

Celebrating Patchwork Quilt scholars

Written by

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Ready for School. Ready for Work. Ready for Life.

The mission for Patchwork Quilt (PQ), an after-school program serving North Minneapolis children and families for 16 years, will be focused on stage Sunday, April 14 at the Historic Capri Theater, 2027 West Broadway in Minneapolis.

The program's second annual event, featuring Patchwork Quilt scholars, will begin with a reception at 2:30 p.m., followed by entertainment at 3:15 p.m. An audience of nearly 300 had a wonderful time at last year's event, according to PQ Executive Director, Margaret Nelson Brinkhaus.

In addition to the program, which is open to the public, refreshments, prize drawings and a children's art show are scheduled. Tickets are \$30 and may be purchased by emailing info@patchworkquilt.org or calling 612-270-0923.

Artists, grades 1-6 scholars, staff and teen volunteers will be featured, beginning with Harambee, the gathering focus of each after-school day.



Pastor Dennis Oglesby of Park Avenue United Methodist Church will welcome guests, emcee and sing. Other featured entertainment will include Kenna Cottman and her highly regarded African dance troupe, Voice of Culture Drum and Dance Company, as well as Tiyo Patterson,

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spoken word artist and PQ cultural specialist.

David Nassif, president of the Patchwork Quilt Board of Directors, said the program started 16 years ago, inspired by the inspiration and work of the Father Greg Tolaas at the Church of St. Philip in North Minneapolis.

Recognizing both the potential and challenges of families in the church neighborhood, he invited younger children to a Kids Club and teens to a College Bound group.

Father Tolaas died in 2003 but his legacy has continued through the growth and impact of Patchwork Quilt, 3700 Bryant Ave. N., Minneapolis. Program funding is provided by "generous foundations and individuals," said Brinkhaus.



Nassif explained the PQ goal as providing an academically-oriented after-school program to build "literacy, technological, life and cultural skills." A parent advocacy program increases parent involvement in their children's education and participation in Minneapolis public schools, to increase student success and close the achievement gap for African-American students.

Patchwork Quilt can accommodate up to 50 scholar participants. Currently there are a few vacancies. "We are particularly excited about the success of our teen/junior volunteer program, which looks to the talents and dedication of our graduates to assist staff and adult volunteers in

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better meeting our scholar's needs," said Brinkhaus.