

Socrates provides the opportunity. You provide the hope.

GEARING UP FOR GREATER SERVICE

The 7th annual kick-off for the Socrates After School Project was held at 107 Halenz Hall in the Science Building at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI on Tuesday, September 1, 2009 at 11:30 am. *Pat Adams*, Director, Curious Kids Museum, St. Joseph, Michigan was one of our featured speakers. Other speakers are: *Sharon James*, Secretary, Benton Harbor Area Schools Board of Education and *Dave Pagel*, Chairman, Berrien County Board of Commissioners.

A Socrates Workshop will be held on **Sunday, September 13** at 107 Halenz Hall on Andrews University campus at 2:30 pm. The main objectives of the workshop are to allow networking and facilitate scheduling between tutors from Andrews University and site coordinators from Benton Harbor, Berrien Springs, Buchanan and Niles. Last year over fifty Andrews University students volunteered as Socrates tutors.

The Socrates Project, which started in 2003 to provide K – 12 students in Benton Harbor with free tutoring and homework assistance in all subject areas including science, mathematics and reading, has expanded to serve other Berrien County students, in Berrien Springs and Buchanan. Under the leadership of Dr. Desmond Murray, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Andrews University, Socrates has grown from three sites to over ten sites. Other

Andrews University departments like English and Education, as well as James White Library staff have become involved.

Socrates began as a result of a letter from Rev. Yvonne Hester, Director of Benton Harbor Street Ministry, to then Andrews University Vice-President Newton Hoilette, in which she wrote, 'Our community is yet in need of more structured programs and activities to empower children, youth and adults in math, science and reading. With these programs in place we can raise the standards in our community through educational programs. Andrews University has qualified staff and students to make this program available and successful....'

The current three Socrates service communities of Benton Harbor, Berrien Springs and Buchanan, all have different circumstances – history, socioeconomics and demographics but share the common need, to varying degrees, for academic excellence and educational attainment. The same is true of Niles, Michigan, in which Socrates will seek to initiate and expand its free afterschool tutoring services. For example, the 2000 U.S. census indicated the following %'s of population 25 years and over with a bachelor's degree or higher: **U.S.**(24.4%); **Berrien County**(19.6%); **Benton Harbor** (4.2%); **Niles** (12.6%); **Buchanan** (15.9%) and **Berrien Springs** (28.9%).

Socrates AfterSchool Project invites **YOU** to volunteer your time and talent. Tutoring involves a commitment of only two hours per week. Tutors are not all expected to be experts in math and science; all subject areas are covered. If you can read, write, or count, you can help. Non-tutoring things that Socrates needs help with include: writing stories about the Socrates Project; taking photographs of tutors in action; encouraging family, friends, and retired persons to get involved; building and maintaining a Socrates website; providing adult presence and supervision; and inviting us to come to your organization and talk about Socrates.

You are the solution for someone's problem, the prescription for someone's need, and a bridge for someone's future. Just two hours a week can bring a lifetime of blessings. Being involved in Socrates can show a boy how to become a man; show a girl that she can dream big; inspire self-worth, values and personal greatness in our youth and model positive attitudes and life style for our youth. This is a way of touching someone that can be truly life-changing.

Contact Dr Desmond Murray (269) 757-1641, socratesafterschool@andrews.edu. Become a Socrates fan on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=39976847712>

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