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Enriching Lives

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Phiona Mutesi is a shining example of how the game of chess can transform a person's life. The Cris Collinsworth ProScan Fund (CCPF) was honored to welcome her to the 15th Annual Queen City Classic Chess Tournament.

Phiona grew up in the slums of Kampala, one of the poorest areas in Uganda. Her father died of AIDS when she was three years old. Her mother could not afford her school fees, a home, or even food for Phiona and her siblings. She lived on the streets selling corn as her only way to survive.

When Phiona was nine years old, she discovered Sports Outreach, a ministry that

provided a cup of porridge for visitors learning to play chess. At first, she only learned chess for the free meal, but she quickly developed a love and talent for it. The discovery of this game would change her life forever.

Now, Phiona and her coach, Robert Katende of Sports Outreach, travel the world to share their powerful message. At

the Queen City Classic, they received the Shining Knight Award for their tireless efforts to empower children like Phiona through the game of chess.

Phiona's story will inspire millions through *Queen of Katwe*, the upcoming Disney film about her life. Several local students had the opportunity to hear it in person. While in Cincinnati, Robert and Phiona visited Rees E. Price Academy, one of the schools participating in CCPF's Chess in Schools Program. They answered students' questions and encouraged them to always find a solution to any obstacle they face, whether on the chess board or in life. ■

**Save the Date for the 15th Annual
Pink Ribbon Luncheon: Thursday, October 6, 2016**

Saving Lives, Empowering People,

The 2016 QCC Chess Tournament



The 15th Annual Queen City Classic Chess Tournament took place on Friday, March 11th and Saturday, March 12th. Once again, the Cincinnati Bengals opened the doors to Paul Brown Stadium and joined CCPF in welcoming chess players from across the Midwest.

CCPF welcomed back International Grandmasters Irina Krush, Gregory Kaidanov, and Maurice Ashley, who was recently inducted into the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame.



Queen City Classic's
CHESS IN SCHOOLS!

Chess came to life at Three Rivers Elementary when the 3rd-4th grade class battled the 5th-6th grade class in an unforgettable match. Acting as the pieces on a life-size chess board, students tested the skills they've been developing throughout the year.

With all the excitement, there was lots of chatting and laughter as the kids enjoyed pizza and snacks before the game. When it was time to begin, however, their focus was completely on the board.

"You could have heard a pin drop," said Sheri Buirley, parent coordinator of the chess club at Three Rivers.



The event drew parents, grandparents, and school staff and administrators, who all marveled at the students' concentration. Each class designated a captain to direct the team on their next move. Students had so much fun that when they were "captured," they continued playing a separate game on CCPF's giant chess board.

This is just one example of how chess is flourishing in Greater Cincinnati as students participate in CCPF's Chess in Schools Program. Why chess? Chess teaches children to think critically. As they learn and play the game, they develop skills that will serve them throughout their lives: reasoning, concentration, patience, sportsmanship, and many others.

The program is now teaching chess in 25 Greater Cincinnati schools to nearly 1200 students! CCPF provides an instructor, curriculum, a teaching board, playing boards and pieces, and incentives for the students.

Chess classes are offered as a part of the school day. In most schools, one hour of Math or Science class is dedicated to chess each week. CCPF has plans to expand the Chess in Schools Program next year. If you are interested in bringing chess to your school, contact us at: 1-800-PS-CHESS. ■



and Strengthening Their Futures

Employee Spotlight: Brittany Buckman



The Cris Collinsworth ProScan Fund (CCPF) opened the first free standing women's imaging center in Greater Cincinnati. Since our doors opened, we have made it our priority to make every patient feel welcome and comfortable during their visit to the ProScan Pink Ribbon Centers (PPRC). Our friendly and inviting staff work hard every day, and we want you

to meet them through our CCPF *Employee Spotlight* column.

Brittany Buckman joined the PPRC team 12 years ago. She has worked as the Lead Coordinator, the Outreach Coordinator and most recently, the Marketing Specialist, to which she was promoted in October.

Brittany's contagious enthusiasm and passion for her work make it clear that she enjoys her job.

"Where do I start?," she pondered. "I have loved my responsibilities from the first day I started with the Women's Center. It's an honor to be a part of the PPRC team! I enjoy promoting breast health and I'm thankful for the resources PPRC provides the communities."

Not only has Brittany worked for PPRC from many different angles, she also has a profound empathy for those affected by breast cancer. When she was working for ProScan Imaging Eastgate several years ago, her mother found an abnormality on her breast. As a breast cancer survivor, her mother feared the worst. Wanting the best possible care for her mom, Brittany made a same-day appointment at PPRC.

"We were amazed by the compassion and the service that was provided," she said. "So different from her experience through the hospital when she was diagnosed the first time with breast cancer. I wanted to be a part of this kind of change in breast health!"

Thank you, Brittany, for your dedication to breast health in our community. We are lucky to have you as a member of our team! ■



Meet Our Chess Instructors

CCPF is fortunate to have a team of passionate chess instructors who fulfill our mission and empower children. We enjoy introducing them through our **Meet Our Chess Instructors** column!

Max Martini teaches in two schools for the Chess in Schools Program, Three Rivers Elementary and Cheviot Elementary. He begins each class by telling students their "mission" for the day, identifying such goals as "check the king" or "perfect our etiquette."



Do you believe chess has helped you in life? How?

Max: Chess has taught me to take initiative, it has taught me to be patient, but more than anything it has taught me about equality. Getting handily beaten by an 8-year-old might be bad for the ego, but it sure drives home the point.

Why do you think it's important for children to learn chess?

Max: Learning to play chess... teaches you to think; and learning to think is the first thing that a person must do before they can do anything meaningful...



Describe activities you do outside of being a chess instructor.

Max: I work as a Paramedic on night shift right now and am currently going to school for my Bachelor's Degree and am working to be accepted into medical school.

What interested you in helping others?

Max: My mother has worked as a teacher in Cincinnati Public Schools for over twenty years and I spent many of my days off from school in her classroom when I was younger. It was here that I first saw how important she was to kids and the difference that she was able to make in their lives...

Can you share one fun/funny memory you've had as a chess player/teacher?

Max: The kids are always attempting to outdo one another by coming up with clever names for the pieces on the board, especially the pawns. Two of my current favorites, Pawn Cena and Pawn Solo. ■