

Women's Christian Alliance *Freedom School*

Freedom School is a project of the national *Black Community Crusade for Children* and is sponsored by the *Children's Defense Fund*. The purpose of Freedom School is to create a supportive, nurturing environment that sets high expectations for children, strengthens their sense of self-worth and lets them know that they are loved and valued by caring adults. WCA operates the largest Freedom School in Philadelphia located at the Meade Elementary School at 1600 N. 18th Street. The WCA Freedom School educational enrichment program operates for 6 weeks, June through August, for children ages 5-18 who may otherwise be idle, intellectually under-challenged, or unsupervised.

The integrated WCA Freedom School curriculum targets programs to encourage a love of reading and enhancement of reading skills. Freedom School introduces children to a superb collection of books that reflect their own images, and engages them in games and activities that promote critical and analytical thinking and conflict resolution skills.

Freedom School Parents' Workshops support the involvement of parents in their children's education. Parents are encouraged to become advocates for their children, and to reinforce positive values that promote academic excellence and social responsibility.

Each year, college-aged WCA Freedom School interns travel to Clinton, Tennessee for national training, where they interact with other young people from across the country. Freedom School college interns return to Philadelphia and involve high school students in classroom instructional

activities with children enrolled in the program. Freedom School students participate in adolescent leadership development training, life skills education, and receive individual tutoring and mentoring.

Deadline for enrollment in Freedom School is March each year.