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**Beyond Basics Open House**

Thursday, November 4  
 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

*Please join us for a tour of two Beyond Basics Schools Mae C. Jemison and Thirkell Elementary, where you can see our programs in operation.*

To RSVP or for questions please email Sharla at [stabile@beyondbasics.org](mailto:stabile@beyondbasics.org)

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## Nationally-Known Literacy Advocate John Corcoran Visits Beyond Basics

Dear Friends and Supporters of Beyond Basics,

We were excited to have nationally-recognized literacy advocate John Corcoran as our guest at Beyond Basics this past week. John first burst onto the national scene with his autobiography, *The Teacher Who Couldn't Read*, in which he reveals how he was a college graduate and then a teacher for 17 years, yet he couldn't read at a functional level.



Literacy advocate John Corcoran (left) at Thirkell School, with 3rd grader Terrance Stokes and tutor Geric LaPut.  
 Photo by Danyelle Manley

During his stay, John took a tour of our programs at Thirkell and Jemison schools, where he visited with students and staff to learn about the work we do in Detroit area schools. Later, he was interviewed by the Free Press's Steve Henderson for Detroit Public Television's *American Black Journal*, where he discussed his journey from illiteracy to reading, and the connection between literacy and the success of a society.



John Corcoran talks to a group of students at Mae C. Jemison School.  
 Photo by DeShon Taylor

The highlight of his stay was his address to a crowd of supporters at our Fall Event, graciously planned and hosted by Bob and Vicki Liggett. He spoke about his journey from being an illiterate adult to

becoming a nationally-known author who has appeared on the "Oprah Winfrey Show," "20/20," "Phil Donahue," and "Larry King Live." He also touched on the importance of literacy in our society and the need to support programs like Beyond Basics.

John's story has also been featured in national magazines such as *Esquire*, *Biography*, *Reader's Digest*, and *People*. He was appointed to the National Institute for Literacy by President George H. W. Bush, was confirmed by the U.S. Senate, and subsequently served on the Board of the Institute under President Bush and President Clinton. He was also the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2002 Literacy in Media Awards.

Sincerely,  
 Pamela Good, Executive Director  
 Beyond Basics

## UPS Volunteers Help at Publishing Center

Thank you to the volunteers from UPS who visited Thirkell Elementary School on October 26 to help Beyond Basics promote writing in our Publishing Centers.



The Publishing Centers are open to all students in the schools we serve. Children work with mentors to write and edit their own stories and poetry, which are then bound with hard covers for the kids to take home.



Photos by Danyelle Manley

## Volunteers Needed for Free Press Gift of Reading Program

Beyond Basics is looking for volunteers to help with the Detroit Free Press's Gift of Reading program. The organizations are partnering to provide a new book for every Detroit Public Schools student in grades Pre-K through 3. The goal is to deliver approximately 23,000 books to kids before their Christmas holiday break.



Beginning Nov. 15, we'll need volunteers to pick up books at Borders bookstores and other locations later in the month. Also we need help sorting, packing and delivering books to DPS classrooms. The sorting/packing room is in the Free Press building. They will provide parking and lunch. If you are interested in helping in this effort, please contact [stabile@beyondbasics.org](mailto:stabile@beyondbasics.org).

## Singer Visits Jemison to Promote Writing

With guitar in hand, Janet MacCulloch played songs for kindergarten and 1st grade students at Mae C. Jemison Academy. Students and teachers alike received a special treat as Janet sang songs to encourage participation in the BB publishing center.



Photo by DeShon Taylor

Thanks to her efforts, the Jemison Publishing Center produced more books in one day than in the previous three weeks combined.

## Join Us for a Fundraiser Planning Party

Beyond Basics will hold its 7th Annual Coming Together for the Children fundraiser in March 2011, but we are already planning the event and need your help. We're hosting a Planning Coffee on Wednesday, November 3, from 9 to 11 a.m. at our offices, 2501 Rochester Court in Troy. Please join us to kickoff this event. We'll serve coffee and pastries, and there will be a door prize.

Please RSVP by calling 248-250-9304 or email [Margot](mailto:Margot). And bring a friend—the more the merrier!

## Did You Know?

In most countries, a one percent increase in literacy increases