

Germantown H.S. Alumni launch library renovation

The Germantown High School Alumni Association recently announced it will lead an effort to restore, rebuild and totally renovate the library at the historic Philadelphia public high school. This tremendous undertaking is designed to meet the needs of current students and lay a foundation for generations to come by delivering vital materials including books, computers and other information assets to increase literacy and transform the currently vacant library into a top notch environment for learning. In 2003, the Middle States Accreditation Agency [Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools] conducted a periodic review of Germantown High School and found the library to be "insufficient." The books were grossly outdated and they immediately removed them from the shelves. This left the library with little to no resources of value for the 1,500 current students.

News of the finding spurred a number of Germantown High School alums into action since many had been away from the school for years and unaware of its status and condition. The group has since met with an architect, established dialogue with the Dr. Rose (White) Ford, the schools Principal and created the idea of a fundraising effort for "The Library Project." The first information and fundraising event titled, "A Tour Down Memory Lane" will be held on Feb. 23 from 7 to 11 p.m. at the Germantown High School Gymnasium. The Association is also seeking to increase its membership rolls by inviting all former students to join and play an active part in the ongoing efforts. According to Germantown alumna and project planner, Vera E. Primus, "This

project is not about the alumni, it's about helping the students. It's time to walk the walk. As alumnus, our mission is to do whatever we can to support Germantown High School."

The school boasts a wide variety of distinguished and unknown alumni, friends, and supporters across the region. With school violence including guns and other weapons on the rise and the dropout rate at epidemic levels, restoring the school library presents an opportunity to

build hope in a community and the children. Enon Church and 900AM WURD have also agreed to participate in the project by raising funds and encouraging congregants and listeners to the radio station to attend an upcoming gospel concert featuring Pastor Waller of Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church. A portion of the evening's proceeds will be contributed to "The Library Project." Additional information is available at the alumni association website www.gtownalumni.com.