"Intelligence plus character— that is the goal of true education."
— Martin Luther King Jr.

Our mission is to nurture self worth and academic growth for Pontiac elementary school students performing below grade level.
The year is in "full swing" with 24 children participating, 48 tutors on board and the Kids Café well managed with menus, shoppers, cooks and clean up crews!

We have gotten "our feet wet " with the new curriculum "Triumphs" and both the children and the tutors are becoming familiar with the work sheets and accompanying books.

Our “incentive” reward book has been a big success, with some children "cashing in" after they have earned 12 stamps, while others “save” for a bigger prize. The prizes get more substantial after each page is filled. The children hand their books in at the end of each session with a paper filled out by their tutor indicating the amount of stamps, with a possibility of earning 2 stamps per session. The kids check these book and understand what is expected and in some cases when only one stamp is given (or in rare cases—no stamps) they think back and understand the cause and effect.

We had a Halloween Activity and the dining room was transformed into a Halloween themed room with various “stations” where they children completed their personalized Halloween packet. They rotated from table to table and worked on Halloween themed worksheets. The tutors were stationed at various tables to assist the kids in completing their work. This gave tutors a chance to interact with students that they hadn’t been assigned to in the past. The tutors also got a sample of the different ages and stages of students. It was great fun!

A wonderful Thanksgiving feast was cooked and served to the children. The pumpkin pie was a big hit! A big Thank You to the Kids’ Café crew for supplying the delicious dinner!

Our fund raiser “An Evening with Don White” was a great success in both forming new partnerships and in raising much needed funds.

We have experienced successes as students relate that they have brought their grades up. In one case, one of our kids was the only one in his class to get 100% on his spelling test. Hurray!

Thanks to the generosity of the local chapter of AAUW, we conducted our Shopping Day. On this day, the children make a list of family members and "shop" for them, selecting from a wide assortment of donated gifts. With the help of tutors and other volunteers, the gifts are wrapped, tagged and placed in a bag to go home with each student to put under their tree.

The Christmas season continued to be made brighter by donations we received from Christ Church Cranbrook, St. Stephen’s Troy, Bloomfield...
Village Garden Club, Mother’s Council of Kingswood School and The Bank of Birmingham. Our Bound Together partners share in the mission to provide this much needed service for the children of Pontiac.

We are looking forward to a successful second half of the year, with work progressing well, tutors working one on one with the kids, meals planned, shopped and prepared to be enjoyed. We have the sense that everyone is exactly where they are meant to be.

Celebrations

- Fun parties—Halloween and Christmas
- Successful Fund Raiser “An Evening with Don White” held Dec. 7th and a matching funds from the Michael and Julie Whitted Foundation
- Successful “Shopping Day” for students for their family and friends
- Items for Christmas activities from Christ Church Grosse Point, Christ Church Cranbrook, St. Stephens Troy, St. Philips Rochester, AAUW of Birmingham, Bank of Birmingham, Bloomfield Village Garden Club and Kingswood Cranbrook Mothers’ Council
- Partnership formed with the Bank of Birmingham
- Grants from Christ Church, Cranbrook, Christ Church, Grosse Point and Saint Andrews, Ann Arbor
- New tutors
- Reward Books, promoting positive behavior and academic progress are a very big success!

Students can earn stamps and then “cash” them in for prizes, i.e. 1 page Prize Box, 2 page Price Box etc.

Vernon worked hard on math today and was in pleasant (as always).
2 stars, please.
Looking Towards a great year

2014

Bound Together
167 W Pike St. Pontiac MI. 48341
248-334-3827
www.boundtogetherpontiac.org

Donate Tutor Cook

There is a word in South Africa - Ubuntu - It is the recognition that we are all bound together in ways that can be invisible to the eye; that there is a oneness to humanity; that we achieve ourselves by sharing ourselves with others, and caring for those around us.”

President Obama at Nelson Mandela’s funeral

Free Tutoring/Mentoring/Meal program every Tues., Wed., and Thurs. throughout the school year. Art classes two Mondays a month with dinner.

In the life of a child.

Thank you Thank you Thank you Thank you Thank you Thank you Thank you Thank you
Reflections on Bound Together
What Bound Together Means to Me...

As a Tutor

Why I tutor these amazing children
It’s very simple for me …helping a child (or an adult) reach their greatest potential is what makes me joyful.

It is a wonder to behold when you hear a child say… “I am reading…” or see a smile on their face when they learn to spell a new word; or how to use a dictionary.

Often simple things we take for granted are a wonder and mystery to others. Sharing and caring for others is what we are born to do…

J.J. Benkert

As a Guardian

I am so grateful to know that Bound Together is here for my grandchildren (Nyja, Naceir and Nizhir.) They have grown in self esteem and academically. Their grades really improve. They look forward to seeing their tutors and have a special bond with them.

Geraldine Sharp

As a student

I like coming to Bound Together because I get to see my friends.....

I like Bound Together because my tutor helps me and is nice.....

I like coming to Bound Together because I like art club.....

I like Bound Together because we get to work on fun stuff and have snacks....

I like math now cause I can do the multiplication table up to 12.....

I like coming to Bound Together - everyone thinks it is good when they see us...

I like Bound Together because for fun, we can play chess (after our binder work)...

Great things taking place at 167 W. Pike St. Pontiac!
Recent Fund Raiser - an overwhelming success!
Saturday Dec. 7, 2013 “An Evening with Don White”

We sold 178 tickets for the event and the room was packed! The concert was enjoyed by both old and new fans. Everyone laughed and cried at the heartfelt stories and were mesmerized by the songs that spoke about the human condition. Many folks also enjoyed the afterglow reception included in the price of the VIP ticket. Guests enjoyed amazing appetizers presented beautifully and provided by NYA Catering and Events. (Rick Hunger and Daniel Safford  248-971-0321.) Champagne was graciously donated by Bound Together supporters.

Many thanks to the businesses that sponsored the event, The Bank of Birmingham, The Claymore Shop Birmingham, E Marketing of Michigan, and NYA Catering and Events.

A HUGE thank you to all who volunteered to help out the night of the event and the guests who made additional donations that evening! Bound Together was fortunate to receive matching funds from a staunch Bound Together patron. The funds raised will help keep the doors open and the program strong!

Social Media - Bound Together

To gain more support for the work that takes place at Bound Together, we have a Facebook page. The page is updated weekly to tell “our story” to anyone who is interested. We are asking folks to click the “Like” button to gather more friends (and supporters) of Bound Together. The link is https://www.facebook.com/BoundTogetherPontiac

Website www.boundtogetherpontiac.org

Thank you   Thank you   Thank you   Thank you   Thank you
What we believe:

- We believe Bound Together provides a safe, welcoming and comfortable place to learn and grow.
- We believe that Bound Together takes Pontiac elementary school students after class and provides to them, the tools they need to be successful both academically and in their families.
- We believe we can each out and give a child a chance at individualized attention.
- We believe we can give them the nutrition they need to succeed.
- We believe we can give them hope, because they know we're all standing behind them.

Bound Together operates for just about $12.50 a week per child per school year. That’s a lifeline for the children and their future.

Wish List

- Additional Tutors (contact director@boundtogetherpontiac.org)
- Additional Kids Café Folks (contact Jeff Kane jeff@kaneinnovation.com)
- Copy Paper (Letter size)
- Books of Stamps for mailing
- Snacks (Juice Boxes and Granola bars)
- Ink Cartridges for HP8600 Plus

Yes, I am able to help at this time. I have enclosed my donation of:

$25  $50  $75  $  

Name  
Address  
Phone  
Email  

Please make checks payable to Bound Together and mail to the address below.
Or donate online at www.boundtogetherpontiac.org via Paypal.
If you have questions or would like to learn more about Bound Together, please call us.

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