



"As a part of this program Garrison Middle students built a car from a bathtub for a race with others in which they won first prize."

"Meet Me Halfway"

At Garrison Middle School, parents and community residents will conduct individual interviews this summer with every incoming student along with a parent/guardian. The interviews will be used to:

- Share school expectations and distribute the handbook.
- Learn the student's expectations for the year.
- Learn the parent's expectations for the year;
AND to
- Recruit the parent for at least one task/ activity this year.

The response of community volunteers asked to attend the training and conduct the interviews has been surprisingly positive, proving that parents and community members do want to be involved! The interviews will be conducted during July and August.

The initiative is organized by the staff of the "Meet Me Halfway" Village Center (MMH), a school-based mentoring and family support center at Garrison founded by Bernard Fayall, Executive Director and OSI Fellow. When he responded to Principal Ike Hemphill's request for men to mentor boys at the school, Fayall never expected that over 700 students would enroll in just two years. MMH will also assist the staff by creating an inventory and reorder system for school and janitorial supplies and operating the food pantry. Seniors and youth from the Senior Aides program of the Baltimore City Health Department and Youthworks, respectively will provide much of the legwork to accomplish these tasks over this summer.

Contact MMH staff at 410-466-MEET(6338) or rcfayall@yahoo.com for more information or to volunteer.