



November 23, 2010

Dear Gift Giver,

Thank you for sharing your blessings with our children!

Each year your generosity transforms the holiday season for the families of the Sue Duncan Children's Center. As we gather for our annual holiday party, coming together as a community to celebrate, we feel a deep gratitude that you make such an effort to put smiles on our children's faces and warmth in their hearts. For some children, this may be the only gift they receive this year. For many others, it will be the best.



The Center exists to educate, support and inspire inner-city youth and their families in a safe and nurturing environment. People come to us under many different circumstances and we work with them over time to improve their lives.



The Center does everything it can do every day to help whoever walks in the door. We cherish, we nurture, we feed; we listen, we counsel, we support; we teach, we discipline, we play, we laugh and cry, and we teach some more. We don't solve people's problems for them. We listen, we support, and we help them to solve their problems themselves.

We work with 85 children and 55 families. We teach everything from reading, writing and math to how to tell right from wrong. We tutor at every level from pre-K to college; our youngest student is 1, our oldest 45. Our tutor to child ratio is typically under 1 to 4 and where necessary can be 1 to 1. We serve a hundred healthy meals a day. We provide counseling and therapy. We use our connections to find jobs for teenagers and parents; sometime we hire them ourselves.

The Sue Duncan Children's Center is entering its 50th year and we're doing more than ever. We have more children, more families, more staff, more services, and more partnerships than ever before.

You're one of those partners. Opening your gifts, our children know there are people out there in the world who care about them as human beings, *even though they may never have met them*. They feel the warmth and support of a widespread community invested in their happiness and ultimate success. This is the true value of what you do. A wonderful gift transforms a child's holiday. The feeling of being cared for transforms their lives.

Thank you again, from all our hearts,

Owen Duncan
Assistant Director
Sue Duncan Children's Center

P.S. If you haven't, check out our website for video of last year's party!
<http://www.sueduncanchildrenscenter.org/events/holidays2009/>



Five of last year's nine
Eighth grade graduates