



# Eye News Quarterly

*“Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world”*

June 2015

Volume 3

Ebony Eyes Educational Foundation brings innovative reading programs to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms as well as scholarships to high school seniors mainly in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Ebony Eyes seeks to bring awareness to education policies that impact the community and advocate to policy makers creative solutions that are best for our children.

## Pen Pal Program: Children Can Spark a Movement



On March 27, 2015, Ebony Eyes closed out its annual Pen Pal program at Peabody Elementary School. The theme for the year was Civil Rights: Children Can Spark a Movement. These 4<sup>th</sup> grade students learned about the Birmingham Children's Crusade at the beginning of the school year and made paper dolls that traveled to theme related sites across the country to include: Selma and Birmingham, AL (National Voting Rights Museum and Civil Rights Institute); Little Rock, AR (Central High School); Farmville, VA (Moton High School); Washington, DC (MLK Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Supreme Court and Fredrick Douglass House); Greensboro, NC (International Civil Rights Museum); Memphis, TN (National Civil Rights

Museum). But the best part was the smiling faces of the students when they received their packages back with lots of goodies - to include books!!!

## Cameras for Kids Program

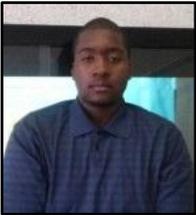


Reese Washington, a student at Busch Middle, submitted this winning photo of the St. Louis riverfront to the Cameras for Kids photo contest. On May 11th, she was presented with a digital camera at her school by Chris Kuban of Chemistry Multimedia, who cosponsored the program.



## Eboni Eyes Scholarship Fund

An annual scholarship is provided to a high school senior that have encountered obstacles early in life but has managed to succeed in education and is looking to continue their academic career. In Mar/Apr 2015, Eboni Eyes awarded two scholarships to two exceptional high school students:



Tyler Williams received a scholarship in the amount of \$1000. He graduated from McCluer High School with a 3.67 GPA and plans to attend University of Missouri – Columbia to major in Engineering.



Jordan Waters received a scholarship in the amount of \$500. Jordan graduated from McCluer North High School with a 2.95 GPA and plans to attend Southeast Missouri State University to major in Computer Science.

Eboni Eyes will award at least two scholarships in 2016. The deadline for applications next year is December 18, 2015. Applications will be available via the website: [www.ebonieyes.org](http://www.ebonieyes.org) or by request via email: [csampa@ebonieyes.org](mailto:csampa@ebonieyes.org).

## Founder's Corner



Did you know that more than race, income or other social economic factors, studies consistently show that reading to your children early and often is the biggest key to academic success? This is a recipe that has proven true no matter the city, state or country. It's not a cliché, reading truly is the great equalizer. Done well, reading teaches kids about the world around them. Sharing stories with your kids teaches them about faraway places, about smoking volcanoes and children in other countries who are a lot less fortunate than they are - just to

name a few. It is important to not only read to them, but ask questions about the book; questions that encourages them to THINK for themselves. By doing this, you are sending a signal to your kids about the importance of not just reading, but of comprehending all the new things they are learning about. Set your kid up for success by reading to them early and often, encourage them to read on their own, set a good example (let them see you read) and see what a difference it makes!

*Dr. Charleese Malone-Sampa is a Commander in the United States Navy. She is a graduate of Gateway High School, a Saint Louis Public School, and St. Louis University.*

## Donations and Volunteers

Donations and volunteers are welcome! Reading programs average about \$500 per classroom. This pays for books and supplies for each student, projecting an average classroom size of 25 students. Additionally, scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 are provided each year. The number of scholarships awarded is dependent upon the generous support of donors like you! You can send donations to the address below:

Eboni Eyes Educational Opportunity Foundation  
PO Box 78117  
St. Louis, MO 63178

Donation can also be made via GoFundMe:  
<http://www.gofundme.com/jjw9ro>

Additionally, volunteers are needed to read books, facilitate classroom activities and to provide administrative support. For more information, visit the website: [www.ebonieyes.org](http://www.ebonieyes.org) or email: [csampa@ebonieyes.org](mailto:csampa@ebonieyes.org)

***You can make a difference!***