



**Parramore . Kidz . Zone**

*...leveling the playing field for Parramore's children  
and equipping them to become successful, healthy, well-educated adults.*

**January 2009**

## **Orlando City Council Workshop**

On November 3rd, Parramore Kidz Zone stakeholders and participants presented their annual update to the Orlando City Council. Highlights included:

- A presentation from Latisha Starks, a young mother from Parramore completing her education thanks to PKZ 4C childcare subsidies for her children.
- A personal thank you from Randy Modesto, a teenager from Parramore whose participation in PKZ's H.A.R.D.—Having a Real Dream, offered by Community Concept Services, is turning his life around.
- Data that shows 75% of Parramore children are enrolled in PKZ; 320 have participated in tutoring, reading and other educational programs; 225 are enrolled in positive peer groups like H.A.R.D. and Callahan Neighborhood Association PowerTeens; 530 have participated in athletic programs, and there has been a **28% decrease in juvenile arrests** in Parramore between year 1 and year 2 of the project.



*Randy Modesto,  
member of H.A.R.D.—Having a Real Dream*

**To view the November 3, 2008 Orlando City Council  
presentation on Parramore Kidz Zone, go to  
[www.cityoforlando.net/council.htm](http://www.cityoforlando.net/council.htm)**

## Awards And Recognition

### National League of Cities and Florida League of Cities

In November, 4,000 municipal officials from throughout the United States visited Orlando for the Annual Congress of Cities. Large tour buses loaded with national officials visited Parramore Kidz Zone. They stopped at the Orlando Downtown Recreation Center to learn how it is being transformed into a youth facility; heard about strategies for reaching "disconnected youth" from PKZ outreach workers; and were treated to a Parramore history tour orated by prominent community leaders Mercedes Clark, Florida State Representative Geraldine R. Thompson, and former Florida State Representative Alzo Reddick.



*District 5 Commissioner Daisy Lynum, Mayor Buddy Dyer and Brenda March being recognized with the City Spirit Award.*

In December, the Florida League of Cities awarded the Florida Cities of Excellence *City Spirit Award* to Orlando, recognizing Parramore Kidz Zone. The City Spirit Award is given to a municipality for a specific, single, citywide effort that successfully addresses a local need. The effort must showcase innovation, cost-efficiencies and adaptability for use in other cities.

### Show the Love - Hedo Turkoglu of the Orlando Magic

Orlando Magic forward Hedo Turkoglu - the NBA's Most Improved Player - and Kia Motors donated a brand new 2009 Kia Borrego 7-passenger SUV to PKZ's Community Concept Services, Inc. (CCSI) to drive Parramore children to programs and events. The kids will even use the SUV to take driving tests!



*Brett Myers from Kia Motors and Hedo Turkoglu give Toni Shinn, CCSI, the keys to a new Kia Borrego SUV*

# Making A Difference

## Athletics

PKZ's Blacktop Basketball Championship game on October 23rd was a fitting end to the league's inaugural season. The games offer older youth a positive alternative to hanging out on the streets. PKZ's Stan Cromartie coaches the



teams two nights a week at the Jackson Community Center. More than 70 teens participated this season, with more than 100 watching from the sidelines.

The PKZ Bearz Senior Football Team, managed by CCSI, went 10-0 and clinched the district seven championship title, setting a record as the only team in the history of the state football league to enter the post season undefeated. The Bearz then went on to win first place in the



Southeastern Offense/Defense Football Classic, after beating the top ranking Georgia team. They then traveled to South Carolina for the National Championship—which they won!

## Childcare

Together with Community Coordinated Care for Children (4C), Parramore Kidz Zone offers child care subsidies for Parramore families with children under age 5. This includes working families and those seeking employment, job training, education, or facing emergencies. The aim is to help families be employed, while also increasing pre-kindergarten attendance among young children. Research shows that pre-kindergarten programs greatly benefit low income children. This year, 452 Parramore children received childcare subsidies, a 62% increase since 2005, when PKZ's partnership with 4C began. Remarkably, as a result of this program, the waiting list for childcare subsidies has been eliminated in Parramore.

# THANK YOU

## *CityKidz!* Buddy's Benefit for Children

On September 18, 2008, Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer hosted a tailgate party to benefit Parramore Kidz Zone. Mayor Dyer was "grilled" by SAK Comedy Lab at his signature roast event. A big thank you to all of our sponsors:

**Kidz Hero:** Orlando Magic

**Kidz Champion:** Bank of America, Wayne Densch

**Kidz Believer:** Florida Hospital, Universal Orlando and Walt Disney World

**Kidz Activist:** PBS &J, Smart City

**Kidz Advocate:** ABC Wines & Spirits, Balfour Beatty Construction, Bighthouse Networks, City Beverages, Citigroup, Epoch Properties, Mears Transportation, SeaWorld, Tavistock and TECO Peoples Gas.



Buddy's Benefit for Children

Since 2006, *City Kidz!* has raised more than \$1 million for youth programming, with more than \$250,000 raised at the 2008 event. Funds support after school programs, pre-kindergarten, positive peer groups, tutoring, and mentoring, giving Parramore children a brighter future.



*PBS&J surrounded by community leaders, presenting a check for \$50,000 to Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer, to support PKZ.*



For more information or to get involved, please contact Brenda March at the City of Orlando's Families, Parks and Recreation Department, 407-246-4295 or [Brenda.march@cityoforlando.net](mailto:Brenda.march@cityoforlando.net)

<http://www.cityoforlando.net/pkz>