



MACON/BIBB CITIZEN
ADVOCACY, INC.

COMMUNITY CURRENTS

SUMMER 2012

Maps, Math and Computers

Citizen Advocate Zita Portillo has come to know that Cornorris is all about maps, math and computers. She smiles as Cornorris, age 15, runs out to her car and says “You got your map? Okay! I’ll go and get mine!” He’s been saying this for years.

Zita is not surprised. Cornorris is smart, curious and wants to explore everything. He’s a leader in his classroom. “He’s a take charge kind of guy, friendly and enjoys helping others.”

She appreciates Cornorris’ love of learning and computers. “When class begins, he goes around the computer room and turns on all the computers,” she says. A few of his favorite websites are Cool Math, Study Island and Pskids.

Zita discovered this wealth of knowledge about Cornorris after meeting him in April 2007. They became really good friends, and soon after he became a big part of Zita’s family. Zita is a devoted wife and a loving mother of four. She recognized how much Cornorris loves books and computers just the way her kids did and always made sure they were available for him when he came to her home. For years she read to him, her daughters read to him and he read to them. Zita was happy to see what a good reader he was, and it was important to her for his teachers to know how skillful he was in reading and other subjects as well.

When school began, she took an active role in finding out what reading teachers were educating students in classes outside of Special Education with the hope that Cornorris could be included. Zita was so proud when they moved his class. Since then he has been promoted to the advanced reading class. He also attends computer class and a fast forward class that is geared towards the CRCT. Zita doesn’t take any credit for this. She says she is thankful to his mother Andrea for being a big contributor in Cornorris’s growth. Cornorris has an older sister, Ashley, and a younger sister, Aquashia, who both look up to him.

It wasn’t that long ago when citizen advocacy learned about this 9-year-old little boy who had faced some hardships and would be moving to Macon from Butler, GA. We quickly learned that he was ready to say “Hello world, see my great potential.” It was important for us to find the right, caring person in Macon who honored that and could make a child feel like a star. Zita Portillo is truly that person.

When asked what Cornorris has meant in her life, she replied, “I have always been able to relate to all kids, but Cornorris fulfills me the most because he lets me see the possibility in all children. His growth, the way he embraces life and embraces learning are wonderful.” Cornorris chimes in and says, “I love her. She’s my Auntie, and we go on vacations to the beach in Florida.” Zita hopes Cornorris will go to college because she believes “He can be anything he wants to be!”



Zita Portillo & Cornorris Tamplin

Titanic Celebrates 100 years...

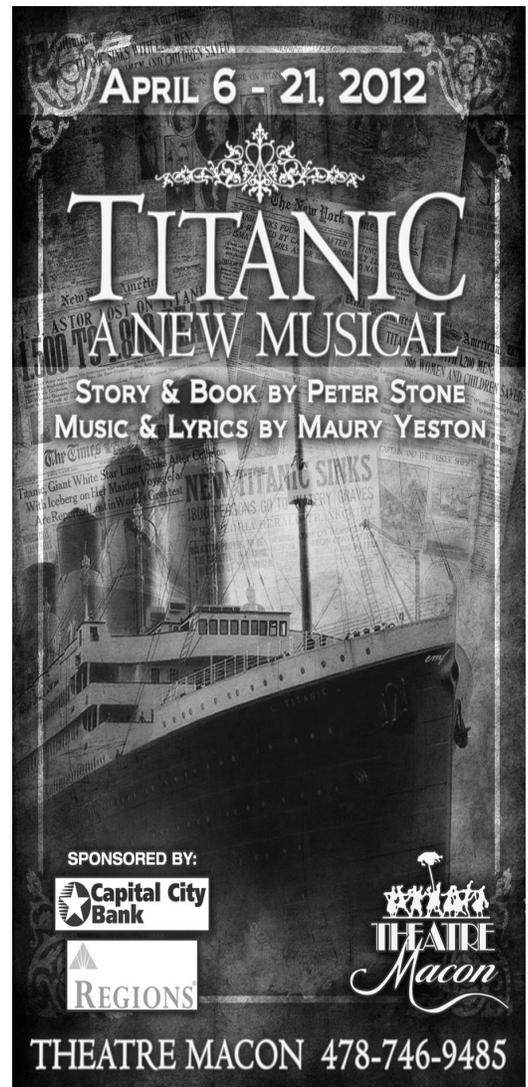
Theatre Macon partnered with Macon/Bibb Citizen Advocacy to raise money. All the money raised for tickets to a dress rehearsal of “Titanic” was donated to MBCA. Molly’s Café in downtown Macon allowed MBCA to hold a pre-theater party for all ticket holders. All of us at Macon/Bibb Citizen Advocacy would like to thank everyone involved in making this evening a success.



Tamika Woods, Roberta Jones,
A. Joi Jones & Amber Jones



Melissa Boren & Angela
Simmons



“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.”

Margaret Wheatley



Joan Burney, Meridith Woodruff
Mayor Robert Reichert & Linda Walker



Jane Carder, Margaret & Tom Glennon

“The gift is to the giver, and it comes back to him — it cannot fail...”

Walt Whitman

WHAT DO CITIZEN ADVOCATES DO?

Each offers himself or herself as someone who is open & available to be helpful as a fellow Maconite.

Each looks for ways that they can make a good difference and they notice how being involved helps them see and feel things differently.

Many are using their personal connections in Macon to help create opportunities for their protégé. Macon is a “who do you know town.” This is how a lot of things get done.

Many are offering what looks like good old fashioned neighboring, practical help with getting something done.

Many are helping people get connected to the good things that Macon has to offer all of us.

Many are helping people escape and reject having to live a separate and segregated life. The code word is “special” and decoded it means segregated.

Help to ensure that Citizen Advocacy is a part of Macon’s future. Please contact the office if you would like more information about getting involved.

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“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world, indeed it is the only thing that ever has.”

-Margaret Mead

MACON/BIBB CITIZEN ADVOCACY CELEBRATES 35 YEARS OF BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER IN RELATIONSHIPS



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Statement of Purpose

Citizen Advocacy is not a service. Rather, it is the invitation for people leading full lives in our town to get to know others who have been excluded. Macon/Bibb Citizen Advocacy, Inc. is supported by people in our community. We are an independent non-profit organization. Citizen Advocacy is a people intensive endeavor—little by little, one person at a time.

CITIZEN ADVOCACY

A Valued Citizen, unpaid and independent of human services, creates a relationship with a person who has a developmental disability and is at risk of social exclusion.

The citizen advocate represents and responds to that person's interests, and brings the gifts and concerns of the person into circles of ordinary community life.

We're on the Web!

maconbibbcitizenadvocacy.org

Thank You

Citizen Advocacy is a community-strengthening endeavor that depends on the support of local citizens. All investments directly benefit the Macon/Bibb County community. Our thanks to these folks who have invested from January 2011 through August 2012.

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