



WADE

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a minute!

Our 2008 New Year's Resolutions

By Brian Checchio
Executive Director

Merry Christmas! May God bless you this holiday season with a renewed focus on His goodness, mercy and love.

In preparation for writing these words, I spent a little time looking back through some of the newsletters we've sent out in the past.

The Wade Center has come a long way in the last two years! You have helped us restore this historic building to a place of prominence in our community by responding to our need for heat, windows, paint and supplies.

Our "before and after" pictures are a testimony to God's faithfulness and your generosity.

As another year comes to a close, I am struck by the fact that our current needs have moved past restoring the building and are now focused on restoring the lives of children in need.

As the number of students benefiting from our programs continues to grow, we need your regular financial help more than ever to employ staff, pay utility bills and provide food for our students. I hope you will continue to respond and help us

make a difference in the spiritual, physical, emotional and intellectual needs of children and youth in our community.

To the right, you will find highlights of our accomplishments in 2007 and our plans for 2008.

I'm not big on New Year's resolutions, but I do believe goal-setting is crucial. That's why we have big plans for 2008.

Most notably, I have set a goal that each and every student in our program will be on the "B" honor roll by the end of the year. It's a lofty goal, but I think we are already seeing progress that indicates we can get there!

On the back, you can read the words of some of our students, as they discuss the impact Wade has made on their grades and their lives. As you read through their comments, know that YOU have made all of this possible!

While grants and special gifts like the ones we recently received from Norfolk Southern and Dr. Phil allow us to do special projects, it's your regular support that makes what we do possible.

Please consider the Wade Center as you plan year-end charitable giving.

We look forward to your partnership. Thank you for your investment in our children and in us.

LOOKING BACK & PRESSING AHEAD

- We expanded our after-school program in 2007, allowing us to include **dinner meals** and evening programming.
- For 2008, we have set a goal that **every child** in after-school will be on the "**B**" honor roll by the end of the year.
- Dr. Phil visited Wade in 2007, bringing with him a new van and instruments for our **music room**.
- In 2008, we will begin using those instruments to offer **music lessons** to our students and community members.
- Our **summer camps** were filled to capacity in 2007, as children learned math, science and reading skills through creative workshops.
- In 2008, our summer programming will expand to include hosting mission teams from around the country that will perform **volunteer work** in our community.
- Daniel and Hannah Walters joined our staff as **urban missionaries** (they solicit donations to fund their salary) in 2007, along with AmeriCorps volunteer Amanda Warren.
- We hope to add additional urban missionaries in 2008, which will allow us to extend programming to **high school** students.
- We began new **parenting classes** in 2007 to help young adults learn the skills they need to raise children in today's world.
- In 2008, we will begin a backpack program that will provide healthy, **nutritious meals** for our after-school students to take home on the weekends.



Dr. Phil's recent visit provided us with instruments we will use to start a new music program. Only 11% of our income comes from these types of special gifts. We still rely on people like you for the other 89% of our budget, which keeps our programs operating... and growing!