“Before becoming a Kinship Teen at Fairhill, I thought my sister and I were the only ones being raised by grandparents.” Tiana Battle, one of thousands of teens being raised by grandparents or other older relatives in Northeast Ohio, was “shocked and amazed” to find a program for children like her and her sisters.

Tiana’s experience in the Teen Leadership Program helped her identify what she wanted to do, and helped her define life after high school – such as where to go to college. She is currently working as a medical assistant while attending nursing school. The Teen Leadership Program offers ongoing educational, training and service sessions such as college visits and preparing to find jobs; teens also have the opportunity to work as camp counselors for younger kinship children and do other service projects.

Tiana’s caregiving story didn’t end when she graduated from the Teen Leadership Program, though. She now volunteers weekly to support Kinship Families connected with our Successful Aging Programs, supporting the growth and potential of teens like her by helping them develop leadership skills and find opportunities for work, education and helping others.

Last fall, both Tiana and her grandmother, Barbara Battle, took the Chronic Disease Self-Management classes. These classes include topics such as nutrition, communicating with health care providers, and managing medication, and are geared to individual participants’ needs. The class was very helpful to both Tiana and her grandmother, who struggles with chronic disease and pain.

In addition to her volunteer work with the kinship teens, Tiana now provides care to her grandmother, and she and her grandmother both take care of Tiana’s five-year-old nephew. Fairhill helps younger people like Tiana prepare to become caregivers through Successful Aging Programs.

Tiana is happy to care for her grandmother. “It is a hard job sometimes, but I often realize what she must have gone through taking care of me. It makes me smile, because without her I would not be the person I am today.”

Fairhill values Tiana and all the teens who participate in our Teen Leadership Program each year. We especially appreciate program “graduates” like Tiana who are willing to give back and share their own kinship and caregiving experiences.
2008 Financial Summary

In 2008, the nation slid into an economic downturn that impacted businesses, individuals and non-profit organizations. Like many other organizations, Fairhill Partners suffered financially. Total unrestricted revenue came in at $1,572,116 million, down 2.4 percent from the previous year, and total net assets decreased from $4,059,804 at the beginning of 2008 to $3,845,687 by year end.

Thanks to the prudent allocation of financial and volunteer contributions, $1.8 million or 88 percent of our expenses went to providing social, health, research, and educational services and programs for older adults and intergenerational groups. Invested capital additions to the property and equipment totaled $198,304. In addition, unpaid staff donated services with an estimated value of $351,641. Nonetheless, expenses exceeded revenue by $37,337.

As Fairhill Partners moves forward our key goals are to provide excellent resources for lifelong learning, earning, and service, optimally leverage the property for mission and money, increase fundraising to support lifelong learning, build an endowment, improve the campus, and create Kinship Village.

The Wortzman Company, Certified Public Accountants, audited Fairhill Partners’ financial statements. Copies of the full report are available in the office of the President/CEO.

1In February 2009, Fairhill Center changed its name to Fairhill Partners to highlight its commitment to partnership. Visit www.fairhillpartners.org or www.fairhillpartnersleasing.org.

Richard H. Hahn, Chairman and Stephanie J. FallCreek, DSW, President/CEO.