

# NEWS

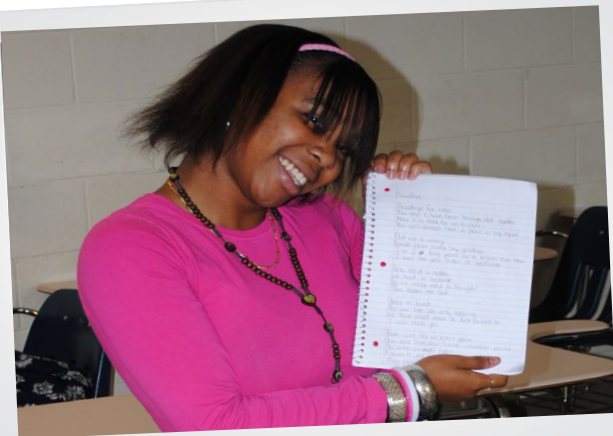


OFFICE OF  
**Youth**  
**SERVICES**  
DEKALB COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## DeKalb Youth Rock!

From team building to career planning DeKalb County youth are making a difference this year! With signature programming and initiatives for more than 168,000 DeKalb County youth the Office of Youth Services has been working collaboratively with community members, DeKalb centers, organizations and stakeholders to address the needs of our children and youth.

As the centralized office whereby children, youth, parents and community stakeholders can access new and existing signature youth programs and initiatives the Office of Youth Services is strengthening programs to ensure the development of well-rounded children and youth in the areas of wellness and healthy living, arts, entertainment and culture, problem solving and violence prevention, mentorship and leadership development, entrepreneurship and business, and homelessness and poverty.



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## Youth Leaders!



On June 8, 2015, the DeKalb Youth Leadership Academy possible. Six students felt prepared and ready (YLA) began its 7th summer with the Third Cycle of and became Certified MOS Specialists. This was students entering the Academy. YLA students had surely a highlight of the summer! Kendall Smith a full daily academic schedule. This includes grade (Redan High School) and Joshua Gordon (Arabia level Science, Technology, Math, Social Science, Mountain High School) both said that they felt and English. Academic achievement is the goal. The accomplished after passing the MOS Certification test. students are able to return to school one step ahead YLA students become YMCA members. Our home is the of their peers. Leadership activities, life skill training, beautiful Wade Walker Park Family YMCA. The students and career development workshops from community get to participate in all YMCA events all year long. Field and business volunteers enhance the weekly schedule. Trips Friday are the highlight of the week. This summer YLA Parents participated in meetings and workshops we visited the following places: The Woodruff Art Center, facilitated by Psychologist, Dr. Alduan Tartt. The parents The National Center for Civic and Human Rights, the and Dr. Tartt discussed healthy relationships, grades, Skating Rink, The CNN Center, the Evergreen Resort balance, and parenting. The meetings were awesome and Each month during the school year, the students everyone left with strategies to take back into the home. of the Youth Leadership Academy will meet This summer in technology, the students were trained and participate in community service project. to become Microsoft Office Specialists (MOS). We plan Stay in contact with the YLA on Facebook at to continue getting them certified in as many areas as facebook.com/dekalbyouthleadershipacademy.



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## Preparing To Make An Impact!!



## YOUTH COMMISSIONERS

DeKalb County Youth Commission Leadership Initiative class of 2015 - 2016. August 2015, DeKalb County welcomed 25 youth from various DeKalb County area High Schools as the newest class of Youth Commissioners! The 2015-2016 DeKalb County Youth Commission represents the diversity of DeKalb County and they are excitedly preparing for an impactful year. This year's Youth Commissioners participated in a leadership retreat in September at Montara Farms. It afforded the Youth Commissioners with the opportunity to understand how to use their leadership styles and techniques to their fullest capacity. Complete with training, ropes courses and field activities, the Youth Commissioners are prepared to lead DeKalb County youth! On Tuesday, October 27, 2015, the 2015-2016 DeKalb County Youth Commissioners were sworn in at the standing DeKalb County Board of Commissioners meeting.





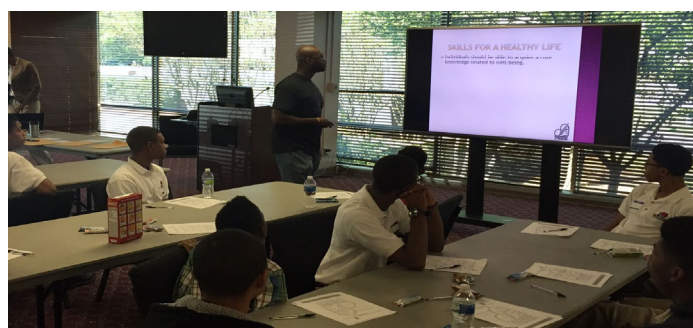
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## My Brother's Keeper!!



### MBK COMMUNITY CHALLENGE!!

The MBK Community Challenge, is an effort by the White House to encourage communities (cities, counties, suburbs, rural municipalities, and tribal nations) to implement a coherent cradle-to-college and career strategy aimed at improving life outcomes for all young people, consistent with the goals and recommendations of the Task Force's, to ensure that all youth can achieve their full potential, regardless of who they are, where they come from, or the circumstances into which they are born. The Challenge is not a new federal program, but rather a call to action for leaders of communities across the Nation to build and execute comprehensive strategies that ensure all young people in our community are positioned to succeed. DeKalb County's ICEO Lee May accepted this challenge and believes it could be a turning point for renewing our communities' belief in boys and young men of color.



### YMLA



The Young Men's Leadership Program conducted our financial aid workshop for our participants. Former uAspire Financial Aid Advisor Irving Williams provided our youth with dynamic information. The workshop included information on federal-and state-aid programs, student and parent loans, and alternative financing options. Participants were shown how to calculate the cost of attendance for Georgia State University and hidden charges fees. Also, he spoke about the differences between state/university grants, government loans, national/local scholarships offered and work-study. The workshop was very informative for our young men.



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## Community Highlights



### Cambridge Heights Academy

Cambridge Heights Academy a 501c3 Nonprofit Organization is designed to strengthen the lives of students who are in elementary, middle and high school. Our program focuses on five priority areas, inclusive of academic excellence, character development, leadership, health and physical wellness and STEM. Our environment allows students to become engaged learners and provides them with the skills to become positive risk takers. Most importantly, the culture of our program helps students to be supported academically, acquire confidence in themselves and their abilities, learn healthy and virtuous habits, and develop a sense of personal responsibility and a commitment to the larger community. The vision is to provide quality, comprehensive programs that helps students become engaged learners in and out of the classroom, positive risk takers and positive role models for their peers. Our community-based programs provide support, and assist students in acquiring self- confidence in their academic, behavioral and social emotional abilities, allowing them to realize a more positive inclusion in their school community and the local community at large. Please [www.cambridgeheights.org](http://www.cambridgeheights.org) to learn about the many program offerings. Contact Derrick Hill at Cambridge Heights Academy today at 404.538.8504. If you are interested in joining DeKalb County My Brother's Keeper Community, please contact Jashawn Williams at [jrwilliams@dekalbcountyga.gov](mailto:jrwilliams@dekalbcountyga.gov)



### A Change Generation

A Change Generation is a nonprofit independent living program provided for foster care youth ages 18-21, designed to improve their transition into adulthood. The overall goal of the independent living program is that the youth served, will be better prepared to live independently in their transition to adulthood.

A Change Generation house eight individuals that will be selected based upon their perceived ability for success. The living quarters will consist of two 3-bedroom apartment dwellings with four clients per apartment. There will be an office within close proximity that will serve as the locale for life skills training sessions. A Change Generation will provide a holistic staff approach, in conjunction with a designated success coach to assist youth in developing skills in four distinct areas:

- : Daily Living Skills: A best practice approach to teaching self-discipline, critical thinking skills, and personal wellness to apply to daily living;
- : Educational Development: Based upon each individual's needs, assistance will be provided involving tutoring, GED preparation or applying to higher education institutions;
- : Employment/Career Planning: Reenacting real world scenarios involving interviewing and proper work ethic. Clients will be taught how to create a resume and seeking the proper job according to individual skillset;
- : Financial Planning: Clients will be taught the importance of budgeting, paying bills, building credit and saving.



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## Reading Makes A Difference!!

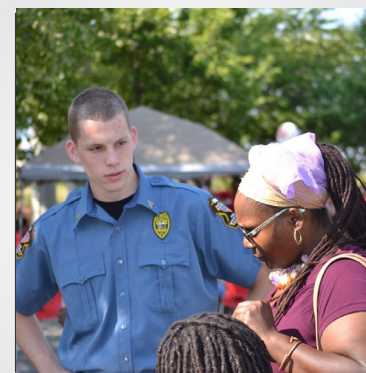
## Real Experience! Real Careers!



### Summer Reading Program

DeKalb County Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs is sponsoring Interim CEO Lee May's new Summer Reading Program. Through collaboration between The Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS) and a grant supported by the United Way of Greater Atlanta, DeKalb County will receive 3,500 free books.

The Summer Reading Program promotes literacy skills and vocabulary enrichment in children ages 5 to 12 during the Camp Superstars summer camp at all recreation centers. Summer day campers enjoyed reading sessions with special guests Interim CEO Lee May, Solicitor General Sherry Boston, and Director of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs, Roy Wilson.



### DeKalb County Police Explorers

are off to an awesome start! Approximately 20 youth Explorers have been engaged in the program since they revamped and re-energized the program this past Spring. By meeting weekly, youth Police Explorers have the opportunity to hone skills through hands on training and supporting community events. Explorers have attended three National Night Out community meetings and assisted the Fire Department with stuffing bags for a National Fire Expo at the Georgia World Congress Center. They have even volunteered to assist the SWAT Team with an active shooter exercise at North DeKalb Mall. Youth Police Explorers have even recently eagerly test for leadership roles as well. Three Explorers were promoted as a result: Captain Jacob Tallo, Lt. Dominique Dunn and Sgt. Nick Alameda.





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## National Crime Prevention Month!!



### YLA CRIME PREVENTION

YLA hosted a Crime Prevention Event at the Wade Walker YMCA on October 3, 2015. This event was an opportunity for the community to have a day of learning, bring awareness, enjoy entertainment, and meet crime prevention advocates in our county. There were workshops, entertainment and performances to keep the crowd engaged.

In 1984, the National Crime Prevention Council, the nation's center of excellence for preventing crime, designated October as Crime Prevention Month. The month-long commemoration reflects the adage that prevention pays off. NCPC strongly believes that citizen involvement in crime prevention can and has played a vital role in helping many communities stay safe. During Crime Prevention Month, government agencies, law enforcement, civic groups, schools, businesses, and youth organizations in DeKalb County conducted a robust set of activities to highlight prevention information, showcase their accomplishments, reach out to educate and empower the public through educational campaigns, and explore new partnerships that build stronger communities in which crime cannot survive. The students of the DeKalb Youth Leadership Academy know that we can all work together to "Take A Bite Out Of Crime®".

### 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](mailto:youthservices@dekalbcountyga.gov) or contact our office at 404-687-7123.



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