



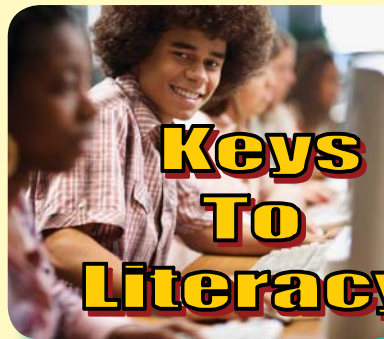
# Improving Educational Outcomes . . .

Black Family Development, Inc. (BFDI) in partnership with Fleming Academy, Marcus Garvey Academy, Nsoroma Institute, Osborn Evergreen Academy of Design for Alternative Energy, Osborn College Preparatory Academy, and Turning Point Academy has engaged youth in BFDI's "My Healthy Body Olympics" program. This health education program's goal is to educate youth on the importance of healthy food and fitness. My Healthy Body Olympics helps students to: **Understand the Food Pyramid and the Five Food Groups; Understand the nutritional value of foods and the influence they can have on the body; Understand and learn the food labels; Choose a variety of fruits and vegetables per day; Engage in at least 60 minutes of moderate physical activity daily;**

Each student receives a study guide and participates in interactive activities. Elementary, middle and secondary students participate in a study process covering the material provided by Black Family Development, Inc.

Each school will host an in-school competition and the qualifying team will represent their school at the City-Wide "My Healthy Body Olympics" competition. The competition will be held at the eastern campus of **Wayne County Community College on June 3, 2010**. All participants will receive a medal of scholarship. Championship teams will receive an award, an individual trophy and a school trophy.

Most importantly, each participant is asked to make a commitment to healthy eating and daily physical exercise.



No one can escape the reality of this often used phrase, "reading is fundamental." Recognizing that a key essential in a young person's life is having the ability to read and comprehend, Black Family Development, Inc. (BFDI) embarked on a supportive educational venture, called Keys to Literacy.

Keys to Literacy is a self-paced reading program for youth who have difficulty in reading and comprehending what is read. The program is a 12-week program currently located at Osborn High School that is equipped with eight computer stations.

Youth master skills that aid in improving their reading comprehension, spelling, grammar and vocabulary through the use of an internet based software program known as Aztec Software. The software is specifically tailored to include competencies in order to prepare youth for work

and/or education, and it is designed to create a learning environment that is not only challenging, but interesting as well.

While the software provides the educational platform, BFDI staff and volunteers provide a supportive atmosphere to help create a positive learning environment and generate enthusiasm. Youth are encouraged to complete four required components: Fundamentals of Reading, Basic Reading, Intermediate Reading and Advanced Reading. After students have completed all the required elements, they are given an opportunity to explore other readings related to specific areas of study, such as, vocabulary, spelling and literature. And at each level of achievement, whether great or small, youth are given reinforcement through incentives.

In the early stages of the program, much time was spent in working with the youth, using creative ways to explain the importance of "knowing how to read." BFDI staff and volunteers mentored youth by giving support to the power that reading can have in a young person's life and in their future endeavors. Currently, fifty-four (54) youth have participated in BFDI's Keys to Literacy program.

***"My alma mater was books. . . a good library; I could spend the rest of my life reading, just satisfying my curiosity."***

*Malcolm X*

## ***Black Family Development, Inc. Brings Innovative Approach to Trix Elementary/Middle School***

When the need for services to youth attending **Trix Elementary/Middle School** was presented to Black Family Development, Inc. (BFDI), agency staff was prepared to assess the circumstances and develop an appropriate plan of action. Known for developing programs and services that are tailored to its consumers, BFDI listened to school administrators, and worked with them developing ways in which to engage their student population.

Determined to establish a means by which both academic and social success could be achieved, BFDI identified the key components to create a program that would strategically bond students to a culture of excellence. The main thrust of the program focuses on positive self-awareness and esteem for students.

Through a program entitled **"Face -2-Face: A Reintroduction of Me"**, BFDI works with adolescents in the 7th – 8th grades at Trix Elementary/Middle School. Face-2-Face is structured to provide students with opportunities to explore their identity, purpose, and potential. It is through learning experiences that youth learn how to relate to others in their peer group and authority figures as well. Youth are engaged in a number of activities and projects that allow them to discover their natural talents, gifts and abilities. Participants are encouraged to envision a successful future and explore their role as positive assets to their community.