

St. Titus One Youth Anti-Violence & Mentoring Program

Quarterly Newsletter



St. Titus One Youth Anti-Violence & Mentoring Program (YAVAMP) sponsors a *Free* Spring Break Day Camp, Tuesday April 11 - Thursday, April 13th from 12 - 6 p.m.

Youth will participate in Arts & Crafts, Sports, games and activities and at least one field trip. As a climax to this program, we will have a Youth Nite on Friday, April 14th from 7 - 10 p.m. where youth of all ages can have fun participating in group games, Coloring Easter Eggs, participating in an Easter Egg hunt and so much more.



We are always looking for more ways to keep our youth safe while allowing them to have fun and express themselves in a positive atmosphere.

We want Spring Break to be a happy, memorable, safe experience for our Youth!

PACTING P.O.W.E.R

COORDINATED BY THE MONROE FOUNDATION

Two St. Titus One YAVAMP Members, Hayden King and Casper Thurman, are participants in PACTing P.O.W.E.R (People organizing, winning everything right).

The organization prepares youth to speak out, and organize, for racial and social justice. The Chicago Community Trust invests in emerging leaders to "put it on the table"! Participants who complete the five week program will receive \$250 compensation and a new bank account from Marquette Bank.

We are very proud of them . Let's continue to encourage them on their journey.





SKY ZONE

When asked what would their favorite field trip be, the kids voted Sky Zone #1. Sky Zone a great place for gathering, playing, healthy competition and more!!!

The kids truly enjoyed the experience. It was the perfect opportunity for them to get some great exercise jumping on trampolines, playing basketball and competing in dodgeball on the special Sky Zone surfaces.

Many of the kids have great gymnastic skills, so Needless to say, the kids had a Ball, and are already asking when they can return.

“Active kids are healthy kids, and healthy kids are happy kids”

Exercise and nutrition are primary in the health of our youth.

During our program, we ensure our children get great exercise for the brain through Chess, Checkers, Connect 4 and word puzzles; and physical exercise through a host of activities including Basketball, Volleyball, Skating, Hula Hoop contests and more.



RN TEACHES ABSTINENCE

Registered Nurse Cathryn Sills, teaches our teens how to remain safe through abstinence!

Cathryn Sills, Instructor at CAAN Academy, recently met with our youth and taught them the importance of abstaining from sexual activity. In addition, she shared the value of abstinence and the peril of participating in unprotected sex. They saw photos of diseases that can be contracted through unprotected sex, and the youth were able to ask questions. After the session, many were convinced to embrace Abstinence.



SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER



St. Titus One Youth had a great opportunity to visit the Southside Community Arts Center in the Bronzeville Neighborhood. This was a great cultural experience as they got to see great art renderings including statues and paintings created by great Artists in the community.

To see the works of Margaret Burroughs was truly inspiring. And it was awesome to see that much of the wood and furnishings were there in the building since the Southside Arts Center was founded.

The Youth went through the mansion and were excited to see the creative detail of the projects and the value of the artistic pieces. They were happy to identify many of the subjects in the paintings like Oprah Winfrey, Coretta Scott King, President Barack Obama, and sports and entertainment legends Michael Jordan and Tupac.

This was a refreshing experience for the youth which spurred more interest in the arts.



“ON THE TABLE” MAY 16, 2017

CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST

Geri Jones, Executive Director of the St. Titus One Youth Anti-Violence & Mentoring Program has agreed to Host an *On the Table* Event on May 16th. This event will engage youth, parents and community residents who have been directly impacted by violence.

The Chicago Community Trust’s *On the Table* is an annual forum designed to elevate civic conversation, foster new relationships and inspire collaborative action all across the region. On Tuesday, May 16th, STO YAVAMP will join in as tens of thousands of Chicago-area residents gather in small groups to share a meal and discuss the challenges and opportunities we face.

Geri was featured on the *On the Table* website and also on the Chicago Community Trust facebook page to encourage others to host an On the Table event. For more information on how you can host an On the Table event, contact www.onthetable.com.

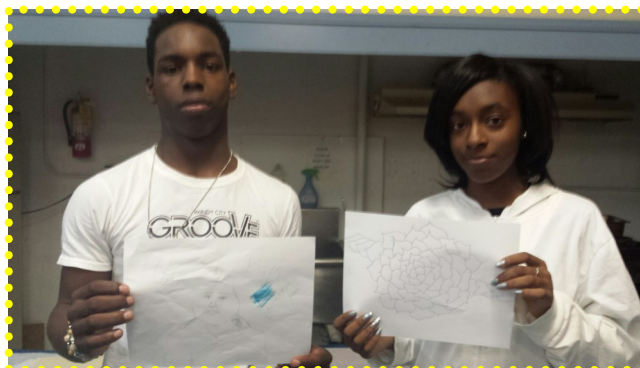
ARTISTIC EXPRESSION DRAWING CONTEST

Congratulations to the winners of our Artistic Expression Drawing Contest. Each student could create their own artistic rendering and they were very creative:

1st Place: Breonna Hill

2nd Place: Brent Ware (not pictured)

3rd Place: DeShawn Thompson



SPECIAL THANKS

Special Thanks to the following Donors who gave during our Have a Heart Campaign!

Min. Vernon Chambers

Lamar Dixon

Michael Jones, II

Rev. & Mrs. Michael A. Jones, I

Rev. & Mrs. Alvin Stewart

Angela Taylor

Zekkekikyah Thompson

Mother Wilma Walker



ILLNOIS GIVE

St. Titus One Youth Anti-Violence & Mentoring Program participates in ILGive Community Fundraiser - May 30-31, 2017

The summer is a critical time for youth to stay safe, and the St. Titus One Youth Anti-Violence Program is participating in a fundraiser to raise funds to Sponsor a Summer Day Camp for youth and purchase a van to transport youth to and from the program and on field trips.

If we are successful in reaching our goal, youth from low-income families will be able to attend our camp absolutely free. This camp will cover a myriad of activities including exercise & nutrition, arts and crafts, financial literacy, high school prep, college prep, mentoring, and include tons of fun activities like field trips to the zoo, museums, swimming, baseball games, major corporations, bowling, skating, movies and more.

Help us to help our youth have a safe fun-filled, summer and give during our IL Give Community Fundraiser. For more details, visit our website at www.ILgive.org

STO YAVAMP TALENT SHOWCASE

STO Youth Anti-Violence & Mentoring Program participants get to showcase their talents through Skits and Music. YAVAMP recently participated in a Skit "I Dare You", which showcased why they should stand on their morals and beliefs, and not be coerced to take dares to do bad things like shoplift, sex, gangs, etc. which will have negative consequences.

The publisher of the Independent Bulletin enjoyed their skit so much, he placed them on the front cover of his digital newspaper. In addition to skits, the youth also have opportunity to sing, dance and play musical instruments.

We extend special thanks Marcus Jones, a member of St. Titus One, who has volunteered to teach 3 students how to master the art of the drums. We will continue to provide opportunities for our youth to expand their theatrical and musical talents.



CHICAGO'S CLEAN & GREEN DAY OF SERVICE

On Saturday, April 22nd, the St. Titus One Youth Anti-Violence & Mentoring Program will participate in Chicago's Clean & Green Day of Service.

We will concentrate our efforts in the West Pullman area to beautify our community. We welcome community residents to come out and participate in this Special Day. "We want our youth to take pride in their community and do their part to make it beautiful", Geri Jones, stated recently.

Refreshments will be provided to all participants, and we will make it a day of fun and service.



STO YAVAMP PARTICIPANT ENTERS FAME AUDITION



Michael Jones, II & Hayden King

The Foundation of Artists Mentored in Entertainment (FAME) recently held auditions for musical artists and dancers. Hayden King, who is gifted as a Rapper, auditioned in February and proceeded to the 2nd round in March with an amazing original rap he created.

"We are so proud of Hayden. His gift is truly unique and we would love to get him exposed to talent scouts. They will be in awe at his skill and I know he will excel in his craft." Geri Jones, Executive Director, stated recently.

Special thanks to Board Member, Michael Jones, II who took Hayden downtown to each audition. We know it is important to support our youth in their ambitions and having a Board Member take him let him know we support you 100%

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. YOUTH WEEKEND

The St. Titus One Youth participated in an exciting day of activities including Community Service and Climaxing with an Artistic Expression Competition honoring the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Youth also participated in an hour of Mentoring which focused on Overcoming Obstacles to Achieve Excellence and How to handle situations they face daily in a non-violent way as Dr. King did. "I was pleasantly surprised and inspired by the knowledge the youth had of the works of Dr. King and other great civil rights leaders", Geri Jones stated.

During the competition, the youth expressed their thoughts regarding the work of Dr. King through poems and rap and Cash prizes were awarded for the best presentations.

Hayden King, 1st Place Winner

Keneesha Harris, 2nd Place Winner

DeJon Conley, 3rd Place Winner

This event was sponsored by the Chicago Community Trust and the Black Star Project.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April

Spring Break Day Camp
Clean & Green

May

IL Give
On the Table
Talent Showcase
Exercise-a-thon

June

Brookfield Zoo Trip
Scholarship Celebration

Newsletter Editor

Angela Taylor
YAVAMPNews@yahoo.com

MISSION STATEMENT

The St. Titus One Youth Anti-Violence and Mentoring Program is designed to provide a safe, positive, educationally enriching environment to help underserved youth reach their life's potential.

Youth meet after school every

Tuesday & Thursday

6:00 pm—8:00 pm

@

St. Titus One M.B. Church

12257 S. Emerald Ave

Chicago, IL 60628

773.785.5530

www.sttitusone.com

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