

The Healthy Village Learning Institute

April 13th, 2018



It Takes a "Healthy Village" to raise a "Healthy Child".....Keith Murphy

GOAL
JULY 2020

We will offer:

- ▶ Urban Camping and Retreat Center
- ▶ African Museum and Gallery
- ▶ Cultural Arts Centre
- ▶ State-of-the-Art Technology
- ▶ Comprehensive Health and Wellness process
- ▶ Academic Classrooms
- ▶ Holistic Health Clinic
- ▶ Demonstration Kitchen
- ▶ Job Training
- ▶ Spiritual Healing/Trauma Spaces
- ▶ Leadership Training
- ▶ Global Consciousness
- ▶ Academic/Arts Center
- ▶ Race Relations Institute
- ▶ International Rites of Passage
- ▶ Ballroom/Auditorium
- ▶ Conference/Office Spaces



REVIVING MCKEESPORT!

The Healthy Village Learning Institute is being designed to meet the needs of children, youth, and families in McKeesport/Allegheny County. Our vision is clear. We need your support in "Building for Excellence".

HELP SUPPORT @ WWW.HVLIWEB.ORG

5 year Capital Campaign

New Building	<u>\$12-15 million</u> for a new connecting building is designed
Current Building Renovation	<u>\$3.8 million</u> renovation to create a state-of-the-art facility
New Equipment	<u>\$200,000.00</u> Technology and furnishings needed
Staffing and Utilities	<u>\$650,000.00</u> Operating support needed
Endowment	<u>\$2 million</u> Endowment to sustain the work

This working document will reflect the program impact of our new facility in McKeesport, Pa and the Resident Village responses to our offerings, which we expect will become one of the great Community Assets in McKeesport, the Mon Valley, and throughout Allegheny County.

2998 Boyd St. or 1102 Freemont Street, McKeesport, Pa. 15132 website: www.hvliweb.org 412.889-9329

The Healthy Village Learning Institute is accessible by all!

1.9 miles



.8 miles



.9 miles



McKeesport High School

Twin Rivers Primary and Intermediate

.7 miles



Founders Hall Middle School



Crawford Village Public Housing

The City of McKeesport and surrounding Mon Valley communities

(Clairton and Duquesne) are witnessing levels of violence that are becoming causes for concern/alarm for many, however, we know there are more good children, youth, and families in the communities that are doing positive and productive things. ***The Healthy Village Learning Institute*** and ***Urban Camping Retreat Center*** is prepared to assist in providing valuable outcome-based programming that targets academic success, personal and community responsibility, technology competencies, culturally-aligned programming, manhood-womanhood development designed for Rites of Passage, building and supporting Elders of the Village, youth employment, adult employment training, African Arts (drum-dance-carving-painting, etc), and Health and Wellness initiatives.

We are aggressively seeking resources to renovate this great space that is now serving the great people of McKeesport, the Mon-Valley, and throughout Allegheny County. We invite Foundations, Government Officials, Local and National Businesses, Corporations, and others to visit our site and we are certain that the vision of becoming a very special resource for potentially thousands.

The VISION includes:

- * **Renovating the current building** would be a great transformative improvement and will represent a great complement to the new Silver Leed Twin Rivers Primary and Elementary School as well as becoming a great complement to the Mon-Valley area and tourism.
- * **New floors and windows in the current building, State-of-the-art computers** (Apple-based) focused on S.T.R.E.A.M. (Science-Technology- Research-Engineering-Arts-Math).
- * **Adding an additional building** to accommodate Retreats Graduations, Weddings, Award Dinners, Birthdays, Community events, Jazz concerts, and other special events/forums, temporary residential spaceman African Museum, College Classrooms, Health and Wellness and Retreat Centre.
- * **Creation of an Endowment** as part of the sustainability plan.
- * **State-of-the-art Health and Wellness** services
- * **Community Trauma Center** to address victims of violence.

Summary report of the McKeesport Area School District

Total School-aged children and youth: **4,083**

- **89% (3,614) attend MASD schools**
- **11% (469) attend Charter Schools (Propel/Young Scholars)**

The Pa. State average for Proficiency/Advanced is: 54%

Twin Rivers 3rd grade math Proficiency/Advanced percentage by race

- **Whites: 34.8%** (65.2% Basic/Below Basic)
- **Blacks/MR: 20.0%** (80% Basic/Below Basic)

McClure 3rd grade math Proficiency/Advanced percentage by race

- **Whites: 54.1%** (45.9.2% Basic/Below Basic)
- **Blacks/MR: 12.5%** (87.5% Basic/Below Basic)

The Pa. State average for Proficiency/Advanced is: 44%

Twin Rivers 5th grade math Proficiency/Advanced percentage by race

- **Whites: 32.1%** (67.9% Basic/Below Basic)
- **Blacks/MR: 14.3%** (85.7% Basic/Below Basic)

McClure 5th grade math Proficiency/Advanced percentage by race

- **Whites: 55.2%** (44.8% Basic/Below Basic)
- **Blacks/MR: 14.0%** (86% Basic/Below Basic)

The Pa. State average for Proficiency/Advanced is: 39.7%

Founders Hall 6th grade math Proficiency/Advanced percentage by race

- **Whites: 23.0%** (77% Basic/Below Basic)
- **Blacks/MR: 8.3%** (91.7% Basic/Below Basic)

The Pa. State average for Proficiency/Advanced is: 29.8%

Founders Hall 8th grade math Proficiency/Advanced percentage by race

- **Whites: 17.0%** (83% Basic/Below Basic)
- **Blacks/MR: 5.5%** (94.5% Basic/Below Basic)

of Students in enrolled in the 2016-17 School year by grade

- **8th:** Whites= 123 (45 %) **Blacks/Multi Racial*=145 (53 %)** Other 3= (1%)
- **9th:** Whites= 138 (43 %) **Blacks/Multi-Racial*= 176 (55%)** Other 4= (1%)
- **10th:** Whites= 126 (46 %) **Blacks/Multi-Racial*= 144 (53%)** Other 3= 1%)
- **11th:** Whites= 112 (44%) **Blacks/Multi-Racial*= 134 (53%)** Other 6= (2%)
- **12th:** Whites= 116 (48 %) **Blacks /Multi-Racial*= 125 (51%)** Other 3= (1%)

Percentage of students suspended

- Whites: 208 out of the 882 out of school suspensions = 23.5 %
- Blacks/Multi-Racial : **659 out of the 882 out of school suspensions = 74.7 %**

Percentage of students expelled

- Whites: 2 out of the 13 expulsions = 15.3 %
- Blacks/Multi-Racial*: **11 out of the 13 expulsions = 84.6 %¹**

¹ Created by Keith Murphy (HVLI) for the McKeesport Educational Committee 2017
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McKeesport Demographics

McKeesport violent crimes

REPORT TOTAL	MURDER 10	RAPE 13	ROBBERY 69	ASSAULT UNREPORTED
RATE PER 1,000	0.46	0.60	3.19	UNREPORTED

Population 313,914,040

United States violent crimes

REPORT TOTAL	MURDER 14,827	RAPE 84,376	ROBBERY 354,522	ASSAULT 760,739
RATE PER 1,000	0.05	0.27	1.13	2.42

McKeesport Annual Crimes Data FAQ

CRIME INDEX Rank for McKeesport: 13 (100 is safest)
Safer than 13% of the cities in the US.

Source: <http://www.neighborhoodscout.com/pa/mckeesport/crime/>

McKeesport Poor families by family type

- ★ Married-couple family (18.5%)
- ★ Male, no wife present (10.8%)
- ★ Female, no husband present (70.7%)

Breakdown of poor residents in McKeesport not in families by work experience

- ★ Worked full-time, year-round (2%)
- ★ Worked part-time (24%)
- ★ Did not work (75%)

Breakdown of poor married-couple families by work experience

- ★ Both worked full-time (0%)
- ★ One full-time, other part-time (0%)
- ★ One full-time, other didn't work (21%)
- ★ Both worked part-time (5%)
- ★ One part-time, other didn't work (39%)
- ★ Both didn't work (35%)

Source: <http://www.city-data.com/poverty/poverty-McKeesport-Pennsylvania.html>

(2010 Census poverty levels for the USA is around 12% and in Pennsylvania it is 12.4%)

Poverty levels in McKeesport in 7 wards (areas) with over 100 people considered Black or African American

Source: <http://www.city-data.com/poverty/poverty-McKeesport-Pennsylvania.html#ixzz3Eu-P7cZ40>

Residents with income below the poverty level (%) - Black or African American : **68.2%**

Residents with income below the poverty level (%) - Black or African American : **54.3%**

Residents with income below the poverty level (%) - Black or African American : **50.7%**

Residents with income below the poverty level (%) - Black or African American : **49.4%**

Residents with income below the poverty level (%) - Black or African American : **40.9%**

Residents with income below the poverty level (%) - Black or African American : **37.2%**

Residents with income below the poverty level (%) - Black or African American : **35.6%**

Surrounding communities (Mon-Valley)

Duquesne, PA (poverty)

[15110](#)

Residents with income below the poverty level (%) - Black or African American : **61.1%**

Clairton, PA (poverty)

[15025](#)

Residents with income below the poverty level (%) - Black or African American : **29.5%**

| The McKeesport/Mon Valley/Allegheny County demands services that address the serious issues connected with poverty and ***The Healthy Village Learning Institute*** is positioned to provide the most critical life-affirming programs to assist in producing a better McKeesport through our **P.O.W.E.R (Positive Outcome With Excuses Removed)** initiative.

History

PHASE I

The Healthy Village Learning Institute was started in the most organic American-African way....in the basement of St. Paul African Methodist Church in **2012**. With 1,200 square foot of in-kind space, this facility was very important in building a new program that placed great emphasis in developing positive African identity in programming space that carries a name symbolic of this mission---African. The Church in the American-African community has and in some cases continues to serve as the social, political, and spiritual voice of the McKeesport Village and St. Paul AME is positioned to carry on the traditions of being the vanguard of fighting the Civil Rights battles, engaging community folk to become active members in the community. Their newest contribution to the McKeesport community is the **Anna Middleton-Waite Learning Center** that provides PC-based computer literacy instruction for adults.

In **2013** we found ourselves invited to occupy a former BAR/CLUB located in the most violent community in the City of McKeesport that is owned by Fathers of two of our Rites of Passage Initiates. While there was no significant space increase we were permitted to design the space without restriction and we created an authentic African-centered experience.

The Sankofa Rites of Passage (SROP) beginning resulted in refining over 50 young men that participated in the Sankofa Rites of Passage Program and witnessed 13 young Initiates making a transformational journey to Ghana, West Africa.

We quickly learned, as a result of increased interest of youth and parents, that more interior space with adequate parking was needed and we found ourselves relocating one final time. The Healthy Village Learning Institute now has a permanent home and we had **our grand opening on April 19th, 2014**. As of July, 2018 we have seen **over 3,000 people come through our doors** participating in a multitude of programs/events offered. We are optimistic that our efforts at this new site location will allow us to serve thousands of people throughout Western Pennsylvania when renovation funds are secured. We **are currently engaged in** capital campaign to support this unique and creative facility and we are confident that we will reach the goal of having 4

floors of programming for Pre-K-Elders in the near future for the McKeesport/Mon Valley/Allegheny County/Western Pa.

It is our great pleasure to provide you with a snapshot of The Healthy Village Learning Institute. We have great expectation for providing an authentic African-centered experience that will serve as a learning vehicle for people of all ages, races, creed, color, and sexual orientation.

St. Paul AME (the beginning)

St. Paul AME is the first and oldest Black Church in McKeesport, built in 1888, and also offered the first Head Start Program in McKeesport that served as the Bethany House Academy Executive Directors first formal place of learning instruction. The retention and uncompromising spirit of the African Methodist, thanks to the great Ancestor Richard Allen, continues without apology or shame in using African (not African-American) in their delivery of spiritual instruction that locates the origin of a people. The connection with this church started over 45 years ago, which made it even more special to be able to give back in the place that gave the Executive Director a great Pre-school experience and an enthusiasm for learning.

St. Paul AME Church in McKeesport (below)



Phase II

The Bluenote/Cooties II

As a result of the successful collaboration with St. Paul AME an unexpected opportunity emerged. Space was offered by owners of a closed bar/club that was forced to close as a result of deadly violence and remained unoccupied for nearly **10** years. The owners of this space have sons that travelled to Ghana with our ROP initiative. The invitation to occupy a former BAR/CLUB, located in the most violent community in McKeesport, presented a great opportunity to serve a very under-served segment of Allegheny County and was aligned with our agency mission statement. While there was no significant space increase we were permitted to design the space without restriction and created an authentic African-Centered experience.

With similar square feet of usable space, the opportunity presented many challenges....structurally, geographically, and psychologically. In considering transforming this space several factors were weighed that included:

- 👉 Ability to transform the space, related to building safety and health department standards, in a facility that was closed for nearly 10 years.
- 👉 The ability to transform the space into a community asset
- 👉 Engaging community leaders, generating community-wide support, and engaging resident and non-resident participation.
- 👉 Reduce barriers related to the negative reputation of the facility and community location.
- 👉 Space limitations for growth and lack of parking
- 👉 Growing violence in the Crawford Village Community
- 👉 And finally could a hometown community activist/leader that was unsuccessful in the bid for being the youngest and first American African McKeesport Mayor and was unsuccessful twice in the

bid to become a McKeesport School Board Director mobilize the community around an African-centered model that connected all generations of folk to “do better” in a community where doing better represents a mandate.

Below represents the image of the building that went by the name of the Blue Note and Cooties II and some of the history of the Crawford Village community that probably kept this facility closed over a 10 year period:



Woman slain leaving tavern

By Susan K. Schmeichel and Dave Conti,

Published: Friday, Nov. 22, 2002

Allegheny County detectives and McKeesport police said as many as three people might be responsible for the shooting death of a young mother early Thursday.

Mary Howard, 20, was shot to death around 2:10 a.m. outside a bar within walking distance of her Crawford Village home. Police said Howard was ambushed as she walked

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out of the Blue Note Lounge in the 500 block of Ohio Street. McKeesport police said the bar, recently under new management, also was known as Cooties II.

After she was shot in the back and head, Howard ran back inside the bar and collapsed inside the bathroom, police said. Paramedics pronounced her dead at the scene a few minutes later. Howard had gone into the bar shortly after 2 a.m. to get something from a person inside, detectives said. When she came out, several people who were hiding in an alcove next to the tavern, approached her and shot her, police said.

Detectives had no suspects yesterday. Officials declined to discuss a possible motive. Investigators said they do not believe Howard had any disagreements with any bar patrons before the attack.

Howard's cousin, Bernard Aukerman, said he saw her late in the day Wednesday. "She liked to hang out with her friends," he said. Aukerman said Howard lived in Crawford Village with her two daughters, ages 4 and 1. Chanda Smith, a friend who attended McKeesport High School with Howard, said Howard often went to the bar with Shenina Jones. Jones had worked at the bar until last summer, Smith said. Jones could not be reached for comment. "They were always together," Smith said.

Smith, who works at Holy Grounds, a small grocery store across the street from the Blue Note, said she never heard of trouble there, but the bar usually doesn't open until 6 p.m., after she leaves work for the day. The bar was closed and no one was there when a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review reporter stopped by yesterday afternoon.

Crawford Village resident Gregory Lee said Howard had grown up in McKeesport on nearby Bailey Avenue. He frequently saw Howard and her daughters around the neighborhood, he said. "She came from a nice family," Lee said.

Patricia Griffin, another Crawford Village resident, said her 17-year-old son told her he heard several gunshots at about the time police said Howard was killed. "I don't come here at all," Griffin said, referring to the Blue Note. "There are usually people out in front of there at all hours of the day and there is lots of fighting. Read more: <http://trib->

[live.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/pittsburgh/s_103931.html#ixzz31SnDyRNv](http://trib-live.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/pittsburgh/s_103931.html#ixzz31SnDyRNv)

23, killed at bar

By Karen Roebuck

Published: Sunday, Aug. 8, 2004

A 23-year-old man was shot to death early Saturday outside a McKeesport bar, the Allegheny County Coroner's Office said.

Vito Lee, 23, of Duquesne, was shot shortly before 2 a.m. during a fight outside Cootie's Bar, in the 500 block of Ohio Street, police said. Lee was pronounced dead at 2:41 a.m. at UPMC-McKeesport hospital, according to the coroner's office.

The cause of Lee's death was a gunshot wound to the chest. No arrests have been made. Allegheny County police homicide detectives are investigating.

Read more: http://triblive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/pittsburgh/s_207179.html#ixzz31-So3ni8T

2 shot outside McKeesport convenience store (April 11, 2014)



The former Healthy Village Learning Institute is on the right (above photo)

Michael DiVittorio

McKeesport police taped off the intersection of Brownlee and Ohio streets while investigating a double shooting outside a store.

By [Michael DiVittorio](#)

Published: Friday, April 11, 2014, 3:46 a.m.

A man and woman were transported to UPMC Mercy by McKeesport Ambulance Rescue Service after being shot outside a McKeesport convenience store Thursday afternoon.

Police responded to the call around 4:20 p.m. near the intersection of Ohio and Brownlee streets across from Crawford Village.

The woman reportedly was shot twice, once in the leg and once in the arm, and the man was shot in the lower back.

McKeesport police assistant Chief Tom Greene said no additional information about the victims could be released at press time and Allegheny County Police were taking over the investigation.

Greene confirmed officers are looking for a male shooter and a weapon. He said a dark gray Hyundai believed to have been involved in the shooting was found at another location in the city. Officers marked more than 12 shell casings as evidence along the cobblestone road by the store.

Authorities are reviewing video surveillance footage from nearby buildings.

A store clerk, who declined to be identified, said video shows a dark-colored vehicle traveling along Brownlee Street and someone inside opened fire on the two people.

The victims ran inside the store, kicked in a side door and made their way to the back of the store to avoid more gunfire.

"I heard gunshots and everybody flew to the back," the clerk said. "They kicked the door down. This is the worst, most emotional week."

Another employee closed the store after police cleared the scene sometime before 5:30. It's unknown when the store will reopen.

McKeesport resident Elaine Stanton said she was on her way to the store when she heard shots and saw someone flee the scene.

"They need to stop this," Stanton said. "I don't like this kind of mess, people killing each other."

The incident grabbed the attention of many people near the scene. A woman living in an apartment about a block away from the store said it sounded like someone fired a machine gun.

"I heard all the rounds. It was just nonstop," the woman said.

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Another woman, who did not wish to give her name, said she drove someone from the store to get her nails done shortly before the shooting. “It was just fine out here 20 minutes ago,” she said.

Anyone with information about the shooting should contact McKeesport police at 412-675-5050 or Allegheny County police at 412-473-3000. Callers may remain anonymous.

Michael DiVittorio is a staff writer for Trib Total Media. He can be reached at 412-664-9161, ext. 1965.

Read more: <http://triblive.com/neighborhoods/yourmckeesport/yourmckeesportmore/5926451-74/store-mckeesport-police#ixzz31Yg4wA1R>

In conclusion, of all the challenges presented, it made absolute sense to accept the offer of occupying the Bar/Club, with the goal of creating a space that would transform much of the internal and external history and develop a space that reflected a cultural shift (mentally). We were provided rent-free space with the only expenses being utilities (gas and electric). The African-centered model became the focus of the facility with the included language by placing the first official banner on the facility titled “The Healthy Village Learning Institute” as an ideology of transformation. The children, youth, adults, and Elders of the Community embraced the model through participating in the offered programs that proved by providing respect-based (African-centered) quality programming, through a strength-based/solution-driven vision, great things can happen.

With all our programming success there still remained barriers that could not be overcome in the quest to provide greater access by more people with the **main barrier being space** and the other major barrier was trying to get broader participation from the other residential segments in the McKeesport Community and Mon Valley areas that expressed great fear of entering the Crawford Village public housing community due to the violence within the community. From an instructional level we could comfortably seat 18 at a time, which really limited our capacity of having larger group participation/community events/activities. For the Rites of Passage we had to create 2 groups for 2 different days in order to effectively provide African-centered instruction.

Below is the cleaned out version of the start at the Bar/Club. (thanks to KMS Floor Care)



Below is the finished product of the former Bar-Club. Many found this space to be a very positive addition to the Crawford Village community that is maligned with the title of being the most violent community in McKeesport.



In the pursuit of addressing the barriers, there were several things going on in McKeesport that were viewed as a great opportunity for growth and program expansion. The greatest opportunity that we looked at was seeking access to 1 of 2 Elementary Schools that were closed in McKeesport as a result of a new 30+million dollar school that was built that would serve K-5 students. In conversations with members of the School District, School Board Members, and other politically connected individuals

there were several items concerning both schools that represented barriers to our agency that eliminated our interest in both schools.

All areas of concern related to the financial capacity to acquire/maintain the school(s). The #1 school on our list, Centennial Elementary, was said to need a **\$1,000,000.00 dollar roof** and the 2nd school choice did not sit in an optimal location for services. Additionally, in doing walk-throughs of both sites it also became apparent that each school was too large for the current scope of proposed service(s).

There existed a great potential in developing a multi-Service partnership/Collaborative at one or both of the schools if funding sources permitted. The other big factor for drifting away from the idea of acquiring one of the schools was the **\$400,000.00 + cost for heating either school.**

In the effort to focus on capacity building and the fact that many parents started voicing concerns over the location of The Healthy Village Learning Institute in Crawford Village and the potential of reduced participation by those **not living** in the Crawford Village, it became necessary to appeal for space that allowed all members of the McKeesport, Mon Valley, and County-wide children, youth, Families, and Elders to gather without fear or apprehension. Then the unexpected happened.

Phase III (final)

In making numerous appeals to City Officials, School Board Members, and Church Leaders for space to expand the services of The Healthy Village Learning Institute we were overwhelmed by the response by many in their efforts of trying to secure adequate space with parking space for this valuable Village project. Thanks to the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh and **Father** Stephen A. Kresak, an Alumnus of mine at both Serra Catholic High School and St. Vincent College reached out to the Executive Director of the Healthy Village Learning Institute and invited the Executive Director for a visit to a closed Catholic Elementary School, which is literally a one minute drive from the former Ohio Street location. Additionally, this school is located on a very busy corridor of McKeesport and sits less than a half-mile from the high school and less than a mile away from the new **30+** million Elementary school. This visit also included an invitation for Father Stephen to see the transformation of the former Bar so that he

could witness what was done to a space that excited many in the McKeesport community in a very undeserved community.

The former Catholic School known as St. Pius carried many of the things that a program looking to grow needed....space, parking, and accessibility by the “whole community” **and a great respected Community reputation.** The concerns of space cost, utility costs, and building maintenance were the items of concerns until we learned that the building was for sale. Father Stephen expressed that he would love to just give me the building but he couldn't, however he stated he could sell it to me. It was at this very moment that I was prepared to take out a personal loan (and I did) for this great opportunity, if the sale price was reasonable. Father Stephen explained that the building operated on a two boiler system unit and that if we only wanted to operate the bottom level we could without heating the whole building. This was great news to hear but still the big unanswered question was the sale price of the building.

As we toured the building it was apparent that work would be needed to turn this 24,000 square foot facility with a parking lot into the greatest community resource in McKeesport/MonValley. I braced myself and asked the necessary question.....how much are you asking for the building?

The answer to the question brought tears to my eyes and reinforced my faith that all things aren't about money and that **there are times where the Mission is greater than the money.** I'm absolutely sure that Fr. Stephen could have gotten a lot more money for this building but he chose to find a way for this building to remain a positive and productive presence in McKeesport. Needless to say I wrote out a personal check for the asking price as requested by the Pittsburgh Diocese and we closed the deal.

There are no words that could adequately express my gratitude for what was extended to the Executive Director and The Healthy Village Learning Institute regarding the great deal and an even greater opportunity that could only come from a faith-based Institution known as the Catholic Diocese. What we plan to do is prove through our “**deeds**” that a great choice was made in the decision of providing the opportunity. We plan to exceed the expectations that Fr. Stephen has/had for us and the for the place (St. Pius) he would call..... **“The Hope on the Hill”!**

As a result of this great gift many members of the Mon Valley have provided **in-kind services** that include:

- Plumbing assistance
- Electrical assistance
- Drywall assistance
- Floor care/maintenance assistance
- General cleaning assistance
- Art donations
- Donations of appliances (courtesy of the McKeesport School District)

We are very proud and humbled by the outpour of community support and we look forward growing and providing valuable programming in the Western Pa. region.

In the following pages you will get to see the visual transformation of The Healthy Village Learning Institute that is continually seeking ways to become greater each and every day. We consider this our working document of progress that incorporates health, healing, and hope for a Greater McKeesport!

From This



To This



To This!



in less than 3 years

We went from this



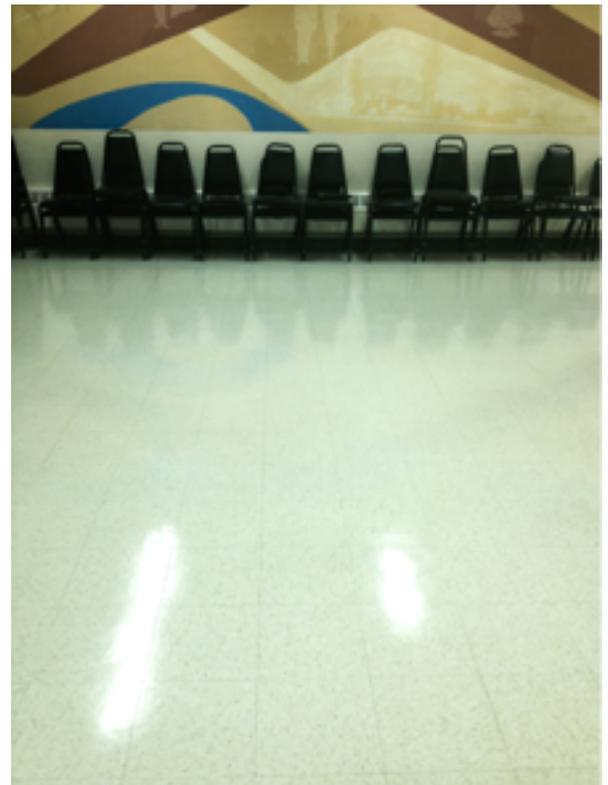
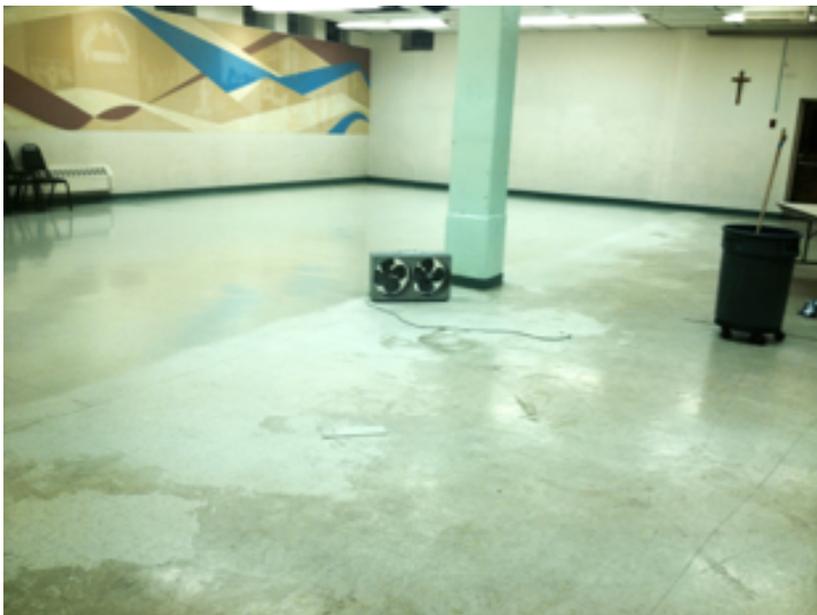
To This



We went from this



To this, thanks to KMS Floor Care (412) 537-3636



We went from this



To this



To This



We went from this (the bar/club)



To this! (THVLI)



We went from this (bar/club):



To this (THVLI):



We went from This:



To This! (THVLI)



The Healthy Village Learning Institute serves as a solution-based Institute for Community Mothers



**Solution-based.....
Strength-based en-
gagement**

We gather to strategically do the “Work”!



Community Fathers



Community Mothers

A Healthy Village celebrates our Elders



We have a “WISE” Council of Elders



Health and Wellness is important in The Healthy Village Learning Institute

Our Free Health Fair included UPMC (Vision, Bone Density and Diabetes Screening), Rite Aid, Susan B. Koman, the YMCA and special guest Darieth Chisholm with Bokwa, Zumba, and African Dance by Kuumba, Inc.



Mind.....Body.....and Spirit work includes the Body Blast



We use all available space..... including our parking lot.



One of our newest programs is Yoga for Community Mothers and Fathers



In silence we find peace



International Rites of Passage and Manhood Development is a core program



Our Manhood/Womanhood Shoot Hoops not Guns Initiates



**The Womanhood Development program is the great complement
Community Mothers sharing their wisdom
P.O.W.E.R (Positive Outcomes With Excuses Removed)**



The 1st Annual Womanhood Development Rites of Passage JourneyGhana 2015



In little more than 5 years we are beginning to see a Village-wide change. At the end of November (2014) the Black Beret's re-assembled after over 10 years of inactivity and The Healthy Village Learning Institute opened the doors and welcomed all who wanted to participate. The young girls/ladies came from every section of McKeesport that many said "it would never happen"! It happened.....Harrison Village was with Crawford Village, and the Hilltop was with both community members. This is what The Healthy Village was intended to do....bridge the gaps and get on the "same" team. There were 103 children and youth and 47 adults that showed up and all were filled with respect, honor, and dignity.



Community Proud/Pride means Community Strong



This is Healthy Village work!



The Black Berets in full force for their 1st Community Performance in the parking lot!



Hope, Health, Healing!

We also have special events like our Holiday Gala and Dance for our “*Grown Folk*”



Training was provided for McKeesport resident members to Start their own Business

This special training is hosted by the Riverside Center of Innovation. <http://newpittsburgh-courieronline.com/2015/05/16/collaborative-efforts-bring-business-training-to-mckeesport/>



We Celebrate the yet unborn

It takes a Healthy Village to Raise a Healthy Child!



Our “Newest and Great” Community asset is **Artist Chiaka Zulu Howze**

His work speaks for itself but if you want to contact Chiaka and have him share his talents at your school, business, or Community Center please e-mail or call him at:

chiakahowze45@gmail.com

412.330.7773



We must invest in our local Artists!

March Is Women's Month
WOW! Women Of Wonder! We Salute YOU!
Please Join Us at the First Annual
Dr. Vernell A. Lillie Tribute To Women

Honoring Dr. Vernell Audrey Watson Lillie and ALL Women

An Afternoon of Wonder Coordinated by Betty J. Tilman with
An Intimate Conversation with Dr. Lillie via Skype
Hosts: The Honorable Kim Clark and Media Personality Elaine Effort



*Dr. Vernell A. Lillie - Photo by Dr. Sandra Murray

Special Dr. Lillie Salutes:

ChiChi Anyanwu, Ben Cain, Kedrick Brown with Eileen J. Morris, Dr. Marta Effinger Crichlow with Rudy Crichlow, Anton Floyd, Lawrence Evans, Jeff Gray, Nathan James, Herb Newsome and Others

Come Dressed In Your Finest African Attire

11am-3pm with Lite African Cuisine

On Saturday, March 12th, 2016 at
Bethany House Academy Healthy Village Institute
1102 Fremont Avenue, McKeesport, PA

Free Parking

Admittance is \$35.00

Please **RSVP to **The POISE Foundation 412-281-4967****

This Event is a collaborate of the Bethany House Academy Healthy Village Institute,
the Good Neighbor Project and the Poise Foundation.

* **Dr. Vernell A. Lillie**, Professor Emeritus, University of Pittsburgh and Founder of the KUNTU Repertory Theatre (one of the longest running Black Theater companies in the United States) is a member of the prestigious HISTORYMAKERS. She has received numerous awards for her creative acumen, commitment to students, the community and work in higher education, theatre arts and psychodrama nationally and internationally. Dr. Lillie holds the Lifetime Achievement Award from The National Black Theatre Festival, the Career Excellence Award from the National Black Theatre Network, and the 2003 Career Achievement Award from the Association for Theatre In Higher Education. . Dr. Lillie is considered an "Arts and Education Treasure". She holds a doctorate and Masters of Arts Degree in English from Carnegie Mellon University, a B.A. Degree in Speech and Drama from Dillard University, completed graduate studies in Education and English at Texas Southern University and has an honorary doctorate from Seton Hill University.

It's always great celebrating the work of one "Our" GIANTS (DR. Lillie) of Pittsburgh!



Art on Exhibit

Our “Healthy Village” youth engaged in a very interactive art project that involved them making from scratch their own canvass and designing it with the visual expression that “We are Nature”. The effort and creativity of this process exceeded the expectation and we are proud of the product. The works of these great youth went on exhibition at Chatham University in October 2016.



Gerald Lee Hoffman

We are Nature

Preserved here is the handmade paper work of youth from a summer workshop called We Are Nature co-facilitated with Reith Murphy (Institute Director) at The Healthy Village Learning Institute in McKeesport, PA. These works by Kadeesha Dorsey, Mahogany Henderson, James Marjay, Asaad Robinson and Andre Robinson are stunningly beautiful portraying their bodies as elements of nature. It was a special week engaging the kids in a project that challenged them to create art from scrap paper to ultimately envisioning themselves as part of the natural world. This work is a direct extension of the film and the photo exhibit that invites viewers to perceive their relationship to the natural world as not separate but a part of the whole environment.



The McKeesport Past and Present

Affinity Resource Group

A working group of local and out-of-State/City members met with the sole intention of examining how we can make a “greater” McKeesport with emphasis on on youth development/employment. In a very holistic fashion the group has now expanded the scope



and is in the process of developing a comprehensive blueprint of addressing all key areas of living in McKeesport.

“4”

Generations of McKeesport born people in the same space is

“Healthy Village” work,



In Memory of Loved Ones we Celebrate



Promotion to the
Rank of Ancestor
must be Celebrated!



A Holiday Celebration to bring the **“Spirit”** of giving to the lives of our children is very important. One day they will give back!



A Healthy Village Affair!

The “1st” Healthy Village Learning Institute After-school Light Up Night (2016)



We welcomed the “1st Saturday of the Afrikan New Year Celebration” with Family and Friends (2017)



We were HAPPY to host the Official Listening Party for Mrs. Denise Bailey-Myers and Husband Jamie



The request for special events and fellowship is growing and turning into a.....Healthy Village!



As a result of pursuing a Mission and Vision that will benefit the “whole” Village, we have plumbers donating their services, electricians donating their services, Construction Firms donating their services, Maintenance men and women donating their services, and retired Caterers donating their services. A very special thanks is extended to the McKeesport School District, School Board Members, and District Staff members for their donation of time, resources, and services. The estimated in-kind services, including the space cost, exceeds over \$200,000.00. We have been open for 4 years and have seen over 3000 people walk through our doors. The community has embraced The Healthy Village Learning Institute as a positive Village agency reaching out to make differences.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Goals

The Healthy Village Learning Institute seeks to provide the most comprehensive and holistic African-centered experience in Allegheny County and Western Pennsylvania. Our programming will include instruction and engagement for Pre-K-12, young Adults, and Elders. **A major component of growth and expansion is finding resources to renovate the upper floors and add a new building in the parking lot by developing a Capital Campaign strategy.** The renovation of space will represent the difference between serving hundreds to thousands of County resident members. We want to serve thousands.

Solution

The Healthy Village Learning Institute is committed to focusing on only solutions and strength-based modules to address the educational, vocational, health and wellness, Village delinquency/violence, equity disparities, institutional racism/barriers, peer pressure, and justice for all. Delivering **Health, Healing, and Hope** is our business.

Project Outline

In years 1-5 we are proposing operating a multitude of programs (i.e., community violence, education, job training/employment, etc.) that directly effect the American African community in Allegheny County that include: McKeesport, Clairton, Duquesne, Braddock, Homestead, Wilkinsburg, Homewood, East Liberty, Northview Heights, Hill District, and other communities that have concentrated pockets of African American.

- A high-achieving Preschool Program modeled after our Northview Heights process
- Manhood-Womanhood Development (ages 8-21) International Rites of Passage (Ghana)
- Health and Wellness Instruction and Development (lifestyle vs. death style)
- STREAM (Science-Technology-Research-Engineering-Arts-Math)
- Elder Work (50+ years of age)
- Leadership Preparation Instruction (18+ years of age)
- Entrepreneurial development
- Mon-Valley/County-wide Collaborative Efforts
- Solution Series Workshops in the areas of Education, Jobs, Youth/Adult Violence, Family functioning, and Healthy Village living principals
- Race-Racism-Racial Justice forums
- African Drum and Dance
- Photography
- Video Editing

The FUTURE of the HEALTHY VILLAGE LEARNING INSTITUTE

www.hvliweb.org

**McKeesport, Pa
on the RISE!**



"It takes a Healthy Village to Raise a Healthy Child" *Keith Murphy*