

September 2011

A Collaboration of The Innovation Center, YDTRC and The Corporation for National and Community Service



# Learn and Serve New Haven

*The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.*  
-Mohandas Gandhi



## Learn and Serve America Retreats to New Haven

The Innovation Center for Youth and Community Development (IC) in Washington, D.C. secured a federal grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service.

New Haven's Youth Development Training and Resource Center, a collaborative effort of the Citywide Youth Coalition and The Consultation Center, Inc. received a sub-grant to manage one of the **Learn and Serve America** projects.

The Innovation Center reached out to involve three (3) states, and their local program sites to be funded: Arizona (Tohono O'odham Reservation), California (Monterey Bay Aquarium), and Connecticut (YDTRC at The Consultation Center, for 3 local programs: Hill Youth Action Team and Youth as Leaders in the Hill neighborhood; and YMCA Youth Center, in the Dwight area.

New Haven's Team (YDTRC/

TCC and the New Haven Team (3 programs) hosted a weekend-long Learning Community Retreat last May 2011 for youth teams from all three states (see picture in front of Peabody Museum, one of the places visited with our out-of-state colleagues).

The Three Day Learning Community Retreat was held in New Haven on May 14-16 with participants from New Haven, California and Arizona. The three days were full of team

building activities, learning about each other and the service projects each group was working on and .... The majority of the Retreat took place at The Consultation Center. The groups also took a trip to The Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History and a ride on the Schooner Sailboats on the Long Island Sound. The opportunities this retreat provided for all of the youth involved ranged from giving them a healthy activity to

engage in on a weekend, to allowing them to experience another part of the country, a different culture, the technology of air travel, things some people take for granted everyday, may be the same things that change these youth's lives.



### Be the Change...



The HYAT present their banner before field day at Roberto Clement Leadership Academy

Every Monday, for five weeks, the Hill Youth Action Team worked on creating a piece of public art that would represent them as a team and inspire change and create positive attitudes in their neighborhood. Thanks to a grant received from the City of New Haven's, "Mayors Community Arts Grants Program" and the donated ban-

ner from the Peabody Museum, the team was able to design, create, and display 30 foot long banner for their own community. They worked

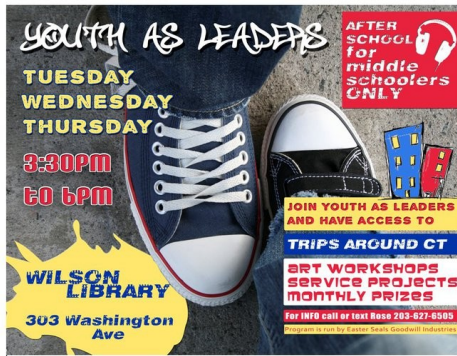
with a New Haven public artist, Joanne Moran, who truly believes in the impact that art has on a community. The group began their artistic process by brainstorming they types of messages and images they wanted to reflect within their community. They researched famous quotes, historical figures, and sketched ideas that eventu-

ally became their finished product. Youth from The Boys and Girls Club were invited to provide input and lend a hand in the painting process. The banner will be hung in the Hill in September.



The side two of the banner reads "Be the change you wish to see in the world" a quote from Gandhi.

# New Haven Youth Leaders Share Their Messages.



Youth As Leaders, a middle school program of Easter Seals Goodwill Industries, led the team members from the HYAT and The YMCA in a visionary exercise that resulted in visually exciting and emotionally inspiring paper murals. They chose phrases such as “One Caring

Heart Can Touch 1000 Souls” and “Forward Is the Way to Go”, touching and inspired the youth and adults around them. The issues they focused on prior to the retreat included bullying in schools, homelessness and domestic violence. The HYAT set up a forum to discuss domestic violence in their community and the impact that it has on children and youth. Youth as Leaders brought in guest speakers who were previously homeless, from Christian Community Action Agency, to learn more about the impact of homelessness on an individual and their family as well as the psychological effect homelessness has on a person. As a result of their research, they decided to attempt to raise awareness of the homeless community through puppet shows, and provide an outlet for the homeless by

having a “family fun day”. The learning that took place as a result of exposure to new ideas, new people, and community issues, resulted in a positive perspective of self autonomy and the ability to make a difference in ones own and someone else’s life and future.



# HIMDAG- The Tohono O’odham Way of Life

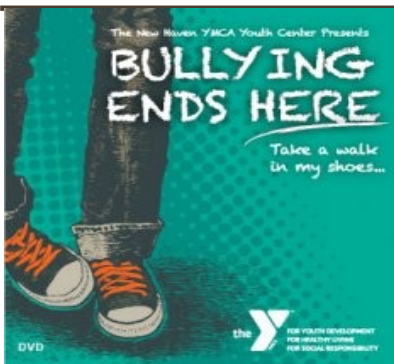
At the New Haven retreat, the teams were asked to paint a banner representing their goals as a group and community. Tohono O’odham did this while teaching the other groups about their culture and life perspective. For them, Himdag was representative of these things. Himdag is a gift from the Creator. It describes the culture of the Tohono O’odham people. Himdag becomes a life-long journey

nourished by maintaining tradition, family relationships, respecting yourself, respecting others, and respecting nature. Through these activities, spiritual, emotional, and physical health



is maintained. To embrace Himdag is to walk in balance, alone and with others. The Himdag symbol represents a path to wellness and wholeness, and identifies life as a spiritual journey to find deeper meaning in life. That deeper meaning is Himdag.

# The YMCA Addresses the Serious Issue of Bullying



The YMCA Youth Caring for Community (YCC) team of 12 middle and high school youth leaders met every Wednesday at the YMCA to complete a project that they know would be impactful and meaningful to youth and adults in their entire community and beyond. With the help of center staff and volunteer professional videographer Tony Pearson of Hollaback Video, Youth Caring in the Community youth wrote, performed and recorded an anti-bullying skit embodying their critically important message.

After filming was completed they worked with Amy Rubino, a Graphic Designer, to design the DVD cover. On May 25th. They had a showing at the YMCA youth center. Parents, community members, and youth came to the showing. The DVD recording will be distributed to NH public schools this fall.

# The Hill Youth Action Team Completes Another Summer Full of Service, Opportunity, and Creativity

This summer a group of 8 youth from the Hill Neighborhood in New Haven, CT got together for 5 weeks of paid training based on youth development, youth leadership and youth community engagement. The focus this summer was group and individual service learning, educational enrichment, and enhancing critical and creative thinking. The team worked diligently on creating public art to display in their community, while learning about the art museums and other public art available to them in New Haven. They attended weekly workshops at the New Haven Free Public Libraries on Employability and volunteered for their Tuesday night program, "Dinners at the Library". The HYAT provided service to their community by volunteering as a group and as individuals in a variety of different

summer camps and community programs such as Camp Farnam, The YMCA, the Boys and Girls Club, And Leap. "The part of the summer I liked the most was the trip to Farnam. It was a learning experience for me because I learned how to react to a child when they are crying or not participating"- HYAT member. The team also visited the CT rock gym, Mystic Aquarium, Ocean Park Beach, The Beardsley Zoo, City Hall, and the Yale Art Gallery. All of these trips exposed youth to possibilities for future careers and gave them the opportunity to grow as individuals and as a team, becoming more valuable resources for their community. The team invited other youth groups to participate with them in several of their learning and serving activities. An older youth group from the Boys and Girls

Club attended a tour of Eastern Connecticut State University with them while a younger one provided input and participated in painting the banner. The HYAT put on a field day for the younger kids who were also using Clemente as a sight for their summer programs.

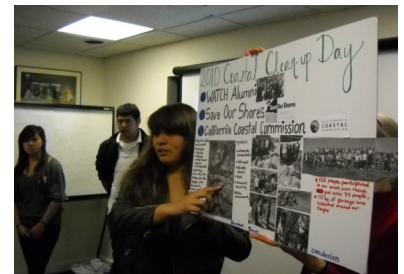


HYAT and The Boys and Girls Club Visit Eastern Connecticut State University

## California Shares an Important Lesson



California teaches us an important lesson in environmentalism and healthy environmental practices for the survival of our ecosystems. They shared with us their work in California, and how they encourage others to reduce and reverse their environmental footprints. They told us that even though it is difficult to see the change you create as an individual, **that change can only start with YOU.**



## Facts About Youth Volunteers

### Millions of Young People Volunteer

15.5 million youths between the ages of 12 and 18 contributed more than 1.3 billion hours of service during 2004.

### Young People Volunteer More Than Adults

Young people volunteered at twice the rate of adults with 55 percent of young people volunteering, compared with only 29 percent of adults.

### Volunteering Helps Young People Succeed

Youth who volunteer are less likely to engage in risky behavior, are more

likely to feel connected to their communities, and tend to do better in school.

### Altruism Is the Driving Motivator

Youth who volunteer do so out of altruism, strongly agreeing with statements such as "I would like to help make the world a better place," and "It's important to do things for others." Only 5% of students became involved with volunteering through a school requirement.

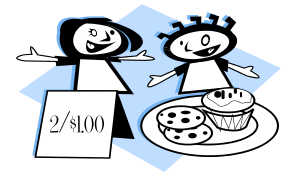
### Adult Role Models Are Crucial

A youth who has a parent who volun-

teers is nearly three times more likely to volunteer on a regular basis.

### They Need Flexible Volunteer Opportunities

Thirty-nine percent of teenagers volunteer on a regular basis; 35% do so occasionally; and 27% are episodic volunteers.



*Cooperation for National and Community Service, 2005*

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT TRAINING AND RESOURCE CENTER AT THE CONSULTATION CENTER**

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## Youth Development Training and Resource Center

is a resource center and intermediary to assist youth programs, local youth-serving networks, and funders of youth agencies throughout Connecticut. The YDTRC was founded in 1993 by the City Wide Youth Coalition and The Consultation Center. Through the use of our services, we hope to promote positive youth development. We are here to help you directly or to connect you with the resources that will be most effective for you.

[www.theconsultationcenter.org/ydtrc](http://www.theconsultationcenter.org/ydtrc)



### The Consultation Center



## A Special Thanks

**Thanks to New Haven youth workers and leaders in the field of youth development for their dedication to promoting and fostering Youth Development and Youth Leadership. All your hard work impacts youth and adults across the city.**



From Top Left to Right:

Lanasia Bolden, HYAT, YDTRC

Maggie Scalzo, YMCA, YCC

Deb Stewart, YDTRC

Terry Freeman, YDTRC

Elma Acosta, YDTRC

Monique Turner-Lopez, ESGW, Youth As Leaders

Terry McCarthy, YMCA, YCC

Rose Garcia, Youth As Leaders