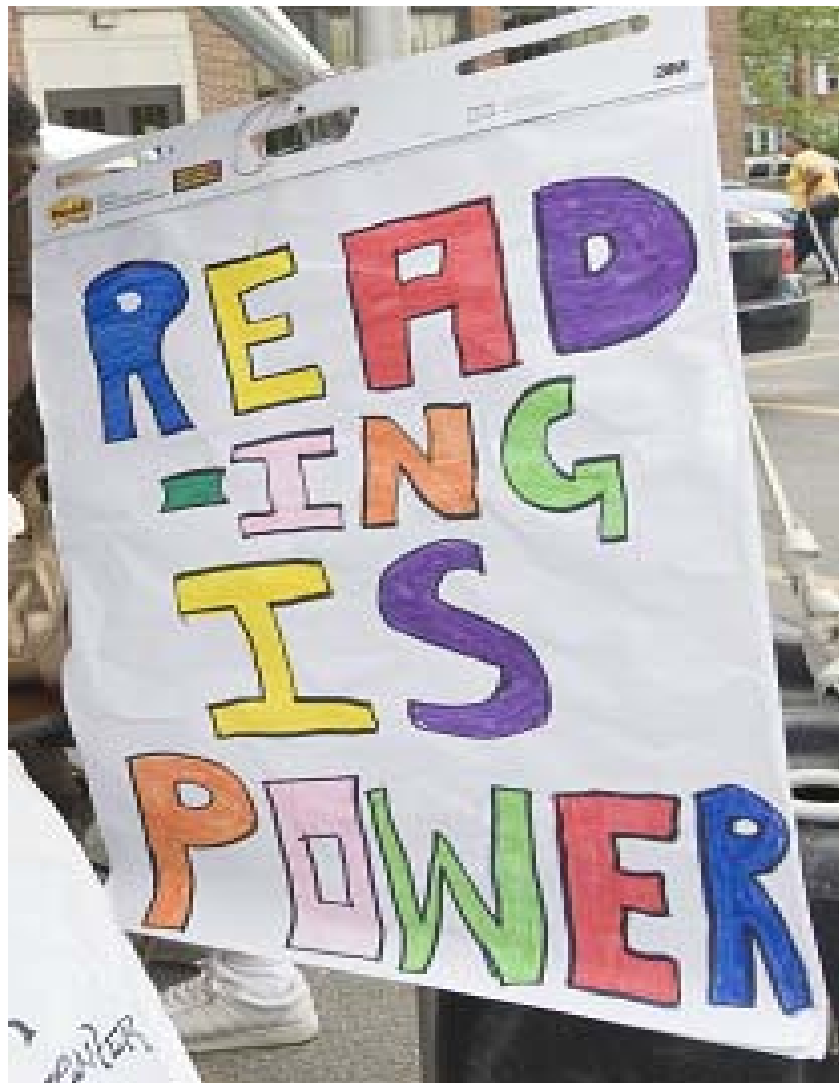


*3rd Annual  
Light a Candle for Literacy*

Parade and Festival

7<sup>th</sup> of June 2008



Literacy appreciation and awareness are alive and well on the Southside of Syracuse if the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual “Light a Candle for Literacy Parade and Festival” is a good bellwether, and we think it is!

This year’s event held on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 2008, was again well attended. The parade was populated by many more walkers than in the past and was led by *Signature Syracuse* musicians who played and marched.



The parade route from Martin Luther King School to Beard School, approximately 1.8 miles, was lined with well-wishers and children too young to march.

George Kilpatrick, Grand Marshall, led again in a Chrysler convertible loaned by Lewis Goodman. Following the lead car was: a canary yellow, Street Rod in mint condition, from the Syracuse Nationals membership, Family Literacy Alliance of Greater Syracuse (FLAGS), State University of New York (SUNY) Upstate Medical University, Ghana Society, Soapbox Derby racers from Syracuse City School District Institute of Technology, Literacy



Volunteers of Greater Syracuse (LVGS), Syracuse Fire Department Hook and Ladder and Fire truck, Syracuse City School District Pump Bus, Syracuse Model Neighborhood Corp., and Syracuse University Literacy Corp. among others.

The event was made possible by several generous sponsors including the Central New York Community Foundation, AmeriChoice by United Health Care (new sponsor), Rosamond Gifford Charitable Foundation, the Carpenters' Union Local (new sponsor), National Grid, and Ironworkers local #60 (new sponsor).

Event sponsors/partners were Onondaga County Public Library Foundation, the County Executive's office, the Onondaga County Public Library, Onondaga County Health Department, Barnes & Noble, Syracuse City School District, Family Literacy Alliance of Greater Syracuse (FLAGS), College Board, Syracuse University Gear Up, and Scherzi Photography (created event video).

The major food and beverage sponsor was P & C Food Stores for the third consecutive year. Despite the *Taste of Syracuse* also going on, they "delivered" again, and have our heartfelt appreciation.



## **The Festival**

A new feature was the large tents, which made the 90 degree heat and high humidity day bearable. Thank you again to our financial sponsors who made the tents possible.

Over 35 tables were staffed by various organizations to promote and enable literacy. Students were given backpacks which they could personalize. They were able to participate in a science experiment presented by the Onondaga Creek Partnership, answer questions on healthy eating to win prizes, learn about the effects of tobacco smoke and enjoy the pleasures of gardening with Watson Green House. Information about adult literacy, health care, job training, and college were among the many information tables.

A new program element was the “Ask Me What I Do?” feature. Adults in different careers wore the aforementioned signs to encourage children to engage them in conversation. The interaction was to broaden their horizons about their future. Next year we expect to expand upon the format and encourage even greater curiosity.

Once again books and dictionaries were a highlight of the festival where as many as 1,000 were given away!!

Healthy cookbooks, coloring books, make your own story books and author Uzo Unabagha, and artist-illustrator Susan Keeter were featured signing their own books.



Susan Keeter



Uzo Unobagha

Information abounded about many topics including: smoking cessation and the health risks associated with smoking, medical information, blood pressure testing, energy demonstrations, library cards, face painting, balloon animals and music. LeMoyne College sent two prominent educators from their faculty.

We've only just begun...

**See you on June 6, 2009!**

**Save the date for the Fourth Annual *Light a Candle for Literacy Parade and Festival.***

**Tell us what we can do to make next year even better!**

## Responses from the Community

Malachi Emmanuel, 8 and a half  
6/7/08 What I liked  
~~the~~ about this was,  
there were alot of  
fun things to do!!!!!!  
and I did like 😊  
the free books, it was  
fun

A great way for the community  
to come together, we loved it.  
Nova Kindred

I had a good time at  
the literacy fair there was  
a lot of things for the  
children to do.

Parent: P Jones

Today was really fun,  
I hope the next  
time will be as  
fun!!

Jacquell ~~Knight~~ II

Today was the best  
Thank you

Miracle Coffin

I had fun at the fair.  
Francesha  
ages

To whom it may  
Concern;

This is the 3rd  
Heracy festival and  
I really enjoyed it  
especially this year  
There are more and

more vendors each  
year that come back,  
with more stuff

Thanks Ms. Hayden  
Parent  
Cassandra Byrd

This place is a good  
environment and has kind  
people. -Fredrick Fisher



To whom it may  
concern:

The Festival  
always is a successful  
event. It's good  
to see so many  
families out with  
their kids to learn  
about literacy.

Kenyada Johns  
"Parent"

This is a wonderful  
thing for our neighborhood  
I think this program  
should continue

parent N. Harris

This is the most wonderful &  
~~be~~ beautiful festival I ever  
went to me, my mom and son  
is having alot of fun.

Thank You & God Bless  
for a wonderful

time  
Ms. Louise Campbell

I enjoy the things that  
they had and everything else

Brandon Johnson

Corey Hudson: Great start.  
I would love more college students  
~~involved~~ involved. See you next year.  
Great event! -OCC!

For Mrs. Hayden.

The time I have spent  
here has been wonderful.

Very awesome and uplifting  
Very helpful and informative  
creative and energetic.

God had his blessing for  
this celebration today.

Dab

It was really fun. Age 14  
Sandra Agyepong

It is a spectacular exciting  
event Age 10  
Jamon Martin

It is cool.  
Age 9 Myay

Annisha Tarver

"It was very fun and  
exciting for all ages."  
Arnett Haygood

Ms. Jeannie Wills,  
I had a wonderful  
time and the literacy  
parade book fair and  
other event also food  
were very uplifting.  
Thank- God for Mrs Hayden  
and everyone else who  
put this event together.  
We really needed this.  
Thanks again, and have  
a wonderful day!  
Ms. Jeannie Wills.

# Pictures of the 2008 Parade and Literacy Festival































**A big THANK YOU to all of our sponsors and supporters for supporting literacy and enabling us to continue the *Light a Candle for Literacy* event.**



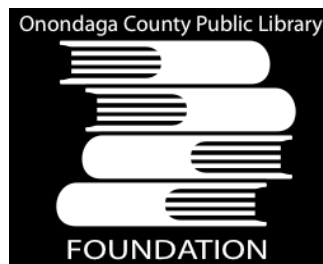
CENTRAL NEW YORK  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION, INC.



AmeriChoice  
by UnitedHealthcare



BARNES & NOBLE  
BOOKSELLERS



nationalgrid



## **Parade and Festival Participants**

Syracuse Nationals (Street Rods)	William R. Beard School
Syracuse Fire Department	Literacy Volunteers of Greater Syracuse
Syracuse Police Department	Family Literacy Alliance of Greater Syracuse
LeMoyne College	Ghana Society of CNY
Even Start of Onondaga	Syracuse City Lead Hazard Control Program
Uzo Unobagha, Author	NAMI
Susan Keeter, Artist	Syracuse Healthy Start
AmeriChoice by United Health Care	Bike Syracuse
Partnership for Onondaga Creek	Syracuse University Step Up
CNY Works	Tobacco Free Onondaga County
Onondaga Community College	EPIC
Onondaga County Health Department	Jovan at Work
WCNY	ONPOINT for College
Syracuse University Gear Up	Syracuse School District
Onondaga County Public Library	SUNY Upstate

## **Entertainment**

George Kilpatrick – Grand Marshall  
Andrew Washington – M.C.  
Twin Magicians  
George Sessions – Magic Man  
Signature Syracuse Jazz Ensemble  
Cindy Gibson – Community Member  
Jerome Davis – Community Member  
Brooke Fisher – Community Member  
Lanisha Gunter – Community Member  
Rebecca Johnson – Community Member  
Gericho

## **List of contributors, supporters and advisors**

Onondaga County Public Library Foundation  
City of Syracuse Parks and Recreation  
Onondaga Community College  
ProLiteracy Worldwide  
Literacy Volunteers of Greater Syracuse  
United Way  
Onondaga County Health Department  
Friends of the Central Library (FOCL)  
Literacy Volunteers of Greater Syracuse  
Syracuse City School District  
Family Literacy Alliance Group (FLAGS)

Onondaga County Public Library (OCPL)  
Syracuse University Literacy Corp  
CNY Works  
AmeriChoice by United Health Care  
Syracuse University Gear Up  
Oncenter  
SUNY Upstate  
Tobacco Free Onondaga County  
James Dwyer Memorial Fund  
Community Foundation  
Oncenter

## **Planning Committee\* and Partial List of Volunteers**

Donna Valerino\*  
Wilson Akuamoah-Boateng\*  
Mark Cass\*  
Geneva Hayden\*  
Susan Keeter\*  
George Kilpatrick  
Edward Kochian\*  
Amanda Nestor\*  
Cheryl Sheard\*  
Ella Briand\*  
Lenore Sealy\*

Bernie Coyle\*  
Andrea Schnobrich  
Cheryl Menzel\*  
Roosevelt Baums  
Michelle Abdul-Sabur  
Kathy Byrnes\*  
Michelle Virginia  
Camillo Barrera  
Kathy Allen  
Rhoda Smith\*

## **Project Initiators**

Beauchamp Public Library  
Onondaga County Executive's Office  
Geneva Hayden