From: YSP E-connections
To: Ocasio, Billy
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e-newsletter
WINTER EDITION

YSP's SAFE Night 2010

by Ellen Redding

The night of December 17th, 2010 started with the agency bracing itself for a winter storm as earlier stated by the weather report (but of course this is Chicago, all you can do is brace yourself). While at the event, we received a call that the agency's van had broken down. YSP members scattered to transport the youths and families to the event. The youth were part of the To-The-Moon Art & Teen Reach Programs. It was such a joy to see the youths beaming with excitement with the start of the program. There was plenty of food and beverages, raffles, prizes and gifts. Dinner was musically accompanied by the Cumbia drumming/singers. YSP's youth participants gave a great performance. We had the YSP Steppers, a duet of "Santa Clause is Coming to Town", a solo performance on the cello, and a group rendition of "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer". Everyone enjoyed the presentation given by the Tierra Colombiana Dance Company. Everyone in attendance had a blast during the Zumba dancing lesson. At the close of the event there was a special award presented to one of the youths for her leadership skills and gifts were given to all attending youth. It was such a joy to see the children and families leaving with a big smile.

NOW THIS WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT!

Banco Popular Foundation Awards YSP

by Kelley Schulke

YSP is dedicated to helping youth achieve their full potential in life. One of the ways we encourage positive development and growth is through our afterschool program, To-The-Moon Arts. This is a program designed to help boost academic achievement while also giving youth access to arts and culture education. YSP is proud to announce that we have been the recipient of the Banco Popular Foundation's Community Grant. This grant will greatly help us purchase supplies and expand the activities and field trips we can do with our youth. Thank you, Banco!

From The Executive Director's Desk

The topic of social media has been quite prominent in the last few months. Beyond the revolutionary foray that changed the landscape of political campaigning in 2008, social media has also played a radical role in the way we communicate with one another and inform ourselves of the breaking news of the day. In recent months,

YOUTH PROFILE: Someone You Should Know

Keana Young is an eighth grader at West Park Academy. She has attended after-school programming at Youth Service Project, Inc. for the last three years. When asked why she began coming to YSP she said, "I wanted to get out of the house and do something better with my time." Keana says that she likes coming to Youth Service Project because "the people are nice, and I learn a lot of different things." Keana was recently recognized at YSP's annual 'Safe Night' event. The staff continues to be impressed by Keana's leadership qualities and willingness to help out the younger children and assist staff with various activities. In the future, Keana would

Pictured with her award are Keana Young and YSP Staff (L-R) Tiffany Moore, Kelley Schulke and Stephanie Willmoth

social media has been celebrated in the film The Social Network, and in recent days social media has been touted as the principal means of political activism in the Arab region. On a local level many of us have been using various social media outlets to propel or push forward our social policy agenda. Effecting and affecting social change has taken a new face and a new vehicle. Effective as it may be, social media does not come without its blemishes; character assassination and angry discourse are also present. At the end of the day, I do not entirely miss the days of traveling by bus all the way to Springfield to rally behind a cause, or marching in front of city or state offices in the midst of a cold winter day to assemble and lobby for the advancement of our rights. I do enjoy the camaraderie of convening, the creativity involved creating signs, and the power of chanting and singing in protest of unfairness, in effect, the socializing that social media lacks.

Kenny Martin-Ocasio
Executive Director & CEO

YSP In The News

Stateline.org
"dozens of children, ages 6 to 16, head to a community center known as the Youth Service Project... "Read More

Chicago Tribune
"YSP, which serves children and their family in the Greater Humboldt Park community... "Read More

Join the YSP Partners in Mission, the most exciting volunteer program. For more information, contact Lucy Roman, Community Development Coordinator, at lroman@youthserviceproject.org, or call her at (773) 772-6270 ext. 117.

like to go to culinary school and become a chef.

YSP Takes On Bullying

by Lucy Roman

Violence and aggression are common problems among youth in society today, not only in America, but also around the world. One common way that youth express frustration is by being a bully. Bullying has been around for a long time and children have had to deal with it. Bullies are found to appear stronger, bigger, and more aggressive than their peers. They also tend to act with confidence, and at times be quite charming with teachers and other adults. Bullies have a need to dominate others through the use of intimidation which may often lead to aggression. They display little empathy for the victims as they insult and harass them. A bully surrounds him/herself with passive bullies, followers who encourage and applaud them which cause them to continue the attack on the victim. Our children deserve us as parents, guardians , agencies and the community to do all we can and learn as much as possible about bullies. Our support, education, and love will ensure that they get through any issues of bullying confidently and more important, safely.

All individuals deserve a respectful environment where they can celebrate and value life.

Youth Service Project will be conducting meetings to put a plan in effect according to our Mission statement.

Y. S. P., Inc. is dedicated to creating a nurturing environment that promotes self-awareness, accountability and respect. By identifying and providing educational and supportive resources, YSP strives to enhance the quality of life for youth, families and the community.

We will keep you posted on any events that are plan for the coming months.

Neighborhood Recovery Initiative (NRI)

Youth Service Project, Inc. was recently awarded a School-based Counseling Program through Governor Quinn's Neighborhood Recovery Initiative (NRI). The Program for the Humboldt Park Community will be managed by Chicago Commons and in partnership with Youth Guidance and Community Counseling Centers of Chicago. The program provides for a total of 6 neighborhood elementary schools to receive a counselor in their school for two full days per week providing individual and group counseling services. The initiative is set to begin this spring.

Ellen Redding
Senior Prevention Specialist

Youth Network Council / Illinois Collaboration on Youth

ICOY is the membership component of youth network council, providing policy development, offering organizations and individuals opportunities and supports to advance policies that promote youth development.

click on the logo to become a member!

Click here to learn more about the afterschool programs and other services YSP offers

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