

Link Community School
120 Livingston Street
Newark, NJ 07103
Serving Newark for 41 Years

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**A TASTE OF NEWARK SUCCESSFULLY RAISES
FUNDS FOR URBAN EDUCATION**

(Newark – November 23, 2009) Donors demonstrated their support of education, despite challenging economic times, at Link Community School’s benefit event, *A Taste of Newark 2009*, held on Thursday, November 12, 2009, at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. With the generosity of individuals, corporations, foundations, the participating restaurants and auction donors, the event raised over \$700,000, providing about one-quarter of the school’s operating budget for the year.

Over 500 guests shared in the festivities celebrating the school as well as honoring a long-time Link friend and trustee, Margo Walter of Montclair. The event featured a huge buffet of wonderful food from various cuisines prepared and served by twenty restaurants and culinary establishments from Newark and surrounding towns. While eating and socializing, guests perused a large silent auction of items donated by many friends of the school and listened to the Link Jazz Chorus performing selections from *Porgy and Bess*, George Gershwin’s famous opera.

Guests moved to NJPAC’s Victoria Theater and viewed a short film about Link Community School titled *A Matter of Justice*, watched a thrilling performance by the Link African Dancers under the direction of Link’s Dance and Fitness teacher Jerome Hunter, and listened to an inspiring address by a Link alumna, Javonni Judd ’01. Now a senior at Columbia University, Ms. Judd commented that her Link experience gave her a “sense of community” and was “pivotal...in helping shape my decisions for the future.”

Link Class of ’95 alumnus Darryl Powell introduced Mrs. Walter, who was honored for her long-time commitment to Link as a volunteer, trustee, donor and mentor. Dovetailing on the words of Ms. Judd, Mrs. Walter also addressed the sense of “community” that Link fosters, a community preparing “...Newark-area youth into the world with a vision for their lives and skills necessary to achieve that

vision.” To conclude the evening, Doug Doyle of WBGO 88.3 FM served as the auctioneer of a live auction of a number of exciting items – exclusive vacation homes, luxury box football tickets, a VIP Tour of Google and more.

Of the success of the event, Interim Head of School Maria Pilar Paradiso stated,” It is so wonderful to see friends, old and new, join us to celebrate and support a vision for excellence in education for Newark youngsters that leads to lifelong learning and positive results.”

Link Community School is an independent middle school in the Central Ward of Newark offering an excellent middle school education to youth with a range of academic abilities from families of limited means in Newark and the surrounding area. Visit the school's website, www.linkschool.org for more information.

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