

Project Acorn's Child's Play NEWS RELEASE

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Project Acorn Changes Lives at Annual Fundraiser

(Morristown, NJ): Since its inception in 1995 Project Acorn in Morristown has launched the academic careers of more than 475 young children. On October 24th, the organization raised \$65,000 at its fifth annual fall fundraiser, *Child's Play*, to send more local children to preschool next year.

The autumn festival-themed *Child's Play* took place in Morristown at the Haggerty Education Center of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum and honored long time Project Acorn donors Novartis Pharmaceuticals, the Salerno family, and Madison Montessori School. The event was chaired by Project Acorn board members Denise Lanza of Mt. Arlington and Barbara Demarest of Parsippany and included entertainment, a silent auction, plus a performance by Morristown teen dance group, *Essence*, featuring several young Project Acorn alumnae.

- In remarks to supporters and educators attending the event, President of the Board Rob Steidlitz of Morristown eloquently urged them to, "Change a life. Change it when it is young and formative and new, when the future is open and full of promise. Change it in a way that gives hope and opportunity. Change it for the better."

This year Project Acorn is sending 80 local children to one of 21 partner schools throughout Morris County and surrounding communities. The non-profit organization relies on the support of companies, foundations and individuals to achieve its goal to help families that cannot afford to pay preschool tuition. Steidlitz pointed out that, "...each year there is another group of three-year-old children, wide-eyed and ready to learn, some of whom may need help," and encouraged *Child's Play* guests to continue their support of Project Acorn.

Project Acorn's mission is to give every area child a chance to attend quality preschool regardless of limited family finances. Volunteers are always needed. To learn more about the organization, contact Executive Director Karen Titterton at (973) 455-7815 or go to ProjectAcorn@aol.com.

Photo by Bob Peterson

CAPTION:

Project Acorn's fall fundraiser *Child's Play* featured a performance by teen dance group, *Essence*, which includes several young Project Acorn alumnae. Shown here Tamara Copeland and Bria Thomason, both of Morristown.

