



# MTCC CenterGram

Where the people of the Middle Tyger Area  
have come together to serve our community  
with one mission...  
...to create healthy families.



Third Quarter

August 2007

## Graduation at Middle Tyger

Graduation services were held at Lyman United Methodist Church on May 17. Speakers included Dr. Scott Turner (Superintendent of Spartanburg County School District 5), Cynthia Denhard (MTCC Volunteer), Rebecca Hewitt (Byrnes Graduate); Renee Salazar (GED Graduate). Lelnetria Robinson (Greenville Tech graduate) sang "Find Your Wings" and refreshments were served by the LUMC Women. MTCC board members, staff, volunteers and community members celebrated the accomplishments of the following:

### 2007 GED Graduates

Kayla Bridges  
Dustin Britt  
Elizabeth Burnside  
LaPaula Burgess  
Brittany Byrnside  
Adam Clough  
Wilton DeYoung  
Justin Foster  
Brandon Garrett  
Scott Greca  
Matthew Grimm  
Bennie Hand  
Casey Hatley  
Whitney Hernandez  
Donna Jackson  
Heather Jennings  
Jason Jennings  
Ashley Kenney  
Mary Kettles  
Jamie Lee  
Richard Mugavero  
Ashley Piakis  
Justin Reuter  
Allen Roper

Renee Salazar  
Elridge Samuels  
Andrea Sprague  
Nikolas VanHaverbeke  
Elizabeth Vaughn  
Chelsea Walker  
Kayla Williams  
Rebecca Wilson  
Steven Wood  
Linda Wyatt

### TIMC Preschool Graduates

Anthony Maldonado  
Aaron Pike  
Jennifer Onofre  
Robert Wagner  
Jeremy Price  
Aeris Vaughn  
Connor Williamson  
Markee Anderson  
She'mya Warden  
Elijah Smith  
Avrian McCoy-Garrett

### Byrnes High School

Rebecca Hewitt  
Aniya Lynch  
Ashley Turner  
Michelle Jackson  
Zovia Wilkins  
Kyera Lyles  
Tenisha Weaver

### Greenville Technical College

Lelnetria Robinson

### Spartanburg Community College

Christie Cheatham  
Tara Hawkins

### Inman Diploma

Terri Collier  
Mashunda Murphy





# MTCC CenterGram

## *Middle Tyger Community Center Supports the Youth of Spartanburg County*

**Middle Tyger Community Center announces that it is , once again, a recipient of the *Community Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Grant (CAPP Grant)*. MTCC has been awarded this grant, from the Department of Social Services (DSS), since 1998; its first year of service to the community.**

Despite the decline in the rate of teenage pregnancies across the country and the state of South Carolina, a staggering number of young girls still become pregnant before they are ready for the responsibility of parenting. As a result of these early and unplanned pregnancies, many young women encounter numerous life challenges that threaten their futures, and the futures of their children. Unfortunately, most adolescent fathers, overwhelmed themselves by the responsibility of early parenting, chose to distance themselves from the mothers and children; thus becoming absentee fathers.

The goal of the CAPP Grant is to prevent adolescent pregnancies among the youth of Spartanburg County and to help to develop a nurturing community in which the children of Spartanburg County can remain healthy, stay in school, complete both their educational and personal goals, and thrive. Middle Tyger Community Center has chosen to address the social issue of teenage pregnancy prevention, through building community advocacy and awareness. This is being done by:

- *Providing opportunities for workshops for adolescents and their families;*
- *Building the strength and self-sufficiency of teens and their families, through family support services;*
- *Working with various agencies and organizations to support youth development and asset building for teens;*
- *Actively serving on youth boards in Spartanburg County that work to enhance the lives of young people;*
- *Partnering with media to establish awareness of the negative impact of teen pregnancy in our county;*
- *Conveying positive messages of advocacy for our teens to realize our goals.*

To learn more about MTCC’s CAPP Grant and/or to volunteer your services in this unique effort, please contact Donna Dawkins at 439-7760.

***“What you teach a child, you teach the child’s child.”***

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Todd E. Hardy is a native of Pacolet, South Carolina. He is a graduate of Spartanburg Technical College, University of South Carolina-Spartanburg, and received a Master’s Degree in Education Administration from Converse College in May 2004.

Mr. Hardy is the Principal of the new James F. Byrnes Freshman Academy in Spartanburg School District 5. He is a graduate of the Potential Administrator’s Academy of Spartanburg County, and Todd was also awarded USCS’s Outstanding Student Teacher of the Year, May 2000.

As an employee of Spartanburg District 5, Mr. Hardy has served as a member of several key decision making committees, including: the district’s At Risk Committee, SACS Steering Committee, Minority Recruitment Taskforce, and the Florence Chapel Principal Selection Committee.

Mr. Hardy is married to the former Isha Maranda Walker of Spartanburg, South Carolina. They have one daughter, Miss Nyasia Shabree Walker-Hardy and one son, Master Todd E. Hardy Jr. He is the son of Ms. Brenda Kay Hardy of Pacolet, SC. They are members of Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Cowpens, SC.

MTCC's childcare, "This Is My Child", is proud to announce the addition of 3 new staff this year to our Early Head Start classrooms. Christine Bannister began in January '07, Katy Lee and Susan Teague will begin in August '07. These ladies will be a welcomed asset to our staff. As we make plans for the new school year, we are looking forward to some new faces in our childcare. In August we are expecting 12 new families to join the 20 we are currently serving. The childcare will reopen on August 20th. The teaching staff will return on August 13th to prepare rooms and participate in staff development.

MTCC was recently awarded \$30,000 from United Way. This will help toward the cost of serving our families in Family Literacy with high quality early childhood education and helping parents reach their educational goals.

MTCC has also received a grant from Mary Black Foundation for seeking reaccreditation with NAYEC. This will help with the purchase of accreditation materials, fees, and staff training.

*"We do not remember days;  
we remember moments"*

*Play Groups at Middle Tyger*  
by Beth Hollifield—  
Parent Educator

Middle Tyger Community Center's Parent as Teachers Program hosted a "Zoo" Playgroup on Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007. The purpose of the event was to promote learning through family togetherness. Families participating in the PAT Program were invited to come and spend quality time together while learning about their favorite zoo animals. This event had more than thirty family units in attendance and was a huge success! Families were encouraged to visit each animal themed center where they engaged in fun-filled activities that ranged from making snakes from old silk ties to experiencing what it would be like to have the blubber of a polar bear. The activities gave these families the opportunity to discover little known facts and trivia related to exotic animals that are often seen only in cages or behind glass.

After the children had completed the centers with their families, they were served a variety of theme related snacks which included alligator juice, spunkey munkey mix and zebra cake. There were door prizes given away, and each child in attendance received a gift bag which contained items donated from several local businesses in the community. Hollywild Animal Park in Inman, SC donated a zoo pass for each child who attended this great event. The staff of Middle Tyger donated their time to work at this event and enjoyed witnessing the joy the children displayed while experiencing each part of the playgroup. This event was a pleasure to host, and the staff and families look forward to weekly playgroups during the summer that will allow families to remain in touch with Middle Tyger and with other families served by the center during the summer months.

**NUMBERS THAT COUNT...**

- MTCC is **ONE** of **NINE** CARE-Adolescent Family Life Demonstration Projects in the whole USA!
- MTCC (TIMC) is **ONE** of **FOUR** child care centers in Spartanburg County that has received *national accreditation* from NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children)
- MTCC (TIMC) is **ONE** of **FOUR** Family Literacy sites to receive funding from Spartanburg County First Steps through a partnership with Spartanburg County Adult Education.

**DISTRICT 5 FAMILY MINISTRIES**

has received the following...

- \$355 from the Feinsein Challenge
- \$2000 from the Spartanburg Christian Community Foundation
- \$7,000 from the United Way



*Adult Education*

**Fall Schedule**

<b>Regular Schedule</b>	<b>August 13 -16</b>	<b>Registration and Assessments</b>	
<b>Classes Start</b>	<b>August 20</b>	<b>8:30 --12:30</b>	<b>Mon thru Thurs</b>
<b>ESOL</b>	<b>August 29</b>	<b>9:00 --12:00</b>	<b>Tue thru Thurs</b>
<b>Night GED</b>	<b>September 6</b>	<b>6:00 --8:00</b>	<b>Mon and Thurs</b>

**Contact:**  
**Jackie Tindall**  
**Adult Ed Coordinator**  
**439-7760**

*It's not too late to enroll.*



*GED Updates. . .*

- 289 Basic/Pre-GED/GED Students last academic year
- 44 ESOL Students last academic year
- 54 Continuing GED students (beginning in June)
- 12 New GED students (beginning in June)
- 10 GED Students awaiting test results
- 6 students scheduled to take GED in July
- 30 GED's earned this year**

For more information about MTC or to request a tour,  
 call Wanda Fowler at 846.439.7760 or wanda.fowler@sparts.net

Look for us on the web:  
[www.middletyger.org](http://www.middletyger.org)

- Dates to Remember**
- **August 30**—Tour of MTC and Breakfast (8:30a.m.)
  - **September 20**—Tour of MTC and Breakfast (8:30a.m.)
  - **October 13**—Charity Golf Tournament Links of Tryon Ladies Golf Association
  - **October 24**—Spinx Family Wellness Day at McAllister Square

84 Groce Road  
 Lyman, SC 29365  
 864-439-7760

