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Youth Empowerment Solutions For Peaceful Communities

Y.E.S.

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GIVING YOUTH THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP THEIR NATURAL ABILITIES AND
PREPARING THEM FOR LEADERSHIP THROUGH VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The University of Michigan School of Public Health, Flint's Youth Violence Prevention Center, the Flint Community Schools, several neighborhood organizations and 60 middle school students have joined together to make a difference in the Holmes Middle School attendance area. This program is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

HELPING YOUTH TO ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

In the spring of 2005, Youth Empowerment Solutions for Peaceful Communities (Y.E.S.), began recruiting Holmes Middle School students who expressed an interest in building a more peaceful community with the aim of reducing youth violence. Over the past year, these motivated youth completed an assessment of their community by identifying factors which they believe lead to youth violence.

After school, the youth attended character education classes and have taken field trips into the community.

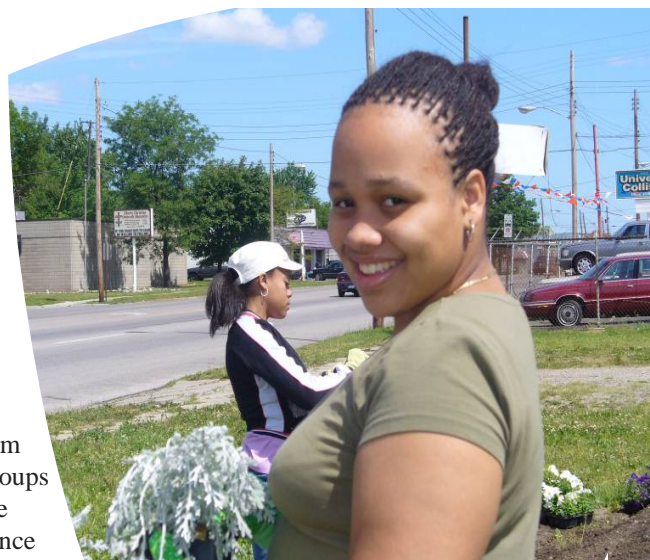


Our belief is that by forming partnerships between students from Holmes and the Neighborhood groups in the Holmes attendance area, we will be able to reduce youth violence and build a more peaceful community.

We are using a three-pronged approach:

1. Youth Empowerment Activities.
2. Neighborhood Organization development.
3. Community development projects with youth and the neighborhood organizations working together.

The youth have received training in the areas of violence prevention, community organizing, and leadership skills. Now they are working with their neighborhood group to develop and implement a violence prevention project.



One of our youth who is giving her time and energy to help fulfill the desire for a peaceful community.

In the spring 2006, the youth were divided into four (4) teams and began planning distinct projects. Each team has joined with Neighborhood Advocates to help them complete their projects. For the 'kick-off' event, they took on the task of cleaning Martin School.

The youth had fun while cleaning and this gave them great motivation for the summer projects. In the coming weeks, we will begin working on our summer projects.

Look for the Y.E.S. Project sign.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS



Hard at work for a peaceful community

Rosa Parks Peace Park (Fleming and DeFreest)

The Keys to Success (the Orange Team) will start by cleaning the lot, then plowing it, and last but not least, planting flowers and fruit trees.

Serenity Park

(Philadelphia and Selby). *Blue Phoenix*, the Blue Team, has partnered with Urban Community Youth Outreach to create a serenity garden.

Murals

The Red Rockets, (the Red Team), will construct colorful murals at various sites.

Bryant's Beautification (Martin Luther King, Jr. and Pierson Rd.)

The Bloomers (the green team) are working toward Bryant School's beautification and Community Celebration. They are planting flowers at Bryant School and organizing a celebration and day of fun for the neighborhood.

Neighborhood Advocates

A heartfelt thanks to all of our advocates who have donated their time and efforts to assisting the youth in their community projects:

- John Summers and Benjamin Cain - *Rosa Parks Peace Park Project.*
- Carolyn Meekins and Pinkie Pope - *Serenity Park Project.*
- Leon Wesson, Joyce Wilson, and Steve McChester – *Mural Project.*
- Ida Jackson, Genevia Davis, and Katrina Coleman - *Bryant School's Beautification Project.*

Y.E.S. HIGHLIGHTS
Unity towards the objective - PEACE



Four (4) teams have come together with like goals – PEACE for our community. They have each taken on projects to aide in beautifying our neighborhoods with hopes of creating a peaceful community, not only for themselves, but for future residents also. They have come to realize that they are the future, and they aim to make a difference

2006 UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Girls Lock-in
2. Community Celebration (Bryant School)
3. End of Summer Banquet
4. Beach Outing



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WE COULDN'T DO IT ALONE

We want to give special thanks to our partners:

- The Flint Community Schools
- The Flint Odyssey House, Health Awareness Center

Thanks to our donors:

- Walker Farms – donated several plant beds for our beautification projects.
- WDZZ (92.7) for their generous donation of event tickets and various items.
- Motherly Intercession – donation of Detroit Piston tickets.
- Ted Jordan – creating voice over introduction for student presentations.

Y.E.S. Staff

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