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Community Learning Center receives grant from PNC Foundation to support adult learners

The PNC Foundation recently awarded a \$7,500 grant to Community Learning Center, a community-based nonprofit adult literacy program. Founded 20 years ago, CLC started with just 67 students and now serves more than 300 annually. CLC offers free classes in Adult Basic Education (ABE), General Educational Development (GED) Preparation, and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) in North Philadelphia, primarily the Kensington neighborhood, one of the city's neediest areas. In 2004, the rate of on-time high school graduation in Kensington was the lowest of any zip code in Philadelphia. Only 40% of students in this neighborhood graduate within four years of entering public high school, according to the Community Report Card 2005, published by the Mayor's Commission on Children. Community Learning Center's programs are based on the four core values of access to education, a commitment to learning and excellence, respect for learners' life experience, and holistic, student-centered instruction.

Consistent with its holistic approach, CLC supplements its curriculum with opportunities for students to visit historic, scientific, and cultural events and venues. On June 21, students attended a special performance of the Old Academy Players' production of Tennessee Williams's *The Glass Menagerie*, starring former CLC teacher Jennifer Williamson in the role of Laura Wingfield. Located in East Falls, the Old Academy is the community theatre where Grace Kelly began her acting career. The June 21 performance was a fundraising event for CLC. Community members and others purchased tickets and made donations to support Community Learning Center's programs and to subsidize students' admission to the show.

Before the curtain rose, CLC acknowledged the PNC Foundation's generous grant, which will help sustain CLC's programs and services and helped underwrite the evening's fundraiser. Also supporting the event was Weavers Way Co-op, which graciously donated refreshments for attendees.

For more information about Community Learning Center, contact Carol S. Miller, associate director, 215.426.7940, cmiller@communitylearningcenter.org, or visit www.communitylearningcenter.org.

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