

The Intersection



Issue 28 - September 2007

Making Connections That Change Lives

Executive Director's Letter

by Dana Battison



Dear Friends,

I can't tell you how heart-warming it is to see our smiling children come in the door as we open for fall. Familiar faces and new faces – all lovely and so very welcome! We have seen several of our 'old' families come back as the parents have said that they have tried to put the kids other places more convenient to work or school, but the kids keep crying to come back 'home' to The Intersection. It is so good to know that this place feels good to our kids. They learn Friendship 101 along with Reading 101 here. Great stuff! Fun stuff!

We were so grateful this summer for Ron Anderson's work with us on the vegetable stand. From the end of June until late August, our kids got to work alongside adult volunteers serving customers, making change and sorting produce. They learned so much and we made some money for the center – almost \$850 for the summer. We hope that this will work into a regular summer

opportunity for us. We provide opportunity for growth, learning and earning to our kids. One man wisely said, "Let each one work so that he may have something to give to others." We encourage our kids to work and give to others and have incorporated a 'me third' policy into our behavior code. 'Me third' puts God first, others second and me third. I don't know about you, but I know that I need a little reminder sometimes that the world does not revolve around me!

Please remember The Intersection in your giving in this month. We have stretched our pennies and the staff has made many sacrifices to serve our kids so well with so little! Thanks for your support and your prayers. We are very aware that the odds are against the success of our kids, especially our young black men. Please notice the enclosed report on 100 Black Boys. The odds are that only 56 out of 100 will graduate from high school and only 16 of the 100 will go to college. We can beat those odds together. Thank you for standing with our kids for life, for love and for success!

May God bless you and yours,
Dana



Thank you Ron Anderson for your gift!

The vegetable stand was an opportunity for growth, learning and earning for our kids. Thank you to all of our adult volunteers also for helping our youth and helping The Intersection raise \$821 to go towards programming.

Intersection contact information:
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website - <http://intersection.missouri.org>

Executive Director - Dana Battison
Education Director - Michelle Lindstedt
All Stars Coach - Erick Hornbeck
Office Manager - Dominique Turner

The Intersection's 2nd Annual Community Barbecue



When: October 20, 2007
2:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Where: The Intersection
7 E. Sexton Rd.
Columbia, MO

Contact: 817-0089

Cost: \$5.00 per person
\$15.00 family

\$100 Raffle drawing no need to
be present to win
5 tickets \$10.00

Events for the day:

Dinner
Jump-a-thon
Activities for the family and for
kids

Entertainment

Barbecue Cook Off

We need contestants for our cook
off

Individual - \$25 per entry,
Business - \$100 per entry
pork ribs or chicken

Cash Prizes:

1st place \$150

2nd place \$100

3rd place \$50



If you would like to be a barbecue contestant in our cook off please call for a form or stop by and pick one up. You don't need to be a pro to sign up just someone who loves a good barbecue.

Dinner tickets and raffle tickets may be purchased at The Intersection from now till the event.

The jump-a-thon is open to youth from k-12. For more information call Dominique.

Mark this date on your calendar and come and share a wonderful time with all of us here at The Intersection.

Intersection Statistics

Sept. 2006 to present

☺ Days open:	209	☺ Kids 2x or more a week:	30
☺ Youth enrolled:	111	☺ Daily attendance:	29

- Ashley



A Summer Camp Experience

My experience at KAA was so amazing! KAA changed my life. I love KAA. At camp I learned more about God and Jesus. I learned what a Christian really means and what a Christian is.



Important Information

by Michelle Lindstedt

The Intersection has been blessed with a large population of older teens in the last two years. Many After school programs serve kids up to age 11 or 12. At that time the kids decide there are "cooler" places to be. The Intersection does not have that problem. We have a large core of "super" teens who show up almost every day. They come for the tutoring help with their homework, the interesting enrichment classes, but mainly they come back for the relationships they have with the staff and volunteers.

Over the last two years, we have become aware of the unique needs of this group of kids. What do they need? These teens need direct one-on-one mentoring with older adult role models. They need job training and job readiness skills. They need a way to legally earn a little pocket money. And they need focused educational intervention especially for those teens who are at risk for dropping out or have dropped school.

The Intersection is responding to the real and urgent needs of our teens by:

- 1) **Opening a Coffee/Sandwich Shop** located in the soon-to-be new development across the street on Garth Ave. This shop will provide job opportunities and job readiness skills, and the desired pocket money for 10 teens at a time in a 6-month training program.
- 2) **Developing a Rites of Passage Mentoring program** that will provide mentoring relationships between our older teens and older community adults. This program is still in the beginning stages. (We are a service site for Big Brothers/Big Sister, but they mostly provide mentoring for children and preteens up to age 14).
- 3) **Developing an alternative high school program**, designed to provide a mentor intensive support network to help ensure success for those teens who have dropped out of school, flunked out, been suspended, and are at-risk of school failure. This project is a large undertaking and we are working with the National Association of Street Schools to be able to develop a high quality school that will receive national accreditation in two years.

What are your odds?

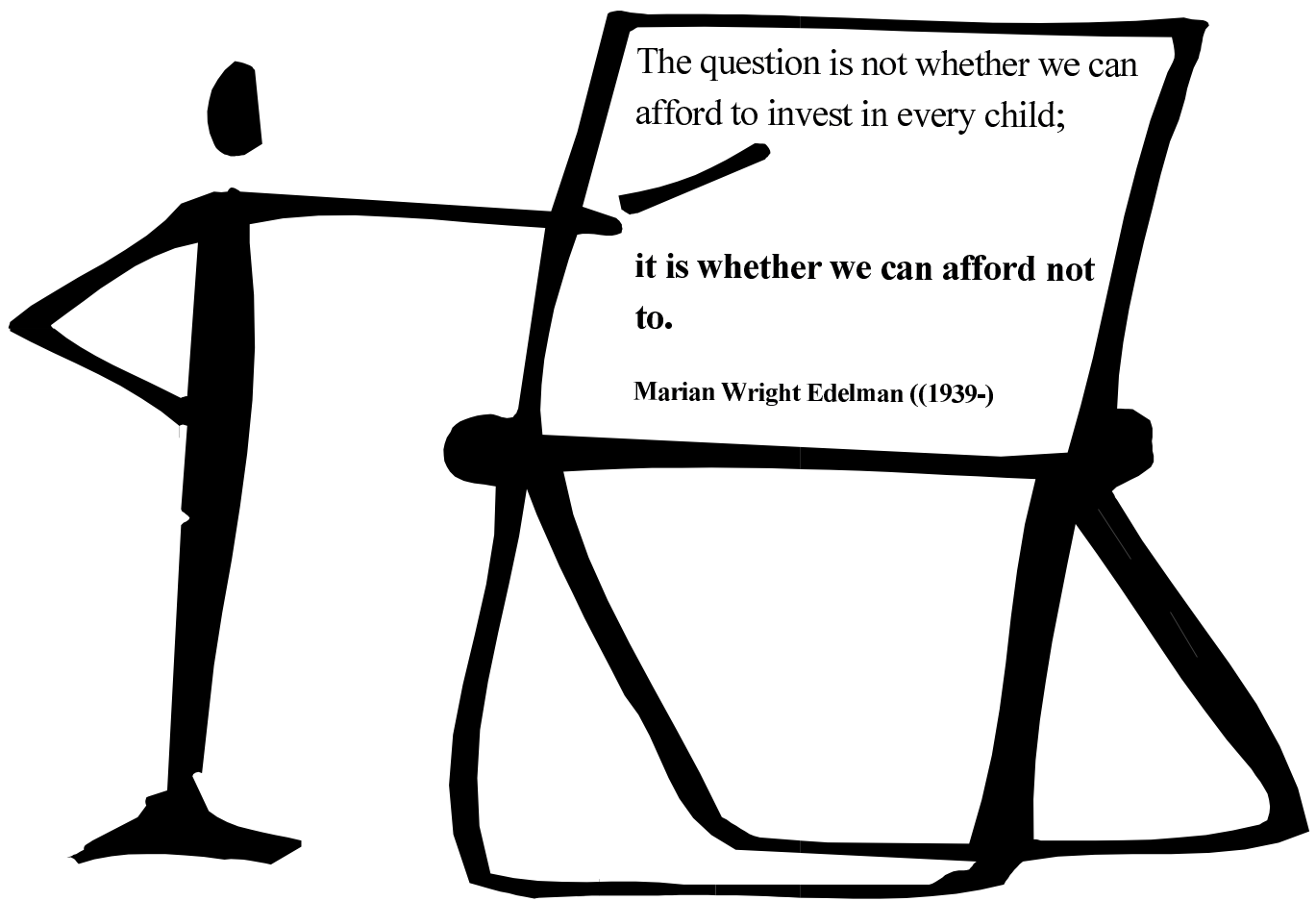
If current trends continue out of 100 black boys:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☆ <u>32</u> will end up in jail or prison | ☆ <u>44</u> will graduate from high school |
| ☆ <u>30</u> will live in poverty | ☆ <u>16</u> of the school graduates will go to college |
| ☆ <u>30</u> will live next door to poverty | ☆ <u>6</u> will graduate within 6 years |
| ☆ <u>64</u> of the 4th graders will be below basic in reading | ☆ <u>94</u> will struggle to earn a living wage in society |
| ☆ <u>57</u> of the 8th graders will be below basic in reading & math | |
| ☆ <u>84</u> of the 12 the graders will perform | |

"The Graduation rate of black men is lower than that of any other racial group."

These are the odds we are fighting against for our kids
and for the safety of our city.





The question is not whether we can afford to invest in every child;

it is whether we can afford not to.

Marian Wright Edelman ((1939-)



The Intersection
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Columbia, MO 65203