

Subrecipient Spotlight - The Youth Connection



Established in 1996, The Youth Connection (TYC) is committed to providing high quality programs, advocacy and supportive services. TYC connects youth, young adults and their families in Metro Detroit to resources and opportunities that enrich their lives with special attention to those who are underserved.

Current programming of The Youth Connection includes:

- **The Youth Connection Career Academies (TYCCA)** which provides career and college prep training to youth ages 14-24. The program includes tutoring, workshops, seminars, trips and paid summer internships to youth to make them more knowledgeable about continuing their education and starting their careers. TYCCA has served approximately 1,000 youth the past five years. The Career Academies work in conjunction with the City of Detroit's Grow Detroit's Young Talent program.
- **The I2D2 Fit 'N' Fun Family Clubs** is a fitness and nutrition class for parents and youth taught at schools, churches and community-based organizations with over 1,000 participants the past four years.
- **The Youth Connection Substance Abuse Prevention Program** has taught life skills and critically-important peer pressure and conflict resolution strategies to over 750 youth and parents the past four years.
- **The Youth Connection Ticket to Float Program** partnered with the National Park Service and River Raisin National Battlefield Park to provide a day of kayaking, learning, and fun for over 800 youth.

The Youth Connection explained the impact the City of Detroit's Neighborhood Opportunity Fund (NOF) has had on their programming:

"The NOF award allowed us to continue to serve the youth in our summer employment program year-round. Without the funding from NOF, our program would not have been able to operate successfully January – March and again October – December. Rather than just running a part-time program for the year, our funding has allowed us to work with our youth year-round, training them for college and careers through our Youth Connection Career Academies. Our youth receive hands-on training from people with experience in their chosen fields. We utilize our computer lab to assist youth in preparing college applications and essays, resumes and cover letters, along with online training programs with industry-recognized certifications... We have a great track record of getting our students into colleges and universities as well as into lifelong careers that we couldn't do without the support of the NOF award. By helping our youth become leaders and better citizens, we are helping out the entire City of Detroit."

One such youth that was helped was Jamie. Jamie participated in The Youth Connection Career Academies. As part of the program, she worked as a Detroit Police Cadet as well as an intern for the Detroit School of Arts learning about careers and skills in the media and taking part in producing a range of PSAs and media broadcasts. Upon graduation from the Marvin L. Winans Academy of Performing Arts, Jamie was accepted with a full ride scholarship to the University of Michigan where she is a junior. She is double-majoring in Psychology and Women's Studies and thoroughly enjoying life in Ann Arbor. This summer, Jamie will continue her studies abroad in London to experience all Europe has to offer while completing Sociology course work. She is considering enrolling in a Masters of Social Work program upon college graduation. When asked about her participation in TYCCA youth program, Jamie replied, *"I enjoyed being in the program – it only helps you! I had fun and was able to use some of the skills I learned (mock interview sessions and resume-writing workshops) to get into college and help me find a part-time job to pay for some of my expenses the scholarship doesn't cover."*

With the help of the Neighborhood Opportunity Fund, The Youth Connection is committed to providing high-quality youth programs, advocacy and supportive services to the youth of Detroit and their families.

Learn more about The Youth Connection at <http://www.theyouthconnection.org/>