

At-a-Glance

The Green Central “Living History Project” & “Fashioning-a-Dream” Fundraiser

WHAT

The “Living History Project” is a program of the Richard R. Green Central Park Elementary School in Minneapolis, designed to provide a hands-on, in-person experience for fifth grade students studying US and Native American History.

In its first year, the pilot program enabled 40 Green Central fifth-graders to take a four-day bus trip to the Black Hills of South Dakota. They were accompanied by a support team of 15 adults, recruited from the school, families, and the community

With the continuing support of the community, a similar trip is planned for fifth graders in 2009.

WHY

Fifth-grade teacher Ceola McClure-Lazo wanted to provide a first-hand history experience for her students that “would make tangible the things we study. I wanted the students to be inspired by something they experienced, life beyond the neighborhood, and a connection to their reading.” Planning and preparation for the trip also provided an opportunity for the children to learn important life skills, including goal-setting, overcoming obstacles, selling, and travel.

WHO

These programs are a collaborative effort of the students, teachers, and administration at Green Central School; committed citizens from Minneapolis and surrounding area; local businesses and organizations, particularly in the 3rd and 8th wards of Minneapolis; and Mayor Rybak, and Council Members Diane Hofstede and Elizabeth Glidden.

HOW

The budget for last year’s trip was \$10,000. Money was raised in a number of ways, including candy sales by the students. Funds were also raised through grants and donations.

This year, a substantial portion of the costs will be underwritten from the proceeds of a fashion show fund-raiser, “Fashioning a Dream”, to be held in April. Money will be raised through ticket sales, sponsorships, and other donations. Tickets are \$50.00. “Sponsor-a Child” donations are \$150.00. Donations of any size are welcomed and appreciated

WHEN / WHERE

“Fashioning a Dream” will be held on Saturday, April 12, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Picos restaurant, located in the Riverplace complex at 65 Main Street SE in Minneapolis. The event includes the fashion show, food (light appetizers, sweets, coffee, and tea), and a dance performance by Green Central students.

To build awareness and support for the project, photographs from the 2007 trip are currently on display in the offices of Mayor R.T. Rybak (City Hall, Room 333). The images were captured by photographer Dawn Vogel of Luminous Concepts Photography. The show opened March 7 and runs through April 30.