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SBOP 'building bridges for kids'

For Starkville Daily News

Starkville Bridges out of Poverty's one-on-one kids mentoring program, "Building Bridges for Kids" or "BB4K" started with a bang. Building Bridges for Kids is blasting off with 22 children participating in the program. BB4K was developed to provide child-care assistance to the parents of SBOP "Getting Ahead" course. The volunteers from MSU's Maroon Volunteer Center realized the children had specific needs and would benefit from a curriculum that corresponded with the goals of the adult program. The curriculum implemented provides the children with the opportunity to learn valuable life lessons.

On July 12, 2012, BB4K held a Kids Safety Fair at Emerson Family Center. "We had representatives from the Starkville Fire Department, Sheriff's Office and OCH talk to the kids about the importance of knowing what to do in the case of an emergency," said Yolanda Boyd, committee member and volunteer. The kids had the opportunity to explore the emergency vehicles and take home souvenirs and personalized emergency contact cards. Providing children with knowledge of how to respond in an emergency



The Starkville Bridges of Poverty program "Building Bridges for Kids" has gotten off to a strong start, according to SBOP President Lynn Phillips-Gaines. (Submitted photo)

situation, allows kids to protect themselves and their loved ones from danger.

"The strong start of the BB4K program is incredible. We are thankful for the team of volunteers, who not only cre-

ated the age appropriate curriculum but they implemented it as well. The smiles on the kids' faces tell me that they are having fun while learning valuable lessons. A huge thanks to Yolanda Boyd and the Maroon

Volunteers," said Lynn Phillips-Gaines, SBOP President.

For more information about BB4K or Starkville Bridges out of Poverty, call 662-418-3100 or visit <http://www.starkvillebridges.com>.