



NOTES and NEWS

August 2017

Cleanup at JPA!



QA specialist Akadia Kana Ochana says farewell to basement detritus.



Jenna and Bevin organizing toys and games for JPA's kids.

The Great Basement Cleanout of 2017 produced a conference room of toys for play. A good cleaning and they'll be ready for the new school year!

Thank You Kenilworth Union Church



JPA is grateful for the continued generous support of Kenilworth Union Church again this year. As a grant recipient, we were invited to attend the

KUC annual rummage sale where JPA was given blue bags and invited to pick up free clothing and supplies which we have since shared with our school partners. A great partnership!

JPA Welcomes Rameya to the Team!



She brings years of experience as a social worker and a teacher in Detroit to her role as C2K's newest consultant.

One of the important lessons learned from our first year of the C2K pilot was the importance of speaking the language of teachers. We're delighted to bring another social worker/teacher into our ranks. Rameya will be serving in 4 new schools, including a school in Roseland on Chicago's far south side.

Director of 9th Gear Erin Vanden Brook



Helping sort and organize the supplies are, summer intern Helen Zhang, and therapist Francesca Cole Barnes.

DePaul University business school friends of Erin Vanden Brook, JPA's Director of 9th Gear, were tasked with developing a business plan to raise \$1,000. Their plan generated over \$2,200 which they used to purchase supplies for the students in 9th Gear. We gave this project an A+!

Elliot Steinberg and Connect Kindergarten



Elliot Steinberg, a trustee of the Saul Zaentz Foundation, visited our offices this month for an update on Connect Kindergarten (C2K), a multi-year project funded by the Foundation that examines how to help teachers create positive relationships with children entering school for the first time.

Children who have positive relationships with their teachers in Kindergarten are more likely to achieve social, emotional and academic success throughout elementary school. Elliot has been traversing the country as he works to promote early childhood education. During his travels, he's sharing the work of JPA and making introductions for us locally and across the nation.

For example, Elliot discussed C2K with Alabama's Department of Early Childhood Education. While Alabama ranks at the bottom of the list for economic development, it ranks as the number one state in the union for its innovative work on preschool and early childhood education. Our discussion with Elliot focused on the linkage between early childhood education and the work we do in the first few years of elementary school. To learn more about what the National Association of Elementary School Principals is doing to promote Pre-K to 3rd grade leadership, naesp.org.