

Freedom School Partners

Freedom Fest stirs excitement

More than 200 Freedom School scholars enjoyed an afternoon of entertainment with their families on December 15 for Charlotte's first **Freedom Fest**. The event, hosted by **Freedom School Partners** at Covenant Presbyterian Church, featured a book give-away, a bouncy house, STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) activities, cookie decorating and more.

The students also raised their voices during one of Freedom School's signature activities, Harambee, which means to "pull together" through high-energy songs and chants. The words were carried over from the summer enrichment program that the organization held to promote children's literacy, self-esteem and a positive learning environment.

"Children and parents had a wonderful time," said Hillary Ryan, Director of Marketing and Special Events at Freedom School Partners. "Lots of smiles and reunited friends. Parents got to experience games and lessons taught during the summer and witness children enjoying things firsthand."

About 50 volunteers helped provide free lunch for attendees. "Volunteers are always the key to making Freedom School 'magic' come alive to our scholars and the community," Ryan said. "Freedom Fest allowed us to build upon the success of the summer, reminding children that success is attainable and all those who are there to believe in them and encourage them." ■

get involved

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Written by *Katie Toussaint*.
Photos by *Daniel Coston*, *Shutter 16 Magazine*.
More photos at www.societycharlotte.com



Kennett, Vanila and Anthony Sarmiento



Jessica, Carol and Amanda Bottoms



Russell and Stephen Bollier



Isaiah and Hillary Ryan



Photo Booth Fun




Freedom Fest Fun




Gary Starr, Mary Nell McPherson, Nicole Watts and Burch Mixon

Fund & Friend Raiser



Brookstone Schools
Sowing Seeds of Wisdom



Thursday, March 21, 2013
Hilton Charlotte Center City 6:30 pm
Cocktails | Dinner | Speaker

Inspirational Guest Speaker
Dr. Ben Carson, Renowned Pediatric Neurosurgeon,
Professor at Johns Hopkins and
Author of *Gifted Hands*.

Honorary Co-Chairs
Sandra and Leon Levine & Ann and Michael Tarwater

For information and tickets
Brookstoneschools.org/gala or (704) 392-6330

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