

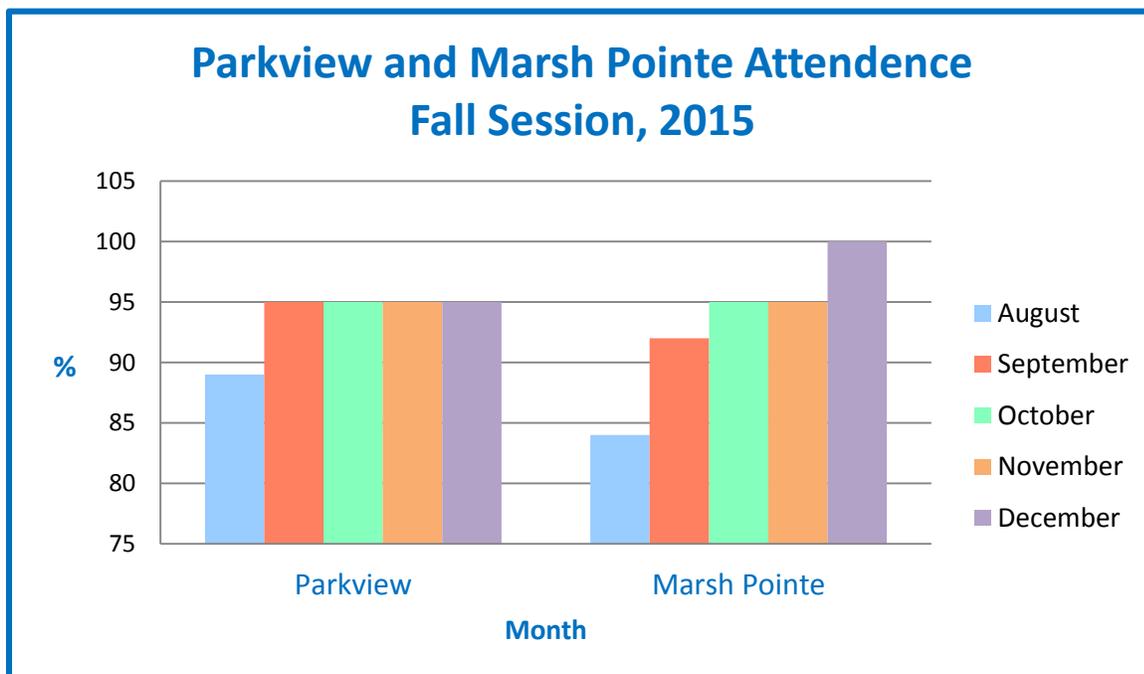


## NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH CONNECTION - BEAUFORT WINTER 2016 NEWSLETTER

*Dear Friends:*

*NOC is enjoying excellent growth in downtown Beaufort at its two Learning Centers (Parkview & Marsh Pointe). This Winter Newsletter provides a brief summary of the results of NOC's educational programs and progress as we build relationships with families living in these two neighborhoods. The partnership with the Beaufort County School District remains strong as we continue to expand our presence not only in these neighborhoods, but also throughout the town. We are taking active steps to develop relationships with the business sector, churches, and other local civic organizations.*

The first **Fall Semester After-School Programs** at our two NOC Learning Centers in Beaufort were completed in December of 2015. The session was marked by impressive growth and consistency in the number of participants – each day well over 40 children attended the programs at the Marsh Pointe and Parkview Apartments. The vast majority of NOC students achieved excellent attendance (see below), coming each day that the program was in session. Contributing to strong attendance standards were several factors, including the children's enthusiasm for the program, the dedicated support of the NOC teachers and BCSD team, availability of learning technology for the children, interaction with the families of the students, involvement of the community, and innovative incentive programs used at the Centers. These children are showing progress based on scores on the recent MAP standardized tests administered by Beaufort Elementary School and the District.



Community relationship building is recognized as one of the pillars of success for the program, and six events were held in the Fall. The **Beaufort Memorial Hospital Healthcare Mobile Wellness Unit**



visited the Marsh Pointe neighborhood, sponsored by NOC. This provided opportunities for over thirty free health screenings for residents. The NOC team (consisting of several NOC Board members and volunteers) participated actively in organizing this event.

In November, NOC held its **Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting at Marsh Pointe**, officially recognizing the presence of the NOC Learning Center in the community. More than one hundred people attended the event, including distinguished guests such as Mayor Billy Keyserling, School Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Moss, NOC Founder and Chair Dr. Narendra Sharma, and some members of the NOC Board of Directors together with Learning Center staff, friends, students, and their families.

<http://www.yourislandnews.com/noc-learning-center-opens-at-marsh-pointe-apartments/>

NOC plans to have the **Grand Opening** of the **Parkview Learning Center** in the Spring this year, with participation of the Atlantic Housing Foundation, which has generously provided an apartment for NOC to set up its Learning Center.

Beaufort resident and community leader Will Achurch became a new member of the NOC Board of Directors, the first Board member from Beaufort. Will's enthusiasm and commitment to the mission of NOC will be a great asset in achieving our goals North of the Broad.

An **NOC Preschool Program** began recently at the Parkview Learning Center. Each Saturday morning, four to seven three- and four-year olds join an NOC teacher for an hour of fun learning activities.



Additionally, another complement to the holistic NOC model began in January 2016 at Marsh Pointe with an **After-School Program for students from the Beaufort Middle School**. With this program in place, NOC now reaches students Pre-K through the eighth grade in Beaufort.

Four **Parent Meetings** and the interaction of the NOC Neighborhood Liaison and Program Manager keep the parents and caregivers of the children actively involved and updated on their progress. At the end of the semester, each student was given a certificate of completion along with a detailed progress report.

The end of the semester was highlighted by a **holiday celebration** at which each student (along with several younger brothers and sisters) received a present, donated by a local women's organization. The event was covered by The Island News and an article, highly complimentary of NOC, was later published. <http://www.yourislandnews.com/island-girls-give-back/>



**NOC teachers** are strongly dedicated and enthusiastic about the program and come each day to the Learning Centers with fresh ideas and perspectives. They have said:

*"We watched the center go from a place to get a snack and have someone to nag me about my homework to a family where it is safe to ask for help and to be myself and they would still love me!!!!"*

*"NOC creates such a great community with students and teachers. The kids are always excited to come and be part of such a great program, stopping teachers in the hall during the day to ask if they will see them at NOC after school."*

**Melissa Holland**, Principal, Beaufort Elementary School is a strong supporter of the program. She said *"The NOC team in Beaufort interacts daily with the staff at Beaufort Elementary School. We're so pleased with the support we get from NOC and the help they give to our students and families. They focus heavily on tutoring, and helping with homework and improving literacy skills, so our students are better able to master state standards and experience success in school. For families to get this level of academic support after school hours – and right in their home communities – is just wonderful."*



NOC connects with parents and engages them in their children's learning through consultations and report cards. Paula Hooks, one of the parents, remarked: *"Being a full time student and single mother, I have had concerns about my daughter's education since I cannot always be there to help her. However, thanks to the NOC and all of the people who have diligently and selflessly placed her needs above their own, I never have to worry if her homework will be finished or if she will understand it. She now willingly reads when before she would find every excuse not to, and her reading level is now above her grade level. The best part of all is that she enjoys attending the afterschool program and insists that she absolutely cannot miss a day!"*

NOC has become firmly established in Beaufort and looks forward to further growth (increasing the number of students at the two Learning Centers) in 2016. With a continued partnership with the Beaufort County School District and increased support of the community, the future is certainly bright.

In assessing the progress to date, **Mayor Billy Keyserling** said: *"First there was one. Now there are two. The development of Neighborhood Outreach Connection Learning Centers in Beaufort is already*

*making a huge difference in the lives of the children and families living in the Marsh Pointe and Parkview neighborhoods. We are fortunate to have this important asset that helps young people who need a helping hand in their studies, and development of social skills and character. I have always said children do not choose to enter this world, they are not born stupid, but sometimes they need a helping hand that some families are not able to provide. Thank you NOC Staff, Board, and financial contributors who've come to the plate, and especially the owners of the housing units who are donating space for the NOC classrooms. This is a great example of how communities can come together to collaborate in solving the many challenges our communities face."*

Finally, **Dr. Narendra Sharma** said *"We are indeed making a difference in two low income neighborhoods with the help of teachers, families, and the community. But we need to recognize that the grant from the SC Education Oversight Committee will terminate June 30, 2016. Our collective challenge is to sustain this vitally important development program that is creating opportunities for the children who need our help and our kindness. Together, we will work to ensure that this goal is achieved."*

#### **Get Involved - NOC Needs YOU ...**

Neighborhood Outreach Connection is an award winning SC 501(c)(3) organization and one of America's finest examples of civic entrepreneurial success. But we need your help.

- Make a tax deductible cash donation
- Donate stocks
- Volunteer as an After School tutor
- Share your special talents or skills

Visit the NOC web site for more details: <http://www.noc-sc.org>

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