

The Youth Connection Career Academies – Helping our Heroes!

The Youth Connection Career Academies (TYCCA), a Public Service – Education CDBG/NOF grantee organization for the last 6 years, uses a portion of our grant funding to conduct a service-learning project each year that helps our community. This year, in partnership with The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD), TYCCA youth have volunteered to help repaint fire hydrants in Detroit to make them more visible for fire fighters and help beautify the community!



Youth Begin Their Painting Project on the east side of Detroit.

TYCCA staff spoke to Commissioner Shirley Burch from Community United for Progress and representatives of DWSD in the spring about a service project for our summer internship youth to complete. DWSD officials asked that our youth paint fire hydrants to help complete a project that DWSD really wanted done but did not have the workers to complete.

Over the summer, TYCCA received supplies and held a brief orientation for youth that were participating. Through our CDBG/NOF funding and other donations, youth started painting fire hydrants in September and completed eighty-seven (87!) fire hydrants on the east side by the end of the project. Youth came in on weekends to finish as many as possible and plan to do even more next spring when the weather turns warm again.



All Done! Improving the community and easily visible for the Fire Department!

said one youth participant about working on the project, “I think it’s nice that we’re able to do something good for our neighborhood that’s also helps keep us all safe.”

Helping youth connect to a brighter future while helping our community is a pillar of The Youth Connection Career Academies experience for our young men and women. We are looking forward to more partnerships with the City of Detroit, the CDBG/NOF program, and our youth to complete projects that help Detroit while earning

valuable work experience and a sense of ownership in the neighborhoods in which they live.