Ribbon Cutting

CDL’s Red Door finds a new home.

Normally folks from the Chamber of Commerce preside over a ribbon cutting, but on Oct. 18, it was four children from Red Door who shared the spotlight. The 4 and 5 year olds helped introduce the community to the Child Development Lab’s (CDL) newest space – and new pre-K program.

CDL had the opportunity to improve its physical resources as part of the University’s renovation of Gwynn Hall. With the cooperation of the departments of Nutrition and Exercise Physiology and Personal Financial Planning and the guidance of Dean Stephen Jorgensen, HES was able to enact a plan in which PFP moved its Office for Financial Success upstairs, allowing the CDL to remodel the Stanley Addition to become the new Red Door.

Red Door now includes a pre-K program that meets the needs of older preschoolers. Because Columbia Public Schools do not allow children to enter kindergarten if their birthdays fall after Aug. 1, many children get bored with another year in their preschool classroom and would benefit being more challenged before heading off to Kindergarten the following year. “It is nice to have a new program in a new classroom and hope that it will be the beginning of a full CDL renovation,” says CDL Director Jessie Bradley.

This new space serves about 24 children and includes a restroom, storage space, Bradley’s office, a laundry room, and an observation room with cutting edge audio and video equipment.

“This is now a state-of-the art classroom,” says Human Development and Family Studies co-chair Larry Ganong. “This project has encouraged us to reinvigorate our efforts to continue to renovate the entire CDL space.”

A Rosy Outlook

A graduate student’s campaign to help women boost self-esteem.

Self-esteem can be empowering, although for many college-aged women, self-esteem is also crippling and causes them to make uneducated decisions about diet, sex and relationships.

Enter Kelsey Lammy, a School of Social Work graduate student and founder of the Raising Our Self Esteem (ROSE) campaign, which targets women by helping them understand the underlying causes of their low self-esteem, ways to improve their self-esteem and the importance of helping other women raise their self-esteem. ROSE strives to help women learn how to empower themselves and others.

When Lammy was a freshman, she volunteered at Granny’s House, an afterschool program for underprivileged children where she would often hear the girls make negative statements about themselves. “I decided to have a focus group with the girls in order to see how they were really feeling about themselves,” she remembers. “The focus group was eye opening; after hearing all their statements and reflecting back on my own struggle with my self-esteem, I decided something needed to be done.”

Thus ROSE began. Lammy created curriculum for an afterschool program for elementary school girls as well as an interactive presentation for college women. “I realized I did not want to stop there,” Lammy says. “I decided I would do whatever possible to make ROSE a reality.” Since then, she’s received two grants to fund ROSE. She’s started an after school program at a local elementary school with fifth grade girls, and she’s helped host Prom Closet, which gives prom dresses to underprivileged girls in the Columbia area.

“Everything about ROSE is rewarding,” says Lammy, who was honored with the Chancellor’s Excellence Award in leadership for her work in 2012. “Even though it’s a lot of work (and I don’t get paid!), I love being able to help others. If I can help one girl or woman improve their self-esteem then everything was worth it.”

Photos by Amy Sanders