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My Morning with **Paul and Stuart**  
By Teri

So Dave Eggers emails me that he is coming to town on Friday (a Friday in June) and says he'd like to pop over to 826 Seattle to say hi. That's fine with me. On Friday morning Dave calls to say that "they" are coming over right then and there. Again.... fine with me....whoever "they" are. Soon after, I hear Dave's voice in the store. Out I go and he introduces me to Stewart Stern by saying, "He wrote the screenplay for *Rebel Without A Cause*." I shake Stewart's hand and tell him I am impressed which I most certainly am, so why keep it a secret? – to which he modestly responds, "Well, I'm no Paul Newman." Right then the door opens, and the first thing that comes to my mind as I see the person walking through it is: "But, you are Paul Newman," to which this person replies, "I know."

Paul Newman was in town to help start another of his Hole in the Wall camps for seriously ill children. As you might know, I first met Dave when I was working with seriously ill children at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center. Paul and I immediately agreed that laughter is the best medicine for young people with major health issues. Then we talked about the model for 826---another in which laughter is an important part of learning---and how the Seattle chapter has been inspired by my years of working (and laughing) with seriously ill kids.

Stewart talked about his volunteer stint at the Woodlawn Park Zoo, which included an encounter with a baby gorilla who peed on his back. Everyone admired the publications we have made at 826 Seattle and acknowledged how important working well with young people is. Alex talked about coordinating our hundreds of volunteers. Margo described what it was like to be an intern. Justin received the most noteworthy assignment: administering the space travel competency certification to both Stewart and Paul. (Yes, one question really is: Do your eyes have a color?) Both men bought gifts in the store for their grandchildren.

They stayed two hours! It was a lovely morning.

Not long after Paul and Stewart's visit, 826 Seattle received a check for \$25,000 from Newman's Own Foundation. I have so much admiration for the work of Paul Newman, including the important way he has leveraged his success as an actor, that right now, I am prouder than ever to be part of 826 Seattle.

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We are wrapping up our series of **summer writing workshops** this week with David's Lasky's one day Mini Comics for high school students and Katie Johnson's Summer Snackin' Poetry Workshop for middle school students. In total 135 young people enjoyed our free writing workshops in July and August.

Among the highlights...

- Some students invented and wrote about mythological creatures, which were then drawn by our visiting artist, Lynn Rosskamp.
- 826 Seattle has been exchanging penpal letters with another secret 826 chapter somewhere in the United States. Students in each chapter give clues as to the location of their 826, while on the other end students create their own clues and research the responses to try and figure out where these letters come from every week. It's writing! It's geography! It's fun!
- We've had students working on novels as well as writing 100 word mystery stories.
- Creative Whining was such a success last summer it has come back for another week of writing the persuasive essay, as well as another week of What A Character with Jennie Shortridge, in which students learn the finer points of character development.
- Students have written poems, recipes, memoirs, and comics

Many of the stories created this summer will be included in our fall anthology: 826 Seattle Writes the Rain. (More on that later.)

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Lastly, we believe that every self-respecting nonprofit should have its own **personal real estate agent**. As you can imagine, our staff salaries at 826 Seattle are large and we spend quite a bit of time buying and selling real estate, that is when not facilitating the teaching of writing to young people. OK, this isn't completely accurate, but both Justin and Alex have enjoyed the help of Kim Colaprete in purchasing their homes. Kim has now offered to partner with us as the Official 826 Seattle Real Estate Agent. She is a Coldwell Banker Bain agent and is enrolled in the CBBA Community Partnership Program. When anyone associated with 826 Seattle – volunteers, board members, students, parents, friends of friends - buys or sells a house with Kim and they remember to whisper the secret passwords to her: "826 Seattle," Kim and Coldwell Banker Bain will donate 10 percent of the commission to 826 Seattle.

Maybe you weren't even contemplating a move, but, hey, change is good. Think about it: you get a new house and we get more funding to help young people across Seattle improve their writing skills. Call Kim today! Tell her 826 Seattle sent you. For more information, visit <http://www.msrealestatediva.com>, call 206-850-3102, or email [kimcolaprete@cbba.com](mailto:kimcolaprete@cbba.com).

We're entering the Season of **Fundraisers**. If you were inspired you could:

- Grow a mustache for 826 Seattle and/or support a mustache farmer in his efforts to help us out. Check out: <http://www.826mustaches.blogspot.com/>
- Consider being a table captain for our fundraising breakfast in October...especially if you think you have nine friends who would be happy to write a \$100 check for our cause while learning more about 826 Seattle, eating a yummy breakfast and being entertained by National Public Radio commentator John Moe and best-selling author Michael Lewis.
- Buy a ticket for our third annual People Talking and Singing at Town Hall, November 8<sup>th</sup>. (Details on how and when to buy coming soon.)

Enjoy the rest of summer!

Teri