With the end of the school year right around the corner and the beginning of Summer Academy only a few weeks away, the Upward Bound staff has been busy gearing up for Summer Academy 2009. This year’s Summer Academy theme aims to incorporate the idea of CHANGE and all the ways you students can make a change in the lives of those around you. Looking around at the world we live in today makes it obvious: change is everywhere. In fact, society today is so rapidly changing that students must become experts at changing and adapting to various environments, technologies, and situations. Continuous learning and self-improvement is one great way to make sure you are ready for anything life throws your way. However, at the same time, I would encourage you, as students, to do more. Get actively involved in your communities and help make a difference. There are many area charitable organizations who are in need of volunteers; and being actively involved in organizations within your community can be a very rewarding and worthwhile experience for any student. Students who dedicate time giving back to their communities are instrumental in making important changes in their communities. This summer we hope you will set a goal to make some meaningful change in your own life while realizing just how much of an impact your personal change can make in the lives of those around you. As our upcoming future leaders, it is important that you, not only, see the change...but that you also be the change.

Student Highlight: David Hayden

On Tuesday, March 17, 2009, Elmhurst High School held their annual wrestling banquet. Upward Bound Student, David Hayden—who is currently in his first year as a wrestler—won ‘Rookie of the Year’, earned his varsity letter, and was designated as Co-Captain of the team. He also currently holds the record for the ‘Fastest Pin’ of the season.

A recent email from David’s aunt, Angie Hayden Sutton, expressed how great she these achievements were for David and far he has come from the young man who was once struggled in classes as a freshman. While a freshman, David struggled with his grades so much that he was not permitted to compete in athletics. After deciding to commit more time to studies and surrounding himself with more positive friends, David immediately began making progress in school—which then allowed him to compete athletically, as well.

In addition to his past struggles, David’s first application for the Upward Bound program was denied as a result of his low GPA. After being advised by Mr. Young and—with a long summer of hard work and academic remediation at the Urban League—David turned his poor grades into all As and Bs as a sophomore and was officially accepted into the Upward Bound program.

David’s aunt also indicated that she and the family have seen great focus and dedication emerge in David from his participation in wrestling which they believe will help him in academics and life. David recently commented that if he hadn’t started participating in the Upward Bound program, he would not have had much interest in college because it is not emphasized so much in his school.

The Upward Bound program is truly proud of the transformation David has taken with his life and believe he is a true representation of what it means to be Upward Bound! Great job David!
Niagara Falls Trip

The 2009 Summer Academy Merit Trip to Niagara Falls will take place July 20-23. In preparation for the trip, Upward Bound students have been applying for their passports or ensuring their Permanent Residence Cards are current and valid for travel.

Due to the 4-6 week turnaround of passports, all eligible students should have already applied for their passports. Students will be asked to provide proof they have a valid passport or Permanent Resident Card—or are in the process of getting one—to the Upward Bound office before the trip. Students should bring their US Passport or Permanent Resident Card the first day of Summer Academy. If students have not yet received their US Passport, they should bring their payment receipt from the US Postal Office. No students will be permitted on this trip without necessary documentation. If you have questions, please call the Upward Bound office.

The Upward Bound staff is currently finalizing trip details and will forward this information on to students and parents as soon as it is available. Please mark your calendars for the mandatory Niagara Falls Trip Orientation on Sunday, July 12, 2009, in Walb Ballroom from 7-8pm. All students eligible to attend the trip must attend with a parent.

Indiana Center for the Book: Zac Bodine

Recently, Upward Bound student, Zackry Bodine participated in the Indiana Center for the Book’s Letters about Literature competition. This is a national reading-writing competition sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in partnership with Target Stores. The competition asks students to write a letter to the author of the book that made them think about themselves or the world differently.

Zac was name as semifinalist for the letter he wrote to author Brian Welch of the book Save Me From Myself. Only 9% of all letters entered nationally were chosen as state semifinalists, and Zac’s was one of them! This is a huge accomplishment. Congratulations Zac!

In honor of his outstanding work, Zac was honored at an awards ceremony on Saturday, May 2, at the Indiana State Library in downtown Indianapolis. He was presented with a certificate, a frameable copy of his letter, and a copy of the book When I Crossed No-bob by Margaret McMullan.

Parent Highlight: Guadalupe Garza

The Upward Bound program wants to give thanks to all the parents who participated in the Nelson Chicken fundraising event. The event successfully raised over $1900 for the UB Parent Council Fund. The program would also like to give special recognition to Guadalupe Garza for her positive attitude and enthusiasm during the event. She motivated the rest of the group by approaching potential donors in two different languages with phrases like, “Buy your chicken so you don’t have to cook today,” and, “Compre su pollo para que ya no tenga que cocinar.” What a positive role model for the students and volunteers! Thank you Guadalupe for being such a positive and energetic part of the Upward Bound family!

CHICAGO 2009

Courtney for being such a positive role model for the students and volunteers!
Chicago Trip Highlights

“Chicago is so much bigger than Fort Wayne! So much goes on downtown. A lot of people walk and take taxis. There are a lot of people in Chicago. There are a lot of ‘important’ places too! The way downtown looks at night is incredible!” - Gladys Calderon

“My favorite experience was the insect exhibit at the Field Museum. I love insects. My second favorite thing was shopping because I never get to go shopping. I like that it was fun!” - Scottie Brittsan

“I feel like I am in New York. The city is full of towering buildings and apartments. I have seen more taxis here than I have in my entire life.” - Stephanie Hobbs

“My favorite site was Millennium Park, because it has that big bean. The reason I like it is because when we went under the bean you could see yourself and my friends and I took pictures underneath it!” - Timeasha Sewell

“My favorite experience would have to be going to the Field Museum and seeing Sue, the dinosaur, completed. She was named after the person who found her. It’s my favorite experience!” - Breanna Putt

BLUE Stars’ 2009 Leadership Conference

On Saturday, May 2, 2009, the Upward Bound BLUE Stars hosted their third annual Leadership Conference. The purpose of these conferences is to allow the BLUE Stars an opportunity to plan and organize an event—including speakers—that will benefit their fellow Upward Bound students.

Three session topics presented at this year’s conference included: Reality 101, Relationship Violence, and Silence the Violence. These sessions exposed students to what life is actually like as a single 29-year old adult; how to prevent violence in relationships using the recent Chris Brown/Rhianna controversy as an example; and the prevalence of gang violence in their community. Overall, students think they gained valuable information from all the sessions.

A huge thank you to the BLUE Stars for hosting a wonderful conference and also to our guest speakers, Robert Rhinerson from Fort Wayne Community Schools and Scott Haddix of the Hope Center for sharing their information with all the Upward Bound students!
Dates To Remember

June
- June 10—Senior Government Class Begins/Work Study Training
- June 11—Work Study Training
- June 15—First Day of Summer Academy
- June 19—Volunteer Day
- June 26—Team Building
- June 28—Residential Stay Begins

July
- July 3—NO CLASSES
- July 8—Etiquette Dinner
- July 9—Roller Skating
- July 10—College Visit: Taylor Upland
- July 12—Canada Trip Orientation
- July 13—Talent Show
- July 15—Movie Night
- July 17—Summer Awards Ceremony
- July 20-23—Merit Trip: Canada

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

JULY
- Timeasha (5), Tyris (8), Amber (9), Hailey & Holly (11), Jesse (12), Maurice & Jon Quisha (13), Erlinda (14), Saleena & Salisha (15), Karina (17), Tahquai-Allyce (21), Amy (25), Marquessa (27), Destiny (29)

AUGUST
- Willie (5), Shun (8), Mariah (12), Tim (21), Shamell (26), Allison (26), Brianna (27), Criston (31)

SEPTEMBER
- LaToya (2), Desiré (3), Ashley & Thet (5), Jayla (6), Jarrell (11), Farea (12), Kirsten (13), Leila (15), Chantese & Nathaniel (24), Thant (26), Bria (28)