



Ozanam  
basketball  
program

# Newsletter



We are committed to making a difference in the lives of the youth we serve.

OZANAM, INC. Pittsburgh, PA

VOLUME 8

ISSUE: SPRING 2018

## Ozanam Celebrating 50 Years

It was 1968 and the basketballs at Ozanam and Granville courts birth into life the first Ozanam Basketball Summer League Game. Under the stellar leadership of founder and Executive Director Mr. Carl Kohlman, Ozanam would bridge together boys and girls from all races, genders, and socioeconomic backgrounds from Western Pennsylvania whose commonality was basketball.

Basketball was the carrot Mr. Kohlman dangled to expose youngsters to a larger world

that existed outside their communities. However, the biggest carrot of all was Mr. Kohlman's

commitment to education. Academics and athletics became a staple for Ozanam participants. An extraordinary number of Ozanam participants earned college scholarships, traveled internationally, and today represent an enormous number of professions.

Ozanam Cultural Center was housed in the Hill District of Pittsburgh. Inside and outside the building lifelong relationships and friendships was forged.



### DID YOU KNOW.....?

1. Ozanam's purpose is to help boys and girls of Western Pennsylvania develop into responsible young adults through positive, developmental training, including educational programming, athletic competition, social and cultural activities, and academic support services.
2. Ozanam's African American Legends program teaches youngsters their rich history. The students take trips, play games, see displays which promote and focuses on the contribution of men and women who have been instrumental in creating the African American heritage and
3. Ozanam Annual Youth Leadership Conference which is held in May at Ammon Recreation Center is run by youngster in Ozanam program.



## Ozanam Afterschool Program Feature



DRAYMIRA MCLEOD

The next generation of girl's basketball tradition at Ozanam, Inc, housed at Ammon Recreation Center, is in good hands with Draymira McLeod, a 10-year old Fifth-grader at Pittsburgh Miller School.

Draymira attends Ozanam afterschool program where she receive homework help from tutors and Ozanam staff. The goal of Ozanam afterschool program is to help school kids establish a mind-set to complete homework efficiently, keep grades above a 2.0 grade point average, and develop a positive attitude towards learning and school. "I read books, get tutored in multiplication and division with my school math work," said Draymira. "I work on writing sentences, paragraph or story, which includes working on my spelling." Afterschool tutors are helpful to Ozanam afterschool participants. "They helped me get ready for math and reading tests." Said Draymira.

Draymira has been part of Ozanam afterschool program for 2-years. According to Draymira, "the best part of coming to Ozanam is getting help with homework then going to the gym to play basketball and exercise." she added.

Going to the gym is the second component of Ozanam afterschool program. Teaching kids about healthy life habits by including exercise in the gym. Draymira enjoys playing basketball. She is one of a handful of girls playing in the 10-under boy's league. "I have fun with friends. Eating snacks, and playing different sports like flag football, basketball, and dodgeball," she said.

She is doing incredible work learning how to balance academics and athletics. She is a High Honor student. "I pay attention in classroom, complete and turn in homework assignments on time, and I study and pass test," added Draymira.



SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 2, 2018

5<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Ozanam summer basketball league

@ BRASHEAR HIGH SCHOOL

WE ARE COMMITTED TO MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THE YOUTH WE SERVE.

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Pittsburgh Obama Girl's Basketball Team all smiles after road game



Three Ozanam Generations Darelle Porter, Jr. (2000) Frank "Happy" Dobbs (1970's) and Darelle Porter (1980's).



Ozanam Family Affair



ProTech Thanksgiving Dinner Program sponsored by Curtis Aiken



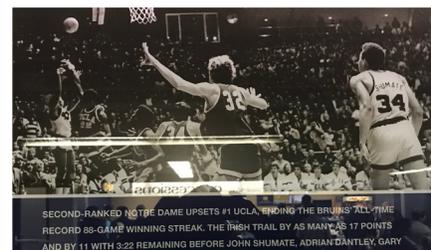
Christmas coming to Ozanam. Coach Jack with after school participants and parents.



Eye for painting. Future artist at work.



Arlington All Stars in STEM Science lab



Dwight "Iceman" Clay, Former Fifth Avenue High School Star and Ozanam Alumni hits "The Shot" breaking UCLA'88 Game Win streak.



Ozanam girls celebrating National Girls and Women in Sport Day

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MARCH

22 – SAT Prep Class

26-30 PPS Spring Break

31 – Ronald McDonald House Service Project

### APRIL

7 – College Visit (College TBA)

12 – SAT Prep Class

## Ozanam Board Members

### Officers:

**Milona Wall**  
Board President

**Darelle Porter**  
Executive Director  
Program Director

**Karen Hall**  
Assistant Executive Director  
Director of Communication  
Girls Program Director

**Diane Stotts**  
Executive Secretary

### Members:

**Howard Bullard**

**Timothy Freeman**

**Rahmon Hart**

**Nelson Cooper**

**Gary Schwager**



Ozanam Alum Desi Oliver and Michaela Michaela Lynn Porter

## BLACK HISTORY FACTS

### ONE

You probably know that Maya Angelou was the first African American woman to write a non-fiction best seller. But perhaps you don't know Phyllis Wheatley was the first published African American female author. She was a servant who published her first poem at the age of 12 in the mid 1700's.

### TWO

Black history month which is also known as African-American History Month in the United States, is an annual observance Canada, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands, where it is known as Black Achievement Month.

### THREE

Most people have heard of the Negro Leagues in baseball and of Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier in the 1940's-but relatively few people have heard of the Black Fives, the African American basketball team that played up until the National Basketball (NBA) Association was integrated in 1950

## Thank You:

T.E.A.C.H.E.R.S., First National Bank, APOST, Pittsburgh Public Schools, Department of Human Services, Duquesne University Learning Center, University of Pittsburgh, Willis Foundation, McGinley Foundation, UPMC, Citiparks, BNY Mellon, Josh Gibson Foundation, Dr. Maria Townsend, Heinz Endowment, Pittsburgh Promise, Fifth Third Bank, Fuel Up to Play 60, Clark Hill Thorpe Reed., Dave Edmunds, Urban Officials, Focus Imaging & Printing.

## Ozanam Facts:

- Ozanam collaborates with many organizations and programs in the surrounding Pittsburgh area to enhance and elevate its programs
- Ozanam established a "Breakfast Club" where boys and girl's basketball players in the summer come to Ammon Recreation Center in the Hill District to hone their basketball skills, conditioning, and educationally increase their knowledge of the game they play.
- Ozanam Executive Director, Darelle Porter has a son and daughter attending college on basketball scholarships. Respectively University of Cincinnati and St. Francis Brooklyn. Alvis Rogers, one of two Afterschool Directors son is on a Football scholarship at West Virginia University

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Darelle Porter, Executive Director  
Program Director

## FITNESS FACTS

### Meditation

Meditation is easier than you think, and the benefits are plenty.

Learn the basics:

#### **Leave a Loud Room**

There's no wrong place to meditate, but choosing a calm space might make it easier when you are first starting out.

#### **Be Consistent**

People find meditation most helpful if they do it early in the morning or just before bed. When you start out, explore different options to find what feels most natural to you – just work toward keeping it consistent.

#### **Focus on Your Breath**

Focus on a body sensation, like your breath coming in and out of your nose, your belly rising and falling. When stressful thoughts come up, don't worry. Simply refocus your attention on your body – again and again and again.

Embrace meditation as a way to become familiar with how your mind works.