

- + Building relationships
- + Boosting academic achievement
- + Opening doors
- + Inspiring success

## PAIR Update

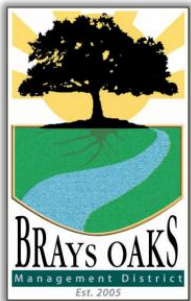
Issue 3  
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### PAIR's Mission

PAIR empowers refugee youth to reach their highest potential by connecting them with college students and community volunteers who provide supportive mentoring relationships, academic and cultural enrichment, and the resources and motivation to pursue higher education and other opportunities.

### Thank You to our Community Partner!

We would like to thank Brays Oaks Management District and its Director of Services, Richard Rodriguez, for the district's continuing support! The district funds transportation for children in our Fondren Middle School Mentoring & Tutoring and Westbury High School College Counseling programs.



### Contact Info

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PAIR is a non-profit  
501(c)(3) corporation

### PAIR's Increasing Impact:

#### PAIR Launches First Summer Program

During the summer of 2010, PAIR launched a program to maintain contact with the refugee students who benefit from our mentoring and tutoring during the academic year. The primary goal of this program is to prevent erosion of the gains in English skills and reading comprehension achieved during the school year. Program activities included engaging educational assignments and games, library visits, and field trips to Hermann Park's Miller Outdoor Theatre and Rice University. This program would not have been possible without the effort of Jaclyn Dean, PAIR's 2010 summer intern through the Program in Poverty, Justice, and Human Capabilities at Rice University. PAIR would also like to thank John and Polly Collier of Caring Friends, Inc., for their generous donation of funding for the children's field trips.



### WHAT WE DO:

**Saturday Sessions:** a cultural orientation and mentoring program designed for recently arrived middle-school-aged refugees

**Mentoring & Tutoring:** an after-school tutoring and English language enrichment program with a mentoring component based at Fondren Middle School

**College Counseling:** a program designed to provide high-school-aged refugee students with the resources and motivation necessary for successful application and entry into post-secondary education

**College Orientation Day:** a bi-annual event held at a local college to introduce students to the benefits of college education



### In the Spotlight:

Participants in PAIR's Saturday Sessions program for newly arrived refugee children, above, enjoyed their first field trip this fall to Houston's Sims Bayou Urban Nature Center. Many thanks to Vicki Vroble, the center's Environmental Educator, for providing the children with a fun and informational tour!

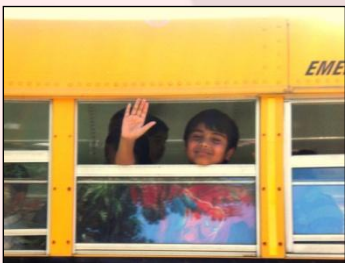
## Officers in PAIR Student Club Attend Clinton Global Initiative University Meeting



Jaclyn Dean (Lovett '12), Amit Suneja (Wiess '12), and Sarita Panchang (Martel '10)

This past spring, three officers from PAIR's student club on the Rice University campus represented PAIR at the annual Clinton Global Initiative University Meeting, hosted by former President Bill Clinton, where college students share the solutions, projects, and organizations they have created to address critical global issues. Jaclyn Dean, Amit Suneja, and Sarita Panchang were among the students who joined President Clinton, the US Surgeon General, and other leaders in working sessions that addressed poverty alleviation and global health, as well as grassroots community engagement and fundraising strategies. After exchanging their creative solutions and experiences with their peers, the Rice PAIR officers returned to Houston with even more energy to enrich PAIR's services for refugee youth throughout the Houston community and beyond.

### PAIR expands with your help!



Refugee students make up a significant portion of the student population in southwest Houston's public schools, where PAIR now focuses its efforts. Westbury High School, the site of a PAIR pilot program this fall, estimates its own refugee population at 155, or 7 percent of the student body. This pilot program is part of PAIR's measured expansion plan to increase its positive impact on the Houston community through programs that reach more of the 300 plus middle- and high-school-age refugees who arrive in Houston each year. We depend on your support to make our expansion possible. **Click on "Volunteer Now" or "Donate Now" at [www.pairhouston.org](http://www.pairhouston.org) to make a difference today!**

### STAFF UPDATE

#### Nicole Tritter Ellis – Executive Director

Nicole became PAIR's new Executive Director in August 2010. She holds a B.A. in International Studies from the American University in Washington, D.C., and earned a law degree from the University of Texas at Austin. She previously worked as an immigration attorney and has experience in marketing, training, and strategic planning. She is deeply committed to PAIR's mission of empowering refugee youth to reach their highest potential and providing volunteers with experiences that increase their understanding of global issues and their ability to work with diverse cultures. The enthusiasm and creativity of PAIR's volunteers and students inspire Nicole every day to work toward PAIR's goals.



#### Lynn Steger – AmeriCorps VISTA

Lynn joined the PAIR team in August 2010 after graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Abilene Christian University with an emphasis in International Relations and Comparative Politics. During her time at ACU, she participated in a study abroad program in South America, where she volunteered with an inner city after-school initiative for youth and a program dedicated to helping young mothers continue their education. During her AmeriCorps service, Lynn will focus on PAIR's Saturday Sessions program as well as PAIR's continuing expansion in the community. After her year with PAIR, Lynn plans to attend law school to study international law.



**Farewell to Kirstin** In August, we said goodbye to our first Executive Director, Kirstin Doyle. We are tremendously grateful for her dedication and leadership throughout a period of unprecedented organizational growth. Kirstin's contributions to PAIR during her tenure are innumerable, and she will be missed. Her next adventure takes her to Washington, D.C., where she assumes an exciting role as an Investment Analyst for the International Finance Corporation, a member of the World Bank Group that fosters sustainable economic growth in developing countries. *Thank you, Kirstin!*