

IN REACH, INC.

2002-2003 ANNUAL REPORT

helping young people reach their potential

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



During the 2002-2003 fiscal year, **IN REACH** experienced exciting growth. We were able to accomplish important goals—launch our e-Newsletter, **REVEALED!** and website, www.inreachinc.org—recruit an impressive group of leaders for the board of directors and awesome volunteers to help us complete our work, and focus on building capacity.

Each accomplishment allows us to transition toward our ultimate goal—becoming a financially and programmatically sound organization—easier. This requires an unbelievable investment of dedication, time, and skill. **IN REACH** now has five capable, diverse, and engaged directors on its board who bring a fresh outlook and perspective to the organization.

We continued to experiment with creative and inspirational ways to implement our programs and were fortunate to have the support of the American Youth Work Center and the Forum for Youth Investment by way of personal guidance, a huge dosage of encouragement, and use of equipment. Despite her very busy schedule, Yvette Wright, career counselor at Northwestern High School, continues to assist **IN REACH** with the implementation of its youth leadership program.

There is no one way to serve the community. Many opportunities exist for those willing and able to become involved. As **IN REACH**'s founder, I want to enjoy every experience of the start-up phase of the organization. There is a lot of work to be done in Prince George's County, Maryland. **IN REACH** is committed to being a part of its future.

Founder and President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ina A. Hill', written over a horizontal line.

PURPOSE AND MISSION

Founded in 1999, **IN REACH** is an educational nonprofit organization that seeks to be a catalyst for the improvement of public education. Its mission is to engage young people, their families, educators, and communities in the pursuit of academic excellence. **IN REACH** fulfills its mission through the implementation of programs in three core strategic areas: education and youth development, community-building, and outreach and communications. **IN REACH**'s goals are to:

- Increase educational and developmental opportunities for young people through direct service programs,
- Engage parents, through the Parent Training Institute, in the academic process,
- Provide a forum for school leaders, through the Community Institute for Principals, to communicate and work with communities to provide educational and developmental opportunities to students, and
- Create a forum for interested parties serving children, youth and families to share in the exchange of ideas and information.

A small organization, the primary focus of **IN REACH**'s work this year was continuing the Youth Leadership Council high school program at Northwestern High School, implementing outreach programs, and developing communication strategies to bring more visibility to the organization and its work.

Looking forward, our programmatic priorities for 2003-2004 include implementing the **Girls ARE Great!** Program for middle school girls, continuing the Youth Leadership Council for high school students, further developing the Coalition for Girls, and expanding the scope of our e-newsletter, **RE-VEALED!** and website.

IN REACH believes that young people should always be in reach of a quality education, opportunities in their communities for development, and, ultimately, their dreams.

EDUCATION & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

In spite of a rocky start—the sniper and snow storms—the (Include Me) Youth Leadership Council (YLC) was able to complete another year of programming with students at Northwestern High School in Hyattsville, Maryland. Northwestern’s Career Counselor, Yvette Wright, continues to play an important role in working with **IN REACH** to recruit youth for the YLC.

The long-term goals of the Youth Leadership Council are to:

- Form a county-wide leadership training institute for high school students,
- Serve as a resource to other school and community programs,
- Increase interest and interaction in service among young people, and
- Engage peers in opportunities to identify and discuss solutions to the issues that affect them.

The 2002-2003 program culminated with a forum on relationships in April, where a diverse group of students convened to discuss their relationships with peers, parents, and educators.

Participants found the Youth Leadership Council to be a rewarding program, according to evaluations completed at the conclusion of the year. Students offered several recommendations to expand the program which include planning more field trips and opportunities for students to give back to the community, bringing in representatives from colleges and universities to speak with them about preparing for life after high school, and holding more forums and opportunities for young people to express themselves and articulate their views.



Class of 2003

Yvonne Asanti
Raven Cave
Charlene Conie
Chantal Curry
Tadrene Dawkins
Juan Diaz
Veronica Garcia
Latasha Holloway
Nayeli Lucerc
Eromata Mebob
Nadia Yacinthe

OUTREACH INITIATIVE



COALITION FOR GIRLS

*Supporting, Strengthening and Guiding Girls
to become Healthy, Independent and Confident Women*

In April, **IN REACH** held *At The Table: A Roundtable Discussion* for women working with or on behalf of girls in Prince George's County, Maryland to kick-off the start of the work of the Coalition for Girls. Individuals from government, community and faith-based organizations joined members of the Prince George's Commission for Women and County Executive Jack Johnson's Chief Administrative Officer. The goal of the roundtable, to bring together women on behalf of girls, was achieved.

The Goals of the Coalition for Girls are to:

- Foster collaborative relations between organizations serving girls,
- Identify the needs of girls in Prince George's County, Maryland,
- Increase awareness about girls issues, and
- Set a Prince George's County Girls' Agenda.

The creation of the Coalition for Girls is still in the early formative stages of development. In 2003-2004, **IN REACH** looks forward to bringing this Coalition to life through roundtables, workshops, and other forums.

COMMUNICATIONS

www.inreachinc.org



REVEALED!

WEBSITE LAUNCH

In April, **IN REACH** launched its website.

Through our website we plan to keep you **informed** about our work and the wonderful work of other nonprofits in the county, **educate** you about the issues affecting academics and the development of our children and youth, and inspire you to **take action** in your community to eliminate the many obstacles limiting the success of our young people.

“Excellent web site! I’m so pleased with your continuing good work.”

Peter Shapiro, Council member, District II

E-NEWSLETTER LAUNCH

In May, **IN REACH** released the inaugural issue of its e-Newsletter, **REVEALED!** A bimonthly publication delivered via email, **REVEALED!** highlights how leaders, educators, communities, schools and students themselves are pursuing academic excellence in Prince George’s County, Maryland. It is **IN REACH**’s intention to accentuate the positive things happening in Prince George’s County in support of education, the development of youth, and the important work of community and faith based organizations.

“This is an awesome publication. Thanks so much for including us—and thanks for your work in the community.”

Peter Levine, CIRCLE, University of Maryland
(Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement)

OPERATIONS



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

During the 2002-2003 fiscal year, **IN REACH** welcomed the following new Directors to the Board.

Brian Ashford
Chris Earley
Kecia Farley
Vikki Harris
Jamal Miller
Toni Smith, President

VOLUNTEERS

Tom Houston
Webmaster
Lori Kmetz
Proofreader

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During FY 2002, **IN REACH** received over \$60,000 in in-kind support and cash donations.

IN REACH received a grant from the Prince George's County Education Foundation District II Fund.

The following individuals graciously contributed to **IN REACH** as a *Friend*:

Shawn Abernathy
Carlin Brodie
Tawana Harris
Karen House
Anne Mosle
Virginia Hines-Parry
Bill Treanor

IN REACH is a tax exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service.



IN REACH was accepted into the 2003 National Capital Area's Combined Federal Campaign, #7748.