and nutrition education. Employing music and nutrition literacy and as framework for developing and engaging the children in daily lessons, we have seen incredible results through our revised programming in the Program Development Initiative.



## Next Steps Program

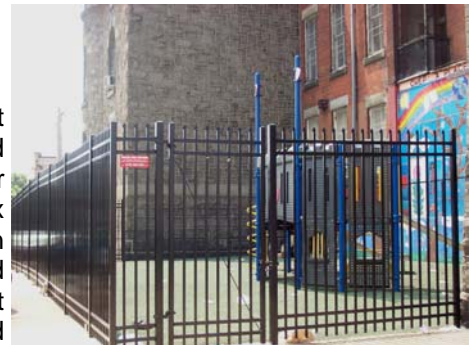
As CWEP continues to revise programs and expand in accordance with the growing needs of our community, the Next Steps initiative was created to prepare students for their next step to employment and education. The program involves a four-stage interview process conducted between learners and teachers, augmented by follow-up interviews with the CWEP counselor to determine both acute and secondary personal needs. Additionally, workshops were provided throughout the year to better inform students in their process of identifying career and educational paths, job readiness and interviewing techniques, time and stress management, and organizational and interpersonal skills. We have seen incredible results as the program supports our students in working towards their goals of self-sufficiency. Because of the program's great success, the Next Steps program has become an integrated part of our holistic teaching model and has expanded to encompass all adult programs with a focus on literacy and work related outcomes.

### 2006-2007 Education Outcomes:

- 65% of adult learners improved two grade levels
- 45 learners completed one or more sections of GED test

## CWEP Outdoors, Facility Improvements

Over the past year CWEP spearheaded a number of facility improvement projects that have resulted in increased classroom technology, improved infrastructure, and heightened security and safety for our learners. On our *CWEP's Kids* playground (at right), the area was previously protected by a six foot chain link fence, which over the years had become ineffective in preventing vandalism and keeping our safety-surface and playground equipment in proper order. To address the safety and security issues present onsite, CWEP secured funding to install an eight foot steel fence and resurface the playground, which was in disrepair. Both playground improvements ensure that our children have a play area that provides for safe and fun learning opportunities. In addition to improvements in *CWEP's Kids*, a new roof was installed and new main water pipe replaced. In our Adult Education classrooms, funding from the City of Philadelphia provided 20 new computers for our technology lab, which have been a tremendous asset in as we continue to integrate technology into our daily instruction.



## Remembering 30 Years

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In honoring our 30th year of providing services in the Kensington Community, CWEP staff, students, Board of Directors and long time supporters of the organization celebrated through a number of different activities. Over 150 attendees gathered at our largest event of the year, CWEP's 30th Anniversary Gala, on March 22, 2007. Held at the Ben Franklin Hall of the American Philosophical Society, four exceptional local women were awarded with CWEP's "Woman of Distinction" award. Although the honorees hail from a variety of different fields, all have made a significant contribution to the Philadelphia Community: Charisse Lillie, Comcast Corporation; Susan Slawson, Lt. Commander of the Police Athletic League; Carole Smith, The Mayor's Commission on Technology; and Cheryl Gardiner, CWEP alumna and founder of eNigma publications. Alexis Moore of the Einstein Health Care Network served as Mistress of Ceremonies. The night also featured the unveiling of the CWEP video, created especially for the event through the expertise of Max Films and support of the Philadelphia Health Management Corporation. Apart from the Gala, CWEP had the opportunity to celebrate our history and mission through the commissioning of a new mural. Through the generous support of Education Works (EW), CWEP's third floor hallway has a new mural entitled "Rise and Shine" to brighten the experience of all that pass by. This summer EW sponsored a mural program for the students of the Family Literacy program resulting in an illuminating depiction of the educational process. The mural is the fourth to be painted at CWEP in a 13 year period and serves as an inspiration for the learners and staff in the day and evening adult programs.



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### Summary of Service

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**317 adults served**

**65% of adult learners improved two grade levels**

**45 learners completed one or more sections of GED test**

**7 students earned high school diploma through Adult Diploma Program**

**59 individuals gained and retained employment**

**40 students gained computer proficiency**

**12 computer students passed the International Computer Driving License  
job readiness module**

**35 ESL students improved English language skills**

**35 young parents completed Family Literacy Program**

**65 children of CWEP's Kids enhanced social, gross and fine motor skills**

**3 top adult students enrolled in community college**

## Financial Statement FY 2006-2007

### REVENUE

Foundations, Trusts, Grants	329,894
Corporation, Individual	62,653
Earned Income	106,703
Building Rental Fees	124,814
Government/Public Contracts:	
PA Department of Education (PDE)	153,601
Other Literacy Contracts	299,387
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$1,077,052</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,064,294</b>

Fully audited financial statements are available upon request.

### Private and Foundation Support 2006-2007

The Allen Hilles Fund	Honickman Foundation
Anonymous	Independence Foundation
Aramark	JEVS
Barra Foundation	Joseph K. Skilling Foundation
Beneficial Savings Bank	Junior League of Philadelphia
Brook J. Lenfest Foundation	Keystone Stars
Caroline Sanders Trust	Louis N. Cassett Foundation
The Cherry Foundation	Mayor's Anti-Drug Initiative
Citizens Bank	Nelson Foundation
City of Philadelphia	New Century Trust
Claneil Foundation	Pepper Hamilton
Clearline, Inc.	The Pew Charitable Trusts
Connelly Foundation	Philadelphia Foundation
Darling Foundation	Prudential Financial
Deloitte & Touche	Philadelphia Workforce Development Corporation
Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation	Rosie O'Donnell For All Kids Foundation
Douty Foundation	Seybert Institution
Education Works	Terri Lynne Lokoff Childcare Foundation
ENON Tabernacle Baptist Church	Union Benevolent Association
Joseph & Sally Handleman Foundation	Western Association of Ladies
Health Partners	Women's Business Development Center
Henrietta Tower Wurts Memorial	Women's Way



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*The CWEP facility is a valuable and trusted resource for families and more than 1,450 individuals annually. Built in 1898, our 4-story, 40,000 square foot school building occupies a full city block. In addition to CWEP's education programs and state-licensed child care center, our facility houses classes from the Willard Elementary School, a Head Start program, Shalom Inc., and Community Learning Center, as well as an annual summer camp for 70 children sponsored by Education Works. Building space is fully utilized and the collaborative relationships and extensive cooperation enables CWEP to be a valuable resource in the community.*

CWEP is a  Member Agency

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