



Teen Spotlight

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- What's being said about the Youth Development Program? "Serving Teens for More than 20 Years"
- "The Mean Green Team"

Youth Development Staff:

Candy Coblyn,
Program Manager

Cynthia Stanley, Coordi-
nator

Zakee Neblett, Coordi-
nator

Patricia Musgrove,
Coordinator

Jessica Walker, Teen
Spotlight Editor

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the "Teen Spotlight"
Newsletter, please
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COMING SOON:

- Youth Leadership
Conference—June
27, 2009—
Location: Janie C.
Turner Recreation
Center 6424 Elam
Rd. Dallas, TX
75217

Families in the
kNOw - August 5,
2009 - Fair Park

What's being said about the Youth Development Program? *"Serving Teens for More than 20 Years"*



Stephanie Sandoval is a 16 year old Junior at Booker T. Washington High School. Stephanie is a member of the City of Dallas Youth Commission in District #9

"Being on the Youth Commission has opened a lot of doors for me both as a student and as a resident living in the Dallas community," says Stephanie Sandoval. "The Youth Commission works to address issues facing the youth of today in the Dallas community. We as youth, can act on these issues and decide the best position to take. Another door that is open is volunteerism. Whenever I am working at a volunteer site with my fellow Youth Commissioners, I feel engaged. The people around me are glad to help and that allows me to feel involved as well. I also believe that the Youth Commission has given me an opportunity to speak up not only for myself but my fellow youth."



Aileen is a graduating Senior from Skyline High School. She graduated #2 in her class of over 800 students

Skyline High School Salutatorian **Aileen Mokuria** states: "I feel that without the Dallas Youth Development Program, young people will have no idea about the things that go on in Dallas. Also, they won't have as many great opportunities to learn about life skills. Both Dallas Youth Development and the Youth Commission have the potential to change young people's lives. I can certainly say that my life would not be the same without it. It is because of these programs that Dallas is a better city."

Olinka Green has been a volunteer and a part-time employee with the city's program for more than a decade. She feels that the program has done a lot of good things for adolescents, teens as well as their parents. She feels that the adolescent pregnancy rate, drug use among teens, juvenile delinquency and other high risk behavior is much too high to lose such a valuable program in the City of Dallas. Ms. Green is currently employed with the Friendship West Baptist Church, a collaborating partner with the City of Dallas program. Ms. Green volunteers at many events such as Global Youth Service Day, Teen Summits, Families In the kNOw and a variety of anti-drug rallies.



Olinka Green stated that YD staff Jessica Walker and Candy Coblyn have inspired her over the years to continue the work that she does.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS:

–“Positive Body” Fitness Camp

–Youth Commission

–Life Skills Education

–Case Management

–Global Youth Service Day

–Buzz Free Prom

–Dapper Tuxedo Agreement

–Teen-N – Service Corp

–Families In the kNOW

–True Love Waits

–Parenting Education

–Youth Leadership Training

–Alcohol, Drug and Tobacco Prevention

–Teen Pregnancy Prevention

–Entrepreneur Program

What’s being said about the Youth Development Program?

“YOUTH DEVELOPMENT HAS GIVEN MY LIFE NEW MEANING”



Silvia Lopez an eighteen year-old graduate of the Hockaday School will be attending Texas A&M University on a full scholarship.

Silvia Lopez didn’t know that she had it in her to excel in school, not to mention at one of the top private schools in Dallas. She had a desire to go to college, but never thought that she could get in. So when she landed a full scholarship to Texas A&M University, imagine her surprise. Ms. Lopez was a participant in the Teen Connection after-school program at Thomas Edison Learning Center in which Youth Development staff member **Cynthia Stanley** has provided group session for more than four years. Ms. Stanley provided an array of life skills education that assisted Ms. Lopez in gaining positive social and communication skills and decision making skills that increased her self -esteem and gave her the confidence to push harder. “We strive to help teens discover their hidden potential to overcome adversity and obstacles that may hinder their success,” says Ms. Stanley.

The “Mean Green Team” of the Summer 2009 (The Mulch Patrol)



Left to Right — Dominick Young, Aileen Mokuria, Natasha Lewis, Youth Development Staff- Patricia Musgrove, Raven Washington and Jai Boyd. Aileen Mokuria and Natasha Lewis are both graduating seniors.

The call for duty has a new meaning for the newest Youth Development staff member, **Pat Musgrove**. It requires working in the heat, in the dirt and soil and working to make a difference in the environment. Ms. Musgrove doesn’t mind however, she is the supervisor of the 2009 Exxon Mobil’s “Green Team” better known as the Mulch Patrol. Ms. Musgrove has oversight of the Green Team on Thursday of each week and she enjoys every moment of her job. She loves her five member team and she gives them an opportunity to challenge themselves and she works to make their experience memorable. Ms. Musgrove looks forward to her team working with the “Send a Kid to Camp” program. This program will give them the opportunity to impart what they have learned to the next generation. The Mean “Green Team” are not so mean, they are smart, energized and passionate young people eager to make our world a little brighter and they remind us daily that we all can make a difference too.