



IN REACH, INC.
2004-2005 Annual Report



From the President

The Power of a Team

A milestone year, **IN REACH** is growing, each year building a stronger foundation. Every year brings more funding, more service, and more public awareness.

More funding was secured during this period than in any previous year. We moved into our own offices and I had the opportunity to work with two beautiful college students (pictured above, I am in the middle), Audrey Hawkins, an undergraduate intern from the University of Maryland and Kelia Murray, a graduate intern from the University of Texas at Houston. Kelia completed her Master of Science in Social Work Degree with a concentration Administration and Planning in May.

My commitment to working with adolescent and older youth has never been stronger especially as it becomes more apparent just how much the teen years are the most overlooked and undervalued by adults. Yet as adults, we tend to discount how the experiences from these years often have a significant impact on how we choose to manage the rest of our lives.

As we work to improve the lives of adolescent and

- older youth in Prince George's County, we are also working to bring those who work with this population together for meaningful communications and interactive projects. One way we have begun to do this is through the **GIRLS' INITIATIVE** which offers opportunities for professionals and girls to collaborate through training, forums, and workshops to increase positive girl/women relationships and bonds.

In April, a survey was distributed to women asking for their input on the status of girls in the county. Based on their responses, a significant amount of time needs to be dedicated to helping girls develop a positive self-image, we need to identify more positive role models in the community, and find ways to increase support and guidance to families.

IN REACH will tackle this through its Annual Calendar of planned forums, workshops, and training opportunities in support of the **GIRLS' INITIATIVE**. Each year the theme will focus around a specific issue. For next year, 2005-2006, the theme is *Bridging Gaps and Expanding Possibilities: Sharing our Stories*.

In the year ahead, I will work diligently to

- identify additional sources of revenue to sustain the organization;

- continue to refine, grow, and expand programs to serve more teens;

- devise a communications and public engagement strategy to effectively engage the public in our efforts; and
- look for opportunities to establish meaningful partnerships with others dedicated to helping young people reach their potential.

I would like to thank the wonderful and awesome volunteers that I have had the pleasure to work with this year: Audrey Hawkins, Marveen Henderson, Tom Houston—my incredible Web master, Lori Kmetz, Kelia Murray, and, last, but certainly not least, Yvette Wright at Northwestern High School.

I have learned that the power of a team, especially on long journeys, can be very comforting, reassuring, and energizing.

Toni A. Smith

About IN REACH

IN REACH is a youth-driven, community-based 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization positioned to respond to the unmet developmental and academic needs of adolescent and older youth living in Prince George's County, Maryland.



Our mission is to engage young people, their families, educators, and communities in the pursuit of successful youth development, a springboard to academic excellence. **IN REACH** fulfills its mission by creating partnerships with public schools and communities to:

Engage middle and high school students in direct service opportunities and programs,

Create forums for interested parties serving children, youth and families, to share in the exchange of ideas and information, and

Work collaboratively with educational systems, government, and community-based organizations to promote positive youth development and strengthen public education.

Focusing on the future, the **YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

(YLC), a school-based program at Northwestern High School in Hyattsville, Maryland, is designed to help prepare students for life after high school, organize to improve youth/adult communications in their school and community, and provide valuable community service.

The Girls' Action Council is the combination of two previous **IN REACH** girls programs, **Girls Are Great!** and the Girls' Advisory Board, and thus has a two-pronged approach: to serve as a developmental, educational, and leadership program for girls while increasing their participation and involvement in action projects that address social issues affecting them.

The *Valuing the Voices of Girls Initiative*, a five-year endeavor, has been developed to connect individuals and communities to organizations and resources to create positive change and opportunities for girls and young women in Prince George's County, Maryland.

At the core of our communications efforts is **REVEALED!**, our quarterly e-Newsletter. **REVEALED!**, distributed free via e-mail, provides readers with a closer look at the diverse educational and developmental opportunities, services, and programs available to young people in Prince George's County.

Tania Anderson
Destiny Banks
Charles Bunn
Liana Cools
Mercedes David

Angelica M. Garcia DeJesus

Tinah Dembele
Krizia Fernandez
Tanaya Gable
Crystal Johnson
Kendra Lewis
Keiry Nunez
Maquita Parker
Jasmine Smith

Giselle Denbow
Paola Flores
Yeimie Hernandez
Jhamika Kemp
Maurissa Matthews
Madeline Ortiz
Shristi Singh
Tyrell Smith

Girls' Advisory Board

Sydney Clark
Paige Johnson
Monique Morgan
Tania Stewart

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.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



Youth Leadership Council (YLC)

Focusing on the future, the **YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (YLC)**, a school-based program at Northwestern High School in Hyattsville, Maryland, is designed to help prepare students for life after high school, organize to improve youth/adult communications in their school and community, and provide valuable community service.

Students of the Youth Leadership Council

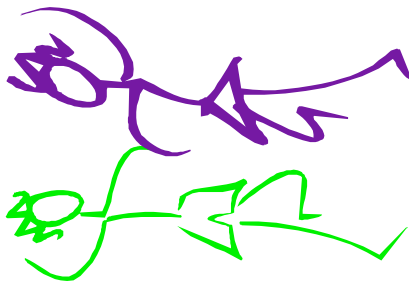
Prepare for life after graduation. This includes participating in critical financial literacy workshops, participating in opportunities to build and strengthen life skills, and college and workforce preparation including a tour of local colleges and businesses.

Improve youth/adult communications. YLC members organize a series of youth forums where students and adults can engage in dialogue about the issues that affect youth. This includes documenting those experiences in **IN REACH**'s publication, **REVEALED!**

Provide valuable community service. YLC members identify opportunities that allow them to give back to their communities. One example is by participating in such annual events as Earth Day. Members earn service hours towards their service-learning credit requirements.

GOALS	OUTCOMES
Recruit a minimum of 12-15 students.	Over thirty-five students attended the invitational meeting held in November. Twenty-seven students joined. The YLC maintained a 99% attendance rate at every monthly meeting.
Hold 3 youth forums for peers and adults.	The YLC held three outstanding, well-attended youth forums on violence, relationships, and life after high school. YLC members surveyed, organized, planned, evaluated, and recruited their peers and adults to participate in these youth-lead forums.
Engage students in college and career preparatory activities.	In recognition of career month in February, Dr. Bernice Alston, Deputy Chief, Education Offices, Office of Education, NASA spoke to YLC members and students from the Pre-Engineering Department at Northwestern High School about career opportunities in math, science, and technology and encouraged students not to overlook organizations like NASA when identifying future career opportunities.
	Each YLC member received a <i>Life After High School Binder</i> specifically designed to help them keep their college materials and information organized. The Binder features worksheets, information, and tips on preparing for life after high school, and sleeves to collect and keep information in.
	Two students were given the opportunity to write for the Student Pulse column of the spring issue of IN REACH 's quarterly e-newsletter, REVEALED! The issue was on School Choice. The column captured the thoughts of the teen writers as well as several of their peers. Three students, all from ethnically diverse backgrounds, were interviewed by IN REACH staff for the Recognized This! Column of the same issue. This column highlights the achievements of students.
Conduct and participate in at least 1 service project.	In recognition of Earth Day, brave YLC members were joined by IN REACH 's Girls' Advisory Board members and other volunteers from the community in the Anacostia Watershed Society's Earth Day Clean-up Event at Bladensburg Waterfront Park in April.

GIRLS' ADVISORY BOARD



IN REACH is delighted to announce that as of July 2005, the Girls' Advisory Board (GAB), along with the Girls' ARE Great Program have joined forces to form the *Girls' Action Council*.

The newly formed *Girls' Action Council* has a two-pronged approach: to serve as a developmental, educational, and leadership program for girls while increasing their participation and involvement in action projects that address social issues affecting them.

Open to middle and high school girls living in Prince George's County, monthly Girls' Action Council members participate in theme-based engaging and creative workshops and training and collaborate with adult facilitators to organize action service projects that teach, encourage, and allow them to become the keepers of their own futures.

Girls' Action Council Members

- Explore images of self (developing a healthy self-esteem, staying physically fit, building positive relationships/friendships, learning to communicate with confidence).
- Learn about different careers and educational opportunities, and how to

According to information published on the New Moon Web site, the percentage of American girls who are "happy with the way I am" drops from 60% to 29% between elementary and high school.

improve their study skills.

- Participate in leadership skill building, public speaking and research activities.
- Take part in activities that encourage critical thinking.
- Design, implement and evaluate action projects.
- Advise IN REACH staff and others on issues important to girls.
- Receive community service hours for school.
- Have lots of FUN and so much more!

SNAPSHOT 2004-2005

Prepare Girls' Report

The Girls' Advisory Board worked diligently to develop, distribute, collect and tally the survey results for the upcoming report, *A Day In The Life of a Girl Living in Prince George's County, Maryland*. Middle and high school girls from public and private schools completed surveys asking a range of questions from demographics to academic achievement and questions on self-esteem and awareness. The Report is expected to be released by the end of 2005. **Assist with the Valuing the Voices of Girls Con-**

ference. GAB members played an instrumental role in helping IN REACH prepare for its Valuing the Voices of Girls Conference held in May. Members selected workshop themes, assisted with the facilitation of workshops and the evaluation process.

Conduct and/or Participate in a Service Project.

GAB members worked alongside members of the YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL in the Anacostia Watershed Society's Earth Day Clean-up Event at Bladensburg Waterfront Park in April.

GAB members like to have fun too . . .



Girls' Advisory Board Day of Appreciation. In March, members of the Girls' Advisory Board, a member of the YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL, and IN REACH staff enjoyed a relaxing day of pottery work and a late afternoon lunch to celebrate their hard work on the *Girls' Report*.

OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS



—VALUING THE VOICES OF— GIRLS INITIATIVE

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

IN REACH is committed to working to improve the lives of girls. In 2003, over thirty individuals participated in **IN REACH's** Roundtable for Women about Girls. The information from that Roundtable serves as the foundation for this long-term campaign.

REVEALED!

An E-Newsletter

REVEALED! is a quarterly e-Newsletter created to provide readers with a closer look at the diverse developmental and educational programs available in the county to improve the lives of children and youth.

It is distributed free via e-mail to over **800** local readers including educators, concerned individuals, local leaders of nonprofit organizations, government, businesses, and foundations.

During 2004-2005, **IN REACH** published two issues—Students with Special Needs and School Choice.

VALUING THE VOICES OF GIRLS: WE'RE LISTENING!

A Conference for Middle School Girls

Made possible through a grant from the Prince George's Community Foundation, on May 7, 2005, **IN REACH** held a conference for middle school girls at the Department of Family Services in Camp Springs, Maryland. The well-planned day included a diverse group of speakers including a spoken word presentation and interactive workshops.

The conference provided the opportunity for middle school girls to interact with high school and college students as well as professionals. Numerous local businesses donated prizes and participants received a bevy of information and resources.

Workshop evaluations yielded such comments as “energizing and fun,” “I learned that your opinions really relate to your decisions in life,” and I learned “ways to solve conflict.”

A five-year endeavor, the VALUING THE VOICES OF GIRLS INITIATIVE has been developed to connect individuals and communities to organizations and resources to create positive change and opportunities for girls and young women in Prince George's County, Maryland.

OBJECTIVES

- Identify the issues and needs of girls in Prince George's County and set a Girls' Agenda.
- Foster on-going working relationships between organizations working with and on behalf of girls.
- Increase public awareness about girls' issues and opportunities.
- Bridge the communication gap between girls and women.

DONORS & LEADERSHIP

IN REACH received over \$77,000 in financial and in-kind support.

We would like to extend a warm thank you to our loyal supporters. Thanks for continuing to believe in our work.

Inspirational Supporters (\$15-99)

Karen Towles
 Karen Y. House
 Tanya N.R. Jackson
 William Treanor

Community Supporters (\$100-499)

Shawn Abernathy, Ph.D.
 Cassandra Burekhalter
 Chris Earley
 End Time Harvest Ministries
 Virginia Hines Parry
 Washington Area Women's Foundation

Engaged Supporters (\$500-999)

Vikki Harris

Chris Earley
 Kecia Farley
 Vikki Harris
 Jamal Miller

Toni A. Smith, Founder and President

Community Business Supporters

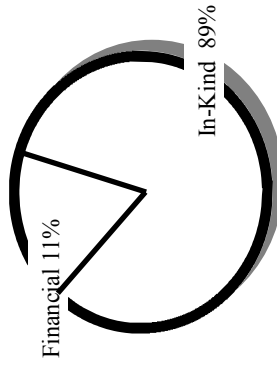
Appleby's Restaurant, College Park
 AMC Theaters
 Consolidated Movie Theatres
 Ruby Tuesday Restaurant, Greenbelt
 Safeway
 SAM'S Club
 Shoppers Food Warehouse
 Target @ Greenbelt
 Target @ Silver Spring/Greatlands
 TGIF Restaurant, Greenbelt

Commission for Women, Department of Family Services, provided space for the Valuing the Voices of Girls' Conference in May

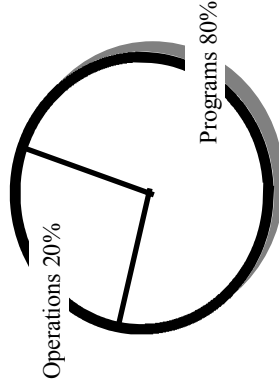
Foundation and Government Grants
 Prince George's Community Foundation
 District II Fund, Councilman Will Campos

IN REACH participates in the
 Combined Federal Campaign (#7748)
 and the Maryland Charity
 Campaign (#6720).

REVENUE & IN-KIND SUPPORT



EXPENSES



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS