



**Parramore . Kidz . Zone**

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

**May 2009**

## **PKZ Youth Tour Colleges and Apply for Fall Admission**

Seven Parramore high school students—six of them seniors - toured Florida A&M University, Edward Waters College, Bethune-Cookman University, and Florida Memorial University during spring break. They toured classrooms and dormitories; learned how to apply for admission and financial aid; visited to the gravesite of Mary McLeod Bethune; and spoke to



*PKZ College Tour at Bethune-Cookman University,  
Chaperoned by Stanley Cromartie (City of Orlando Youth  
Prevention Coordinator) and Nicole Hollis (Executive  
Director, Bridge to Independence School)*

college students about what to expect. All the high school seniors in the group submitted applications to Edward Waters College, Bethune-Cookman University, and Florida Memorial University. Here's what one of the students, Gino Nichols, had to say about it: "This was the first time I ever stepped foot on a college campus. It was great. Now I know what to do after high school. I will be the first person in my family to go to college."

## Building Parramore's Youth Infrastructure

### City of Orlando and the Orlando Magic Celebrate the Opening of New Youth Facilities Parramore

Thanks to the generous support of Orlando Magic Superstar Dwight Howard, Parramore teens now have a safe, supervised place to hang out after school - the PKZ Teenz Shack -- which boasts a photography studio, TV-viewing lounge, library, snack shop and video



*Ribbon-cutting day at the Teen Shack, with Mayor Buddy Dyer, Commissioners Daisy Lynum and Samuel Ings, FPR Director Lisa Early, Orlando Magic Center Dwight Howard, Chief Operating Officer Alex Martins and VP Linda Landman-Gonzalez..*

games. The idea was hatched by T.O.P (Teenz of Parramore), PKZ's Youth Advisory Council, who asked the City for "their own space" at the Orlando Downtown Recreation Center. Once the City gave the "thumbs up," the youth designed the facility, appealed to the Magic for funding, and even developed rules of conduct. [Click here to view a video of the grand opening.](#)

Then, on March 5th, Mayor Buddy Dyer joined Commissioner Daisy Lynum, more than 400 volunteers from the Orlando Magic, City of Orlando staff, organizers from KaBOOM! and area residents to build a new playground—in one day—at the John H. Jackson Community Center. [Click here for a video of build day.](#)



*Building a KaBOOM! playground at the Jackson Center.*

## Programs that Make A Difference

### PKZ Connects Youth to Jobs

PKZ is offering transitional employment opportunities to at-risk youth in Parramore. Special thanks to our corporate partners, Publix Supermarkets, for hiring four youth.

### Arnold Palmer Hospital Announces "In the Zone"

On March 19, Mayor Buddy Dyer joined physicians and executives from Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children to launch "In the Zone". The program will assign 42 medical residents to work at PKZ partner organizations such as the Orlando Day Nursery, where they will serve as liaisons, resource people and consultants in matters of child, adolescent and family health.



*Jodie Taylor, wearing his new Publix uniform*



*Mayor Buddy Dyer, Dr. Ken Swanson, Dr. Vinny Chulani, Dr. Joan Meeke, Dr. Jay Falk, Dr. Kevin Sherin, Linda Sutherland, Lisa Early and others announce "In the Zone."*

# "Moving the Needle" on Child Well-Being in Parramore

At the end of 2008, the Health Council of East Central Florida, which is conducting a 3-year evaluation of Parramore Kidz Zone, announced that we are "moving the needle" on juvenile crime, teen pregnancy and school performance in Parramore!

## Teen birth rates are down:

- While teen birth rates went up in Orange County, they declined in Parramore between 2006 and 2007 (2008 data is not yet available). Among 10-14 year old Parramore girls, birth rates went down from 12.8 per 1,000 births to 6.6 per 1,000. Among 15-19 year old Parramore girls, birth rates went down from 250 per 1,000 births to 205 per 1,000 births. [Click here for comparative graphs.](#)

## Juvenile arrest rates down:

- Juvenile arrests declined in Parramore by 47% since PKZ started—from 96 arrests in 2006 to 51 arrests in 2008. [Click here for comparative graphs.](#)

## FCAT scores up:

- FCAT Reading and Math scores went up for all groups of Parramore youth—elementary school, middle school, and high school between the 2006-07 and 2007-08 school years. [Click here for comparative graphs.](#)



*Parramore and Proud*

[Click here to read the full evaluation report.](#)



To sponsor a PKZ project or for more information, 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>