

The Summer of 2010 was the best ever.

Until 2011. (Because we're doing it again, only bigger.)

Serving over 600 campers was a good first step. But while most camps served around 60 campers, over 120 were on each camp's waiting list. In 2011, there'll be a spot for all of those waiting at an IPC Summer Camp.

There'll be another playground to build, there'll be new health clinics, new health care services, and more. The Summer of 2011 will be the best ever. Until 2012.

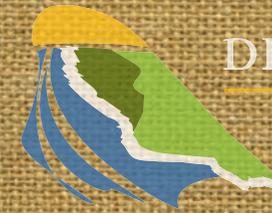


**Call us now for more information about
next year's IPC Summer Camps.**

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DELTA HEALTH ALLIANCE
Solutions for a Healthy Tomorrow



DELTA HEALTH ALLIANCE
Solutions for a Healthy Tomorrow

The Best Summer Ever.



The Indianola Promise Community was born the Summer of 2010.



It was the best summer ever.

Something was different that summer. Unlike decades before, somehow people who lived in Indianola knew things were happening. The excitement was infectious. Things were about to get a lot better. The change wasn't being made for them. It was about to be made by them. Little known at the time, the catalyst was called the Indianola Promise Community, IPC.

Driven by Delta Health Alliance, inspired by the Harlem Children Zone, IPC was a spark that ignited the community to action on behalf of its children, starting with a playground.



Designing their dreams

Community gathers to design new Bethune Center playground, children voice what they want

By SASHA HELLER
News Editor

Representatives with KaBOOM! and Delta Health Alliance met with area schoolchildren and their parents last Wednesday to discuss plans on how to design a new playground at the Indianola Bethune Center in Southgate as part of a community build set for Aug. 7 in which 350 volunteers will construct the play site in six hours.

Around 50 children sat at work tables in

the center's main room drawing their dream playgrounds using crayons and their imaginations.

Merritt Middle ninth-grader Tyshon Porter drew a sandbox, treehouse, see-saw, slide, swingset and jungle gym.

Fellow incoming freshman Tia Gibson drew those features for her dream park as well as a sidewalk, "so we could walk around," she said. Gibson also drew rideable plastic sea horses "for the little kids."

"The goal of that meeting was to review the kids' work and convene with parents

See PLAYGROUND, Page 19



Sasha Heller/Enterprise-Tocsin

Two children describe their dream playground, including swings and slides, during last week's "Design Day" at the Bethune Center.



In June, at the Bethune Recreation Center, on Design Day, these young playground experts designed their dream playground.

Then, in August, their parents, friends and neighbors, built their dream playground in six hours on a Saturday.

Promise fulfilled at South Gate



Wayne Parham/Enterprise-Tocsin

Hundreds of volunteers gather behind the Bethune Center on Saturday to build the new South Gate playground and park. A group of workers, shown above, entrench a large playground component.



What started at South Gate Park spread

IPC Summer Camps served over 600 campers ranging in age from 3 – 18.



June 2010



July 2010



August 2010

throughout Indianola all summer long.

During the Independence Day holiday, Delta Missions campers helped line North Sunflower Drive with 330 flags to salute soldiers from Indianola who served in Iraq.

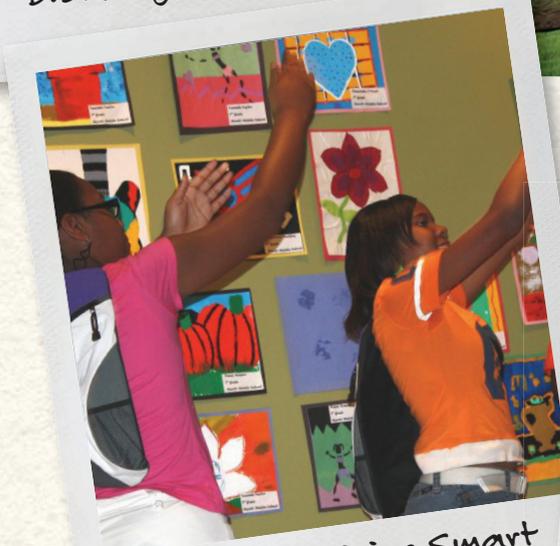


July 4, 2010
Character Development Summer
Mentoring Program



B.B. King

Campers played for B.B. King at “The Art of Living Smart” Summer Camp, run by the B.B. King Museum.

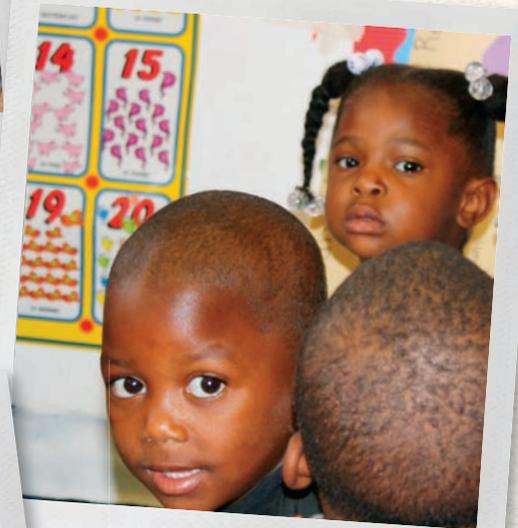


The Art of Living Smart Summer Camp



Small World Summer Camp

Campers at Small World made and played their own musical instruments.



These Small World campers got ready to step up to kindergarten with music and dance,

story time, and other activities with the help of supportive teachers.



At the Planting Seeds For Careers in Agriculture Summer Camp, put on by Indianola Main Street, interns learned about careers in agriculture from the ground up.



Planting Seeds for Careers
In Agriculture Camp

While they did, they wondered if it was still July in Indianola, as they shivered inside Golden Harvest's processing plant.



At Care Delta Summer Youth Project, campers learned what's in food, how to shop for healthy food, how to grow food and how to prepare it.



Care Delta Summer
Youth Project

For the first time, campers got to dive

into swimming lessons.

So many had so much fun, another class was put together to bring in more campers.



Inside, campers learned about new cultures at Arts & Crafts, turning the Bethune Recreation Center into the Hawaiian Islands.



Students Summer Development Initiative



At the Robert L. Merritt Middle School, as part of the Indianola Promise Community (IPC) summer camp entitled Students Summer Development Initiative, operated by the Raspberry Men's Club, 60 students, ranging in age from 16 to 18 years old, honed their reading skills, while learning geometry and language arts, assuring themselves that they won't be singing the blues when they get their first report card in the fall. They did it all, inspired by the Blues, composing and performing their own songs, creating timelines of their favorite artists and more.

A+
Very Good!



The Summer of 2010, the community of Indianola came to life.

Sparked by the IPC, Indianola began to realize how promising the future could be. It was the best summer ever.



The Indianola Promise Community is a Delta Health Alliance initiative uniting health care, education, community and faith-based services to provide people the opportunity to realize their promise as active members and leaders in the Indianola community. Starting with prenatal care, through infancy, as toddlers, teens, students and high school graduates, IPC will fortify the efforts of Indianola youth as they tackle life's many challenges.



About the Indianola Promise Community

The Indianola Promise Community (IPC) is a Delta Health Alliance initiative that unites healthcare, education, community, and faith-based services to provide Delta residents the chance to realize their promise as active members and leaders in their community. Modeled after the successful Harlem Children's Zone in New York City, the program focuses on prenatal care through high school graduation. It targets growth of toddlers, students and teens – every stage of youth to ensure bright and productive futures. And it's an effort that is only growing larger thanks to a recent planning grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The Indianola Promise Community consists of many great programs that are meeting a host of needs.

The **Delta Early Learning Program**, a partnership between the IPC and The Early Childhood Institute at Mississippi State University, is building high quality early childhood education that provides the foundation for greater learning potential

and healthier living. The initiatives within this comprehensive program have had great success, including the Delta Promise School for 4-year-olds, which provides a high quality, early childhood program, is reducing the summer regression often experienced by low-income children during the summer months. Statistically significant student gains in pre-reading skills have been recorded every program year.

The **IPC Summer Camp Program** had its debut in the summer of 2010 -- during which 600 youth aged 3 to 18 were served in ten camps. The camps included: the **City of Indianola Summer Outreach Program**, which provided an opportunity for high school students to work and receive on-the-job training at various departments within the City of Indianola; the **Keplere Summer Institute**, that provided workforce training and assistance with college readiness to Indianola students entering the eleventh and twelfth grades (the project served 44 students and they were given pre- and post-tests to determine the effectiveness of the curriculum; initially, none of the students could

pass the pre-test for the healthy lifestyle portion, but after implementation of the program, there was a 100 percent pass rate; in the college preparatory portion that included activities to improve reading, writing and English skills, the students showed significant improvement in all three areas upon post-testing); and the **Student's Summer Development Initiative**, that focused on improving reading, English and math skills for students in grades 6-12 (forty-six students participated; a post-test given at the end of the instructional period showed an 18-point increase in grammar and mechanics usage in writing and speaking scores; a 10-point improvement in basic math, data analysis and skill application scores; and a 7-point improvement in vocabulary recognition and usage in reading scores.

Other IPC projects include: **South Gate Park**, that was built by 350 volunteers in just six hours on a Saturday afternoon in August. The park facilities were designed by the children who will play there and was made possible through the hard work of a cross section of neighborhood residents, corporate partners, city leaders, the KaBOOM! program and the Delta Health Alliance; and an alliance with the

Jackson chapter of Parents for Public Schools to create a network of parents who have the knowledge, skills and motivation to work with teachers and administrators to change district and school policies, and to be more engaged in the educational process within the Indianola Public School system.

The most exciting news came in September when the IPC received a \$332,630 grant from the U.S. Department of Education – one of only 21 issued in the entire country – which will be used to build on the planning and operation of the existing effort. The grant also reflects the incredible progress already made. The grant – known as the Delta Neighborhood Promise planning project – will allow Delta Health Alliance to plan and partner with a variety of local and state organizations to operate programs that improve the academic performance of children and youth from cradle to college; and improve the health, safety and stability of neighborhoods, and promote family engagement in student learning. With that comprehensive pipeline approach, the Indianola Promise Community will resonate not only in the Delta, but throughout Mississippi.

Sometimes promises do come true.