

NEWS

WE GIVE

BACK!

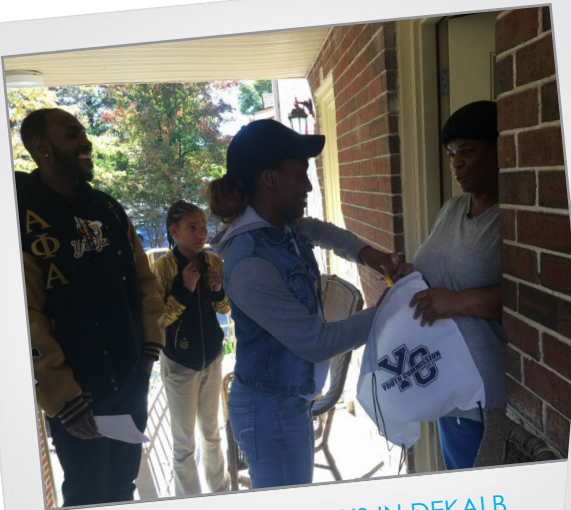


What might the typical teenager do right before their week-long break for Thanksgiving? Well, the DeKalb County Youth Commissioners were

serving the community and hard at work. The students and volunteers, nearly 30 in all, spent the morning of November 19th at the City of Decatur Housing Authority giving away Turkeys to less fortunate residents. More than 15 families were given turkeys to help celebrate Thanksgiving. The Youth Commissioners went door-to-door to introduce themselves and help families in need. The families were extremely appreciative for the holiday gesture and commissioners were elated to bring some holiday joy!



YOUTH COMMISSIONERS PREPARE TO DONATE TURKEYS!



YC GIVE OUT TURKEYS IN DEKALB COUNTY!



THANKSGIVING HAPPINESS!



DEKALB FAMILIES ARE EXCITED!

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NEWS

SAFE KIDS BIKE RODEO!

BIKE SAFETY IS A MUST IN DEKALB!

On October 22nd, the Office of Youth Services and the City of Decatur Housing Authority presented kids 8-13 years with our Safe Kids Bike Rodeo! The Rodeo was complete with a challenge course that included a figure 8, pedestrian crosswalk and a snake trail. Over 100+ participated in the festivities and 30+ kids completed the challenge course. The bikers were able to test ride six of our new bikes for the event. A picnic style lunch was served to all biking and non-biking participants, with two bounce houses on the lawn and a video game truck. At the very end of the event the Office of Youth Services was able to giveaway 10 brand new bikes to youth participants. The kids were able to enjoy their new bike in time for the Holidays!



YOUTH ARE EXCITED TO BE AT
SAFE KIDS BIKE RODEO!



HE'S GIVING HIS BEST ATTEMPT
TO FINISH THE BIKE COURSE!



YOUTH RECEIVED AN AWARD FOR
PARTICIPATING IN SAFE KIDS BIKE
RODEO!

NEWS

Swearing In Ceremony!



WELCOME 2017 YOUTH COMMISSIONERS!

ICEO Lee May welcomes our 2017 DeKalb County Youth Commissioner during a swearing-in ceremony at the DeKalb County Commission meeting on September 27, 2016. This DeKalb County Youth Commissioner Program was sponsored in March of 2008 by ICEO Lee May for the CEO and the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners. Its purpose is to provide young people with a vehicle to participate in

the process of County government. Motivated students from each Commission district represent and articulate the needs of youth in DeKalb County and advise the CEO and Board of Commissioners on matters affecting the youth population. Officials hear firsthand what concerned teens have to say, have the opportunity to educate them about the governmental process, and create symbiotic relationships between the youth and the County.



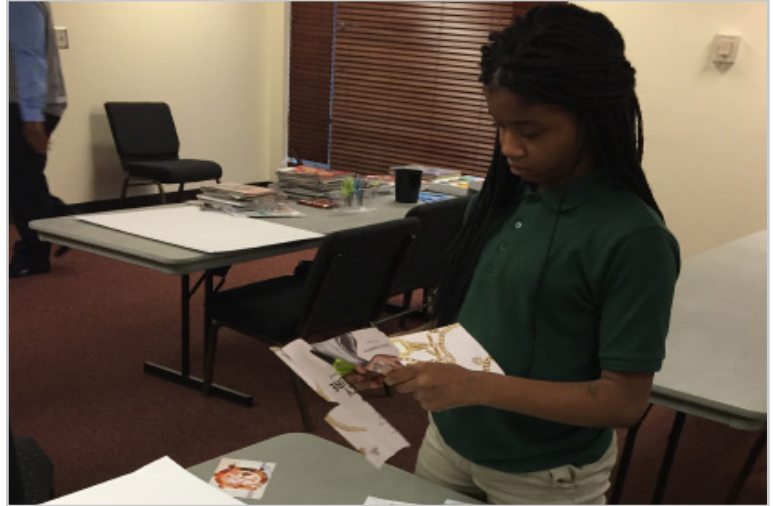
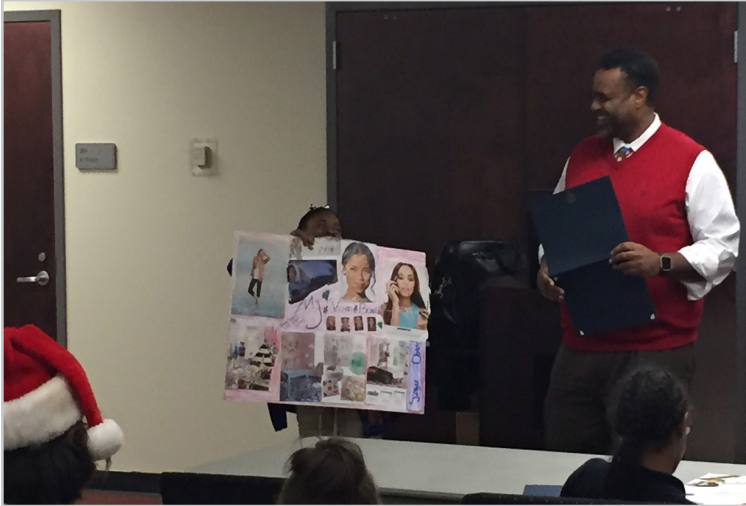
INDIA WESTBROOK

DEKALB YOUTH HIGHLIGHT!

India Westbrook became the 78th YLA participant to graduate from college with a Bachelor's Degree. She finished this December with a BS in Mass Communications (Public Relations). She became a member of the Youth Leadership Academy in 2011 and began interning right away with DCTV. India even filmed the 2015 Youth Empowerment Breakfast, an annual fundraising event for the Youth Leadership Academy. She will be starting her first full time position at the State Capital's Senate Press Office as a Communications Aid. India says that it all started with YLA and that the opportunity to be a part of the academy opened up many doors for her! We celebrate you India!

NEWS

REAL YOUTH! REAL PROGRESS!

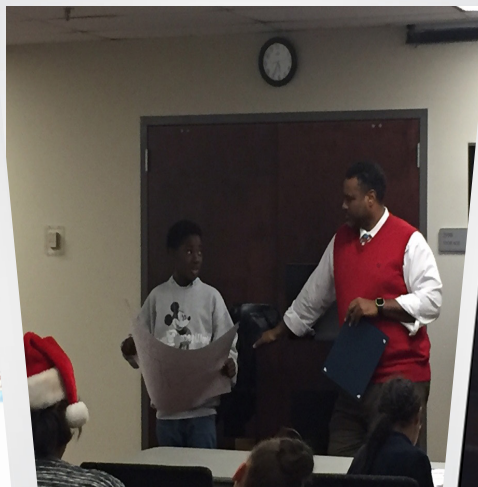


Project One80 is focused on offering youth ages 6-12 a safe and constructive place where they can be heard and develop effective coping skills. The goal is to enable youth to reach their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens of DeKalb County through exercises focused on challenging current practices and promoting healthy development.

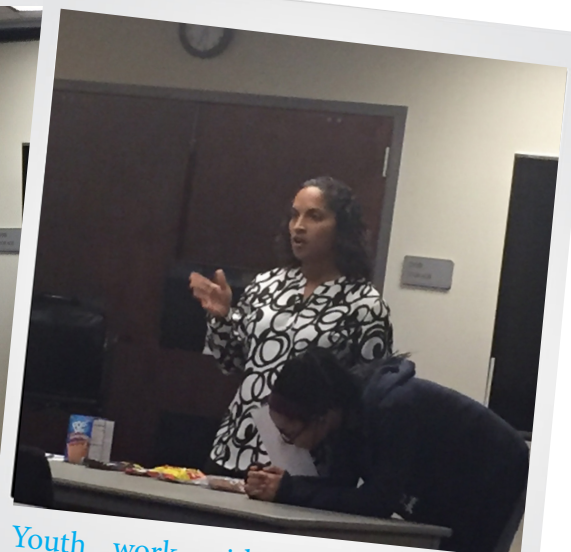
Project One80 successfully completed its first pilot cohort December 2016. Youth ages 6-12 met on a weekly basis to discuss personal development, life skills, positive attitude and behavior changes, character development, and healthy emotional management skills. At the close of the program all participants and parents reported seeing a change in their ability to successfully navigate challenging situations in their environment.



Youth work on vision boards to help redirect problematic behaviors!



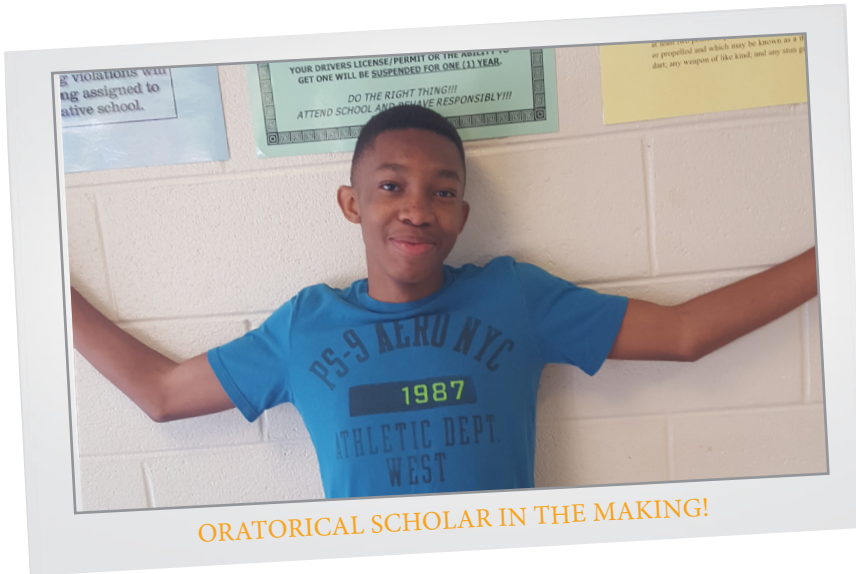
Youth present their vision boards to their parents at the closing ceremony!



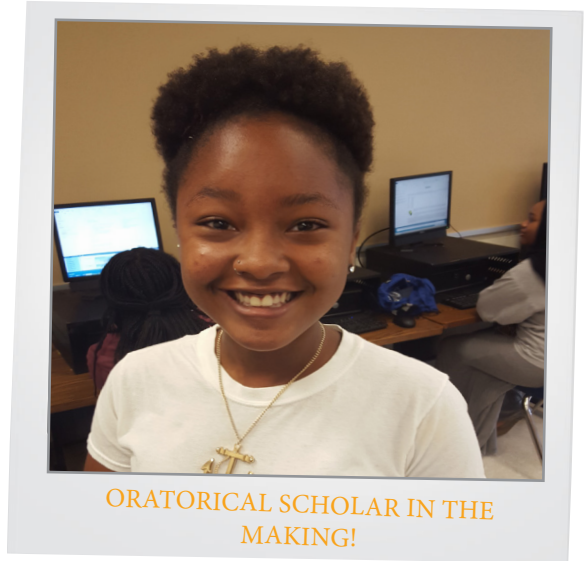
Youth work with a nutritionist to understand how food may affect their thoughts and behaviors!

NEWS

Oratorical Scholars in the Making!



ORATORICAL SCHOLAR IN THE MAKING!

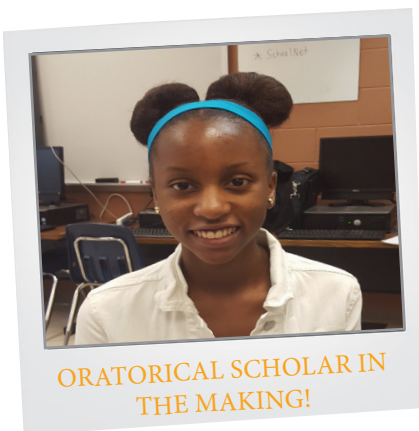


ORATORICAL SCHOLAR IN THE MAKING!



YLA TO COMPETE IN THE 2017 AMERICAN LEGION HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM!

Keyona Barnett, DeAnna Richards, Joshua Gordan, Kendall Smith, Karyn Roberts, and Charique Furlow will compete on February 4, 2016 in the American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship program. The purpose of The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program "A Constitutional Speech Contest" is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States among high school students. Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, rights, and privileges of American citizenship. Youth Leadership Academy students take Public Speaking courses each morning in the summer to increase their confidence for the contest.



ORATORICAL SCHOLAR IN THE MAKING!



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ORATORICAL SCHOLAR IN THE MAKING!

NEWS

WE'RE STRONGER TOGETHER!



TEAM BUILDING & PLANNING RETREAT!

The Office of Youth Services took our DeKalb County Youth Commissioners on their annual Fall Retreat. The two-day retreat began on September 30, as our 20 Youth Commissioners gathered at the Clark Harrison Building in Downtown Decatur. The weekend consisted of team building, bonding, small group discussion, workshops and inspiring talks, and left plenty of time for socializing and developing friendships. This year the retreat was hosted at Camp Blue Ridge in Mountain City, Georgia roughly 2 hours away from Atlanta. The retreat camp owned over 250 acres of aquatics, outdoor adventure, cultural arts, hike trails and cabins for our youth. The Youth Commissioners learned the art of Archery, strategy for 3-on-3 paint-balling, and how to work as a team during the low ropes courses



NEWS

CRIME PREVENTION & COMMUNITY SERVICE



YLA & ALLGOOD GIVE BACK!

On December 15, 2016, the DeKalb Youth Leadership Academy and Allgood Elementary School teamed up for a canned food and household good drive. This community event directly benefited a women's shelter in Decatur. The Allgood Elementary school sewing club created handmade pillows and blankets for the shelter as well. Dr. William Carter, Principal of Allgood Elementary, said that he looks forward to more collaboration with the DeKalb Youth Leadership Academy on future community events.

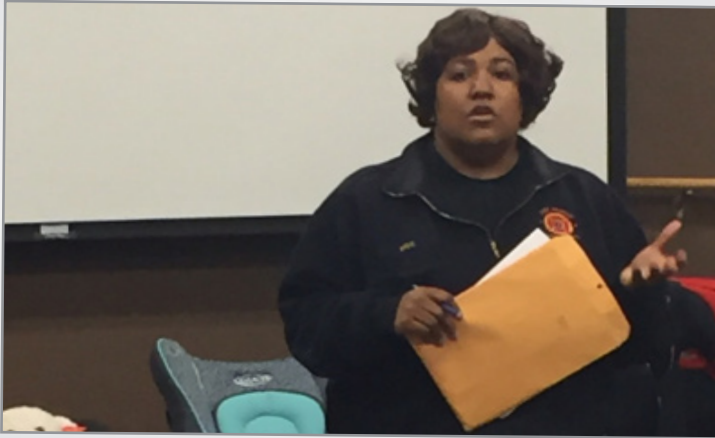


In 1984, the National Crime Prevention Council designated October Crime Prevention Month. Every year since then, government agencies, civic groups, schools, businesses, and youth organizations have reached out to educate the public, showcase their accomplishments, and explore new partnerships during this special month. The DeKalb Youth Leadership Academy held its second event at Wade Walker YMCA on October 1, 2016. This year, YLA participants led a panel for their peers discussing bullying, cyber-bullying, police and youth relationships, and gang violence prevention.



NEWS

GROWING HEALTHY BABIES!



GOOD HEALTH AND WELLNESS BEGINS EARLY!

Growing Healthy Babies is helping to reduce the risk associated with car seat safety! This child seat safety session partnered with DeKalb County Fire Rescue and worked with parents and caregivers to provide information on how to properly select, install and use a child safety seat. Speakers also discussed several other child safety tips, such as: forward and rear facing seat, transitioning to the next level seat, child safety laws, and seatbelt use and latch connections. In previous sessions Growing Healthy Babies partnered with DeKalb Board of Health and provided parents and caregivers the opportunity to work with board certified lactation specialists to optimize breastfeeding and create personalized feeding strategies to help DeKalb parents grow healthy babies!



Share Your Experiences!

We want to hear from you! Share your stories and photos of you helping youth in the DeKalb County community and have your experience featured in our next issue! Send your amazing experience and photos to youthservices@dekalbcountyga.gov or contact our office at 404-687-7123.



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