

Link Community School
120 Livingston Street
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Serving Newark for 40 Years

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LINK COMMUNITY SCHOOL CELEBRATES 40 YEARS AT BIRTHDAY BASH

(Newark – September 29, 2009) Students, alumni, parents, past and present staff, trustees and friends gathered for a birthday party on September 29th at Link Community School to celebrate a milestone event for the school – its 40th year of innovation and achievement in educating youth from Newark and the surrounding areas. The party, held on Link’s Founder’s Day, kicked-off a year-long celebration of the school’s anniversary and honored the founders and the legacy they created, an exceptional middle school education for youngsters of all academic abilities from families of limited means.

At the celebration, Sister Vivien Jennings, O.P., Link’s foundress, recalled the birth of Link – an afterschool program called Project Link, begun in 1966 and which blossomed into a middle school a couple years after the riots in Newark. Under the leadership of Sister Vivien and the Sisters of St. Dominic, Link became a safe haven for youth fearful of the violence and gangs then prevalent in some of the local public schools. Sister said she was proud that the school has continued for 40 years, that so many students have been served and realized their dreams. She expressed her hope Link will endure for at least “40 decades” more. Carey Hamilton, Link alumnus from the first 8th graduating class, spoke to the motivation and the assistance Link provided him not only while a student Link but at various points in his life. Principal Marnie G. McKoy addressed students by exhorting them to “live purposefully and leave a legacy.”

Over its lifetime Link Community School has graduated over 2000 youngsters, offering them an outstanding education with a rigorous academic program, life-long Core Values and

opportunities outside the classroom to grow and develop. The School's successes have been phenomenal: significant increases in standardized test results from entry to graduation, 100% acceptance into prestigious private schools and competitive Newark magnet schools, more than \$1 million each year in scholarships and financial aid to private and parochial schools, 98% graduation from high school and from high school and a college entrance rate of 80% of Link alumni.



Link Principal Marnie G. McKoy with (left to right) Sister Donna Marie O'Brien, O.P., Link trustee; Sister Vivien Jennings, O.P., Link's foundress; Sister Alice Uhl, O.P., former Link principal; and Sister Arlene Antczak, Prioress of the Sisters of St. Dominic, Caldwell and Link trustee at Link's Founder's Day 40th birthday party.