

# THE SUMMIT

*A Newsletter Published by Summit Academy OIC*

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## Hard Work and Training Helps Summit Graduate Build a Better Future

### STUDENT PROFILE



A few years ago, Geoff King had no idea what his next move would be. He had earned a GED and wanted to get his life on track, but he was stuck working part-time jobs. He was unsure of his future until his parole officer referred him to Summit Academy.

In 2001, Geoff enrolled in Summit's Pre-Apprentice Carpentry Program. While at Summit, he enjoyed the hands-on training opportunities. Geoff credits Summit's instructors for helping him familiarize himself with the skills and tools he would use at a construction job site.

After working for Summit for nearly one year on several renovation projects, Geoff ran into a friend who worked for Flannery Construction. He asked his friend for a referral, and in April 2003, Flannery hired Geoff to work as a wood framer with a starting wage of \$12.81 per hour—a big step forward.

Three and half years later, Geoff is still employed with Flannery Construction. He has been promoted to interior finisher and now earns over \$22.00/hour. Soon he will complete the 7,000 hours needed to become a journeyman-level carpenter, with the potential to earn \$27-31/hour. He no longer needs to work part-time jobs and or see his parole officer. Geoff knows that the best social service program in the world is a living-wage job.

### Donaldson 5K Raises \$6,000 for Student Scholarships

More than 30 Donaldson employees braved the blazing sun and 90-degree temperatures to raise \$6,000 through a 5K Run/Walk for Summit Academy on July 13.

In addition to the 5K Run/Walk, Donaldson held a raffle, popcorn sales, jeans day stickers sales and more — all to raise money for student scholarships for people wanting to enroll in Summit Academy's adult education programs.

Participants in the Run/Walk included Bill Cook and Louis King, the leaders of Donaldson and Summit Academy, respectively. A few minutes into the event, Louis King encountered some workers installing a fence. Coincidentally, one of the men was Eddie Hutchinson, a Summit graduate. Eddie now works as an independent contractor.

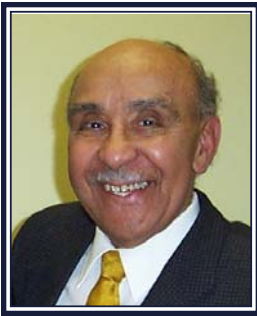
Summit Academy board member and Global Director of OEM Truck Sales Joe Novotny was the brains behind the successful fundraiser. "Once you get a couple of



*Donaldson CEO Bill Cook (pictured to the left) and Victor Strack cross the finish line without breaking a sweat.*

passionate people on board, you can't help but get involved," said Kathleen Elder, referring to Joe Novotny and other members of the event's planning committee.

## Summit Remembers W. Harry Davis



North Minneapolis lost a friend and supporter on August 11 when W. Harry Davis died of cancer. Davis was one of the founders of Twin Cities Opportunity Industrialization Center (TCOIC), which later became Summit Academy OIC. Davis served as a board member and advisor to TCOIC and Summit for forty years.

Davis grew up in North Minneapolis and graduated from Minneapolis North High School in 1941. The following year, he began a job at the Onan Corporation, eventually becoming one of the first African American executives at a major Twin Cities corporation. Davis was a staunch supporter of civil rights and served on the Hennepin County Mobilization of Economic Resources Board, the Minneapolis Urban Coalition, the Minneapolis Civil Service Commission and the Minneapolis School Board. In 1969, Davis campaigned as the city's first African American mayoral candidate.

Davis' work transformed many lives in North Minneapolis. His contribution to our organization was invaluable.

## Legislators Across Party Lines Believe that "The Best Social Service Program in the World is a Job!"

by Louis J. King, II, Summit President/CEO

For the past two legislative sessions, we have successfully united coalitions of Republicans and Democrat legislators from the suburbs, Twin Cities metro area and greater Minnesota to successfully secure funding for children trying to get an education and adults trying to get jobs. The result has been \$600,000 in funding for the Quantum Opportunities Program, Hundred Hard Hats and the Certified Nursing Assistant/Home Health Aide Program.

After hearing the compelling testimony of Summit graduate Victor Seals, children from QOP and Mike Favor, principal of Minneapolis' North Community High School, legislators worked together to ensure that Summit's efforts to create a community of workers came one step closer to reality. Legislators have been impressed with the fact that Hundred Hard Hats increased the average earnings of the graduates from \$6,200 to \$25,000 with just 20 weeks of training. They have been equally impressed to hear the young "QOPsters" talk about their goals of graduating from high school and going to college.

Too often the press is filled with stories of petty squabbling at the legislature. In this case, people like Karen Klinzing (R-Woodbury), Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan), Keith Ellison (DFL-Minneapolis), Pete Nelson (R-Lindstrom), Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins) and Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior) simply rolled up their sleeves and got it done. To them we extend our deepest thanks for a job well done! We also thank our fellow OICs and partners who have worked together to obtain healthcare funding, including Jerry Seppala, Charlie Weaver and the Summit Academy Board of Directors. They are truly positive proof that we can make a difference together.



Many legislators and guests attended an Open House at Summit in March. Attendees included (from left to right): Mike Conley, Summit Board member; Fr. Michael O'Connell, Summit Advisory Board member; Rep. Peter Nelson (R-Lindstrom); Rep. Keith Ellison (DFL-Minneapolis); Victor Seals, Summit graduate; Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Minneapolis); Rep. Michael Nelson (DFL-Brooklyn Park); Louis J. King II, Summit CEO; and Gary Courtney, Summit Carpentry Department Coordinator.

### Summit thanks the following Donaldson 5K Run/Walk Planning Committee Members and Volunteers:

Anne Anderson	Linda Freiboth	Steve Kean	Susanne McKinney	Joe Novotny
Bill Cook	Dennis Grigal	Rochelle Kundert	Roger Miller	Wade Wessels
Kathleen Elder	Scott Grossbauer	John Lund	Danielle Mueller	Brian Zauner

Thank You!



## Being A Post-Secondary Student

by Clarissa Wipf

Clarissa Wipf is nineteen years old and is enrolled in Summit Academy's Administrative Assistant program. She participates through the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options program, which allows high school juniors and seniors to earn high school credits while learning a trade at a post-secondary vocational school. After completing the Administrative Assistant program in September, Clarissa should have enough credits to graduate from high school. Clarissa is expecting her first child in September.

I only have a few weeks remaining until I receive a certificate to be a qualified administrative assistant. I never realized how much I can achieve and grow in such a short amount of time. I feel as though I owe Summit for helping me realize the potential I possess.

While attending school here at Summit, I have been through many unexpected hardships. During my first ten weeks, my mother underwent a life-threatening surgical procedure to remove a brain tumor. Although the experience was devastating, I still came to school everyday. I believe my mother would have wanted me to be in school.

The experience made me think about what I would do if something were to go wrong. I worried so much about my three younger sisters and how they would handle such a situation. Therefore, I took the initiative to sign paperwork to become her power of attorney. This comforted my mother. After we took this precaution, she knew that things would be taken care of according to her wishes. Thankfully, my mother survived her surgery, although she is still dealing with many health problems.

Attending Summit has given me a sense of security and stability. I know in a few weeks I will have a certificate that no one can take away. My hard work and determination will finally pay off. When I have my child in September, I know I can begin on a clean foundation with a fresh start. At times, I worry about providing for this child the way my mother struggled to provide for me and my other eight siblings. Summit Academy OIC has been such a helpful resource all around. They have been my support system in my preparation for work and motherhood, and for that I am truly grateful.

## STUDENT PROFILE



## SAOIC BOARD UPDATE!

After six years on Summit Academy's Board of Directors, Doug Dayton (center) departs the board, but joins the Advisory Board and recruits his son David as a Board member. Board Chair George Blackwell and Louis J. King II celebrate Mr. Dayton's board service.



## CNA PROGRAM BLOOD DRIVE

Summit Academy students and staff also give back. The participants in Summit Academy's Certified Nursing Assistant program organize regular blood drives at Summit. Richard, a student in Summit's pre-apprentice carpentry program, is the fearless blood donor pictured here.

## Fourth Annual Golf Classic Hits a Home Run!



The Fourth Annual Summit Academy OIC Golf Classic was held on June 5 at the renowned Hazeltine National Golf Course. This year, golf pro Brad Denton put on an informative and entertaining trick show and challenged the golfers to “beat the pro” out on the course. All of our fun was for a good cause, as we raised nearly \$60,000 for Summit Academy’s youth and adult education programs.

At the Champions’ Reception, Mary Ebnet, Quantum Opportunities Program lead instructor, described how the students will benefit from the expanded classroom space and equipment to be purchased with the \$9,000 raised in the Fund-A-Need.

We thank all of our volunteers, sponsors and participants for their generosity. Their involvement makes it possible for Summit to help youth and adults gain the skills they need to become successful and self-sufficient.

*Please visit our website for more information and to view photos from the event.*

## Thank You to the Following Sponsors, Committee Members, Volunteers and Contributors!

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### SAVE THE DATE!

Summit Academy  
OIC’s 5th Annual  
Golf Classic is  
scheduled for  
June 4, 2007

## August Marks Launch of Summit Academy OIC Alumni Association

Summit Academy OIC is proud to announce the launch of our Alumni Association. The Alumni Association will help students stay in touch with Summit staff and fellow graduates, share information about career developments and learn about new job prospects. Graduates of Summit can also give back by mentoring current students and participating in Summit’s school events.

Victor Seals, 2004 Summit graduate (Pre-Apprentice Carpentry/Plumbing program) and Tamika Brewer, Summit Marketing Coordinator, are leading the formation of the Alumni Association. Please visit our website, [www.saoc.org](http://www.saoc.org), for more information.

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Interested in volunteering? Here's what Zac Mangel, DHL Regional Sales Manager and golf committee volunteer, had to say about his involvement with Summit: *"Everyone involved really cares about giving back to the community and helping Summit's students succeed. At Summit I never felt like I was being pressured to give more or to overcommit myself."*

We are currently looking for 10-12 volunteers to conduct mock interviews to help future graduates with job searches. Dates volunteers are needed are October 5, November 9 and December 7 from noon – 2 p.m. Training and lunch will be provided. If you would like more information about this or other volunteer opportunities, please contact Kristen Selander at (612) 278-5259.

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