



The S.B. Step Ahead Program, Inc. (S.A.P.)

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"An Extra Push Toward Academic Excellence"

SAP NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 37

JANUARY - APRIL 2003

HAPPY NEW YEAR

JANUARY – APRIL of 2003

A Special thanks to all of our supporters during the past Holiday season. The Step Ahead Program was able to serve hundreds of needy with more hot meals and clothing at local shelters and provided free Holiday food baskets, furniture, new clothing, and other items to children & families in the Metropolitan area. Thanks again for your Support; this would not be possible without YOU. **Please continue to share your donations. SHOW LOVE!**

APRIL, 2003 – SAP is soliciting help from the community to assist local community public schools with supplies for their emergency evacuation plans for our children. Please share supplies or a monetary donation to help our school Administrators reach their goals to protect our children in the case of an emergency. Thank You!

APRIL 12, 2003 – Saturday Learning Academy Mentoring & Tutorial Program at 8:45 a.m. held at the Francis Scott Key Elementary School.

***Keynote Speaker: Dr. Harry P. Marshall, Jr., MD, FACS Ass't Professor of Surgery at Georgetown University Hospital – "Medicine & Technology" & "Helping Youth Prepare for the Medical Field" & Dr. Elizabeth Castillo, General Surgeon**

EVERY SUNDAY MORNING- 8 a.m. Weekly "Early Sunday Morning Worship Project" and Extended Reading Program at area church. SAP focuses on Children on Family participation in Sunday School & Morning Service held at the Iconium Baptist Church; 6076 Old Central Avenue, Capitol Heights, MD (directly across the street from Capitol Heights Post Office - on the hill, parking in back of church.) Rev. Randolph Fitzgerald, Pastor; breakfast served @ 7:30 am

APRIL 26, 2003 – SATURDAY LEARNING @ 8:45 AM AT FRANCIS SCOTT KEY ELEMENTARY

APRIL 26, 2003 – FEED THE HOMELESS - Our Monthly Fellowship & Feast at several local Homeless Shelters for Men, Women and Children. Please contact Mrs. Kim Smith, Staff Liaison for the Homeless, at (703)406-4195 to make your food or monetary donations. Please meet at Francis Scott Key Elementary School parking lot at 3 p.m.

APRIL 27, 2003 – 12 NOON - COMMUNITY PICNIC

Don't Forget April, 2003

In Observance of Palm Sunday and the celebration of Easter!

ATTENTION: TUTORS ARE NEEDED

The S.B. Step Ahead Program, Inc. is soliciting tutors, mentors and volunteers for the Saturday Learning Academy Tutorial Program and After School Program for P.G. County Schools.

Don't forget to visit us at our new website:
www.sbstepahead.org

S.A.P.'s LATEST PROJECTS...

You can help make life better for a child living in poverty in South Africa by making a donation to a community orphanage or hospital. **AND/OR....**

OUR NEWEST PROJECT: THE BABY WHITNEY DOLL

Baby Whitney is a 21-inch cuddly doll baby. One of the most sort after dolls on the east coast and the most realistic and attractive doll on the market today. Dr. Melvin L. Whitfield and his wife Loretta are creators of Baby Whitney. **Please help sponsor a child in South Africa** by purchasing one of these dolls for \$100.00, \$40.00 of which is tax deductible. Contact Mr. Brady or Virginia Scales for more information or for purchase arrangements.

THINGS THAT KEEP THE S.A.P., INC. BUSY

The Step Ahead Program is currently soliciting monetary donations which are tax deductible to the extent that the law allows. These contributions are used for the following projects:

- Saturday Learning Academy Tutorial Program
- S.A.P. After School Tutorial Program
- Food for:
 - Monthly feeding of the homeless
 - Monthly Volunteers and Family Fun Day
- Canned food drive
- Clothing drive
- South Africa Missionary Trip (collection of all items to donate to poverty townships in South Africa)
- Postage for mailing
- Rental expenses for meeting facilities and children activities
- Administrative supplies

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Personal Belated New Year's Greetings from the Director

Hello, Hello and Hello! Greetings & Blessings! As Director of the S. B. Step Ahead Program, Inc, (SAP), please allow me to extend my best wishes to you and your family throughout the past year. It is my hope that my newsletter finds you enjoying the best of health and strength as you begin the take on both, the challenges and the blessings that await you this year. I greet you and your family with the highest thanks and gratitude for your unconditional support to SAP throughout the past year. Please accept my most humble apology for my delay in communicating with you via our newsletter mail operation over the past few months. During that time lapse, many of you contacted me personally with telephone calls and letters from all over the country just to inquire about "What happened to my newsletter?" or about my well being. I want to thank you for all of your concerns and prayers. Mr. Brady is doing very well, both, physically and spiritually. I also want to thank those of you who made contributions to SAP while the newsletter mailing was on hold.

As Friends and Supporters of SAP, I believe that you are entitled to know just what took us a while to get back to you with our newsletter during this span of time. On a more personal note, as Director, I had the opportunity to again reflect on my personal and spiritual objectives while working as the volunteer director of a non-profit program that helps Children, Families, Victims of homelessness and some of the poorest in the country of South Africa. I must admit to you that this volunteer position to serve others, in this day and time, is and has been unbelievably challenging. My time is not totally all mines. I find it difficult, on some occasions, to turn my head and look the other way when I clearly see the needs of Children, Families and the Victims of Homelessness. Personally, I find it downright indignant to have the means to help make the difference and not help the needy. Consequently, I continue to find myself sharing my time, energy, money, and my experience with those (desiring assistance) to whom I come into contact with. You must know that it is because of the prayers and support from many of you that I am encouraged to continue "In the Struggle" of making a difference in the lives of the innocent. I must give my greatest respect to my immediate Family Members and closest Friends for their patience with me, because I am very close to them. There are times when my mind for mission work keeps me away from them for months. But their unconditional love for me and my desire to help others has continued to be the "extra push" and "motivation" in my moments of private solitude. You are indeed the wind beneath my wings. Secondly, I made several mission oriented trips to South Africa some months ago to literally argue for import permits for the entrance of several 40 ft. containers filled with donated educational, medical, clothing and sports items for the needy. That task of trying to persuade government officials of the positive side of helping their poor is not as easy as one would think. As usual, with GOD's Awesome Power, this task was successful and the citizens located in some of the poorest locations in Kwa Zulu Natal were able to enjoy our donated contributions.

The year of 2002 was indeed another blessed year for SAP. All year long, we at SAP made educating children, single parenting and homelessness our top priority. We are very grateful that GOD has provided us with opportunities (through your help) to help those in need to get the assistance requested. We also appreciate, as well, the increased progress made by SAP this year in our outreach in several area projects. The outreach to the church as well as the un-church, food for the hungry, clothes for the needy, mentoring and tutoring to the children in need all helped to make the Step Ahead Program known in the surrounding communities. Yet our greatest thrill was to witness and experience what our efforts and GOD'S BLESSINGS had been doing among children and families. SAP stepped up its mission to help families and victims of homelessness re-establish their personal spiritual relationship and foundation with the LORD. This goal was achieved through the collaborative joint efforts of Mr. Brady and Rev., Dr. Randolph Fitzgerald, Pastor of the Iconium Baptist Church, a local community church. Together, we created an early morning worship service for families with the emphasis on helping children and single parents establish a spiritual foundation. Through our joint efforts, many families have received free food, clothing, furniture, educational and moral support and most importantly, a renewed relationship with Christ. SAP and its Volunteers increased their mentoring time visiting children in their school settings. These simple visits have made the difference in behavior and grades. What a Year!

Although we were unable to reach our fundraising goals for different projects, we, however, were able to fulfill more duties and responsibilities for those in need with what we had. I, along with all of the Volunteers and Children Participants of SAP, must express our sincere thanks to all of you who went the extra mile to make a contribution to our many efforts to make differences in the life or lives of children, single parents, victims of homelessness, and the victims affected by the HIV/Aids pandemic in South Africa. It is a fact that your "spirit of kindness" in your decision to make monetary, clothing and other forms of contributions to SAP was the true difference in the strides made by SAP over the past year. For that reason, I am eternally grateful. I am a firm believer that SAP was not given to me by GOD to be a banking institution with a big savings account to boast about when among other organizations. SAP was not created to be a dam, but a river of hope. As Director, I have continued to make it my moral duty to work in the areas of interest for which you've made your contributions, that is, to serve people in need, especially children. I believe that the gift and privilege of creating SAP was to be of service and a beacon of hope for others. Please know that 100% and every penny of your contribution went towards our efforts to help children and those in need.

As I reflect back over the past year and consider the busy schedule of our hard working and dedicated volunteers, they did a great job. I can't help but marvel on how a little became much as we placed it all in GOD'S HANDS. For example, SAP forged some new relationships with individuals and organizations and met more performance goals than ever before during 2002; just to name a few: SAP fed in the homeless and street shelters. SAP gave out food, clothes, and furnishings; SAP was able to assist heads of households laid off or who lost their jobs throughout the past year. SAP assisted families victimized by home fires; SAP directed numerous citizens of the surrounding communities to the church. SAP has established the food pantry and clothing closet sites to assist families who may have an array of needs, up to and including personal and spiritual assistance. SAP established a community center office for youth and families. SAP is close to opening the Community Reading Corner and Community Computer Lab for children and Senior Citizen. SAP received 4 buses to donate to our South African Project to help the sick patients get to community health clinics. SAP was able to provide academic support to hundreds of new children and families living in different communities thanks to the new relationship with Dr. Marcus Newsome, Director of Region III, Prince George's County Schools and his very fine Staff. This opportunity has allowed SAP to provide continuous free mentoring and tutoring efforts to the area children in community public schools. Lastly, SAP met new friends and donors that pitched in to help SAP pursue some of its goals. These new relationships have now presented SAP with new and positive challenges to reach out further to touch the lives of children and families seeking both academic and social services.

SAP gave out a number of community and outstanding service awards to individuals, organizations and churches over the past year. For without their outstanding contributions, much of what we accomplished would not have come to fruition. There were churches and Pastors "standing in the gap", just to name a few: Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Jackson, Tennessee (Pastor Bobby E. Anderson), (Pastor Spearman), (Pastor Anthony G. Maclin), (Pastor Kennedy). There were my friends at Popeyes Chicken, Polo-Ralph Lauren, Tommy Hilfiger, Kodak, and Freddie Mac. There was my South African Family and Joseph Shabalala and the "Ladysmith Black Mambazo Singers" at www.mambazo.com who headlined most of our annual charity fundraisers. Last and most importantly in this equation, there was YOU, the dedicated donors of SAP from all over the United States who passed over many of the other good organizations and chose to share your earnings with us here at the Step Ahead Program, Inc, as your choice for giving last year. Please know that I don't take your choice for granted. I want to again say Thank You for your every kindness. May GOD continue to bless you as you become a blessing to others who may be less fortunate throughout the year 2003.

Lastly, please pray for our children and families in our different communities. Also pray for our military troops and world leaders during this time of war.

THE STEP AHEAD PROGRAM CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

- When you change the life of a child, you change the community
- Please help us provide more children with a chance to succeed
- Please help the Step Ahead Program grow
- Providing a frame work in which children can find hope
- "People and Organizations who make a difference are the community's most valuable assets."

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

"Help 'em"

Donor names will be prominently displayed at the future site of the S.A.P. Program Learning Center as a tribute to those who cared enough to help make a difference for Children and Families.

This Months' Donors

\$1 - \$50	Contributor	\$1,000	Advocate	\$10,000	Hero
\$100	Partner	\$2,500	Patron	\$10,000 -Plus	Champion
\$500	Sponsor	\$5,000	Benefactor	In-kind Services Supporters (IKSS)	

<u>Name</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Location</u>
Polo Factory Store(Leesburg Corner Premium Outlet)	IKSS	Leesburg, VA
Polo Factory Store(Potomac Mills Outlet)	IKSS	Prince William, VA
Iconium Baptist Church, Rev. Fitzgerald	IKSS	Capitol Heights, MD
Popeyes Chicken (on Martin Luther King Highway)	IKSS	Landover, MD
Popeyes Chicken (on Marlboro Pike)	IKSS	Capitol Heights, MD
Region III Office of Prince George's County Schools	IKSS	Upper Marlboro, MD
Mr. Alvin Williams, Pres. & CEO of BAMPAC	Benefactor	Washington, DC
Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Rev. Anderson	Sponsor	Jackson, TN
Ms. Yvonne Haywood	Sponsor	Bowie, MD
Livingston House III, JV-Mr.-Mrs. Sherman McKenney	Sponsor	Washington, DC
Forest Cove, LLC, Mr.-Mrs. Sherman McKinney	Advocate	Washington, DC
Mr. Standley Brady	Advocate	Capitol Heights, MD
Mrs. Kim B. Smith	Partner	Sterling, VA
Mr. Rodric Myers	Contributor	Lorton, VA
United States Department of Agriculture	IKSS	Washington, DC

The Step Ahead Program is currently soliciting monetary donations which are tax deductible to the extent that the law allows. Your generous support will be greatly appreciated: Please clip the coupon below and mail to the address given with your donation. Thank you.

Cut Along Dotted Line

I support the work you are doing. Please accept the enclosed check (or money order) in the amount of: \$15 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 Other \$ _____
 (made payable to the S.B. Step Ahead Program, Inc.) Thank you.

Name _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Country _____ Postal Code _____

**Mail this form along with your donation to:
 The S.B. Step Ahead Program, Inc.
 4003 Ellis Street
 Capitol Heights, Maryland 20743**

Please add the following individual(s) business(es) and/or foundation(s) to your mailing list:

Name _____	Name _____
Street Address _____	Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Country _____ Postal Code _____	Country _____ Postal Code _____



Mr. Standley Brady, Program Director
S.B. Step Ahead Program, Inc.
4003 Ellis Street
Capitol Heights, MD 20743

Volunteers Working Together to Make a Difference
in The Lives of Children and Families

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The S.B. Step Ahead Program ("SAP") has been in existence since 1988 on an informal ad hoc basis. Standley Brady, the founder of the program, has volunteered his time, energy and resources to providing mentoring opportunities for at risk children between the ages of 5-18 years old in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area. Mentoring programs include tutoring, field trips, lectures and chaperoned travel opportunities. Mr. Brady has been able to organize and run these programs in the past with the assistance of adult volunteers that he recruits on a project-by-project basis.

The mission of the S.B. Step Ahead Program is both educational and charitable; to assist the nation's learning institutions in their efforts to prevent juvenile delinquency and gang involvement, drug and alcohol use and abuse, teenage pregnancy and truancy, and to protect children from being abused or exploited. The program works to combat illiteracy and offers academic support for other areas of study by providing academic tutoring and a structured program for occupying a child's free time. The program also seeks to address and instill a sense of juvenile accountability and individual responsibility. Activities such as assisting with community clothing and food drives help give the children a sense of accomplishment, of giving back to the community and of helping others less fortunate. Some of these activities are illustrated in this newsletter.

OUR GOAL

- Reaching children from the ages of kindergarten through the 6th grade;
- Supporting Middle school and High school age students whose aim is to serve in the community by tutoring, mentoring and working to assist other Children, Families and our seniors.
- Administration and Learning Academy Center;
- 6 Classroom tutorial center for teaching basic academic subjects to children and families;
- To be a complimentary alternative to our present school system and is structured programs; to assist children in social behavior and school skills;
- Help children build self esteem and to learn that they can achieve and succeed;
- Providing a center where children are able to attain personal attention; laugh more, and to work toward fulfilling their dreams;
- Seek out volunteers who are both active and retired academic professionals and teachers to help compliment S.A.P.'s tutoring and mentoring efforts to save our children.

"BUILDING BRIDGES TO BRING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ACROSS"

Volunteers working together can make the difference!

"Help 'em"