



IN REACH, INC.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE, WORK & LIFE

2006-2007

REFLECTION | TRANSITION | PROGRESS

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Operating a nonprofit organization is no easy feat. It's demanding, time-consuming and just plain and simply hard. However, as the founder and executive director of **IN REACH**, it is the one thing I love the most. It is one of my most rewarding experiences. The joy of taking an idea—founded on improving the lives of children and youth—and actually molding it into something tangible, valuable and promising is incredible! What could be better? Thus my continued commitment to **IN REACH**.

Thanks to caring individual donors and the Action Fund for District 2 of the Prince George's Community Foundation, in 2006 **IN REACH** was able to reach two milestones: we were able to provide scholarships to eight college-bound seniors of our Youth Leadership Council at Northwestern High School and raise awareness about our work through our first special event. While we were pleased that **IN REACH** achieved these milestones, we still felt that there was something missing—something that would bring nonprofits together to advocate to local and state lawmakers on behalf of children, youth, and families living in Prince George's County, Maryland.

During 2007, **IN REACH** reflected and spent time strategizing around this "something". We looked at various opportunities and our capacity to effectively pursue advocacy work. Bringing stakeholders—community leaders, educators, business owners—together has always been a part of **IN REACH**'s mission and, as a result, we have decided that it now requires a dedicated platform. Through a new and collaborative advocacy strategy, **IN REACH** will engage, support and educate communities on how to effectively take action for children, youth, and families.

Moving forward, **IN REACH** will launch new and improved direct-service programs aimed at reaching more children and youth. It is estimated that over 40% of adolescents, ages 12-19, experience one or more "mental health risk" in Prince George's County (2002 Child and Adolescent Health Assessment, Prince George's County). This data speaks to the need for organizations like **IN REACH** who demonstrates its leadership by actively developing meaningful programs and services that benefits our youth.

In late 2008, **IN REACH** will release its eye-opening report, *A Day in the Life of a Girl Living in Prince George's County, Maryland*. Youth leaders from **IN REACH**'s former Girls' Action and Youth Leadership Councils worked diligently collecting, organizing, and analyzing data for the Report. *A Day in the Life* is the beginning of many reports that **IN REACH** will undertake and disseminate.

On behalf of everyone at **IN REACH**, I would like to extend a very special thank you to all of our caring supporters, individual donors and the Staples Foundation for continuing to believe in our work. To all of our future supporters, we welcome and look forward to meeting you.



Toni A. Smith
Executive Director

2008 FRAMEWORK

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Caring adults who value children and youth
Safe places for youth to learn and live, gather and socialize
A healthy start for all children with appropriate supports into young adulthood
Meaningful educational experiences
Opportunities for growth through service learning

MISSION

IN REACH believes that all students should always be *in reach* of a quality education, opportunities in their communities for development and, ultimately, their dreams. In order for **IN REACH** to be successful at helping all students reach this goal, **In Reach** prepares them for college, work and life.

VISION

Healthy, productive and prepared young adults in every family.

PRIMARY ISSUE AREAS

Health
Education
Youth Development
Workforce Investment

KEY STRATEGIES

STRATEGY I—ADVOCACY: **IN REACH** is committed to raising awareness and engaging stakeholders in the issues that currently challenge its mission. We advocate by creating, collecting and disseminating information and data related to and uniting voices to speak on behalf of children, youth and families.

Primary Goal: To assemble a community-focused legislative agenda that represents the needs of children, youth and families living in Prince George's County, Maryland.

STRATEGY II—PROGRAMS: Several new direct-service programs are being created to engage youth in opportunities that will help prepare them for life after high school by focusing on doing well today.

Primary Goal: To launch the **Youth As Researchers** Program, a program that engages high school students in conducting research to identify the needs and strengths of their communities.

STRATEGY III—SPECIAL INITIATIVES: **IN REACH** values collaboration and looks forward to continuing to engage in and initiate special projects to advance its mission and fulfill its vision.

Primary Goal: To organize an Advocacy Roundtable to gather the thoughts and ideas of community stakeholders on how to best harness the power of their voices on behalf of children, youth and families.



Top Three Reasons To Support IN REACH:

1. We engage students in positive activities.
2. We work on behalf of all children and youth from pre-school through college.
3. We help children become healthy, productive and prepared young adults.

For more information, visit www.inreachinc.org.

Like many nonprofit organizations in Prince George's County, **IN REACH** is small and relies on the generous support of volunteers to implement its programs. With your assistance, **IN REACH** can continue to grow into a financially sustainable organization and have an even greater impact on children, youth and families.

Act now, join our cadre of kind contributors and help In Reach continue to thrive.

Shawn Abernathy, Ph.D.
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Action Fund for District 2 of the Prince George's Community Foundation
Staples Foundation
Washington Area Women's Foundation
Women Working Together To Make A Difference