



Future home of HWC and YSA!!

Historic Washington Heights Community and the Youth Services Academy

Programs

Focus Areas

Services Offered

Process

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The Historic Washington Heights neighborhood has been in existence for since 1910, a former streetcar suburb names for Booker T. Washington, founder of Tuskegee University, author of autobiography, Up From Slavery.

The Vision of Historic Washington Heights is to develop and maintain an attractive, historic neighborhood that has a variety of stable housing opportunities and safe, pedestrian friendly streets that provide access to jobs, parks, transit, schools, businesses and other resources. We wish to build on that sense of pride and place to make historic Washington Heights an even better neighborhood in which to live, work and play... The 2008 key issues and focus were (1) Land Use and Urban Design; (2) Infrastructure; (3) Economic Development; (4) Community Safety; (5) Human Services; (6) Community Organizing; (7) Community Appearance; (8) Parks, Recreation and Open Space; (9) Education.

The Washington Heights Youth Services Academy (Afterschool Tutorial/Leadership Development & Summer Camp Initiatives), an afterschool tutorial program and learning academy that provides educational, cultural and recreational activities for students in grades K-12. Through programs such as one-to-one tutoring, ACT/SAT preparatory courses, enrichment classes, college tours and college admission workshops. YSA strengthens the basic skills necessary for our students to excel academically and to pursue higher educational opportunities.

The project is bridging the gap by offering an afterschool positive atmosphere where our children learn critical thinking skills while building self esteem and leadership skills through educational and cultural experiences.

There is much evidence that the Community's community toward addressing early youth needs, economic development and crime prevention/deterrence is effective. Crime is down in Washington Heights and surrounding neighborhoods according to the CMPD Metro Division reports. The level of participation and performance from the students enrolled in the program is evident of the need and necessity of a strong, structured youth-oriented program. This program presents an efficient way to use limited resources to meet the identified needs of the neighborhood.

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Program/Activities 2008	Grades/ Participants	# Served	Description
Afterschool Enrichment/ Tutorial Program	K-12	25	Volunteer tutors from local colleges and universities and the community provide weekly tutoring in specific subjects. Tutoring is held Monday through Thursday from 4:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m. and on weekends.
Computer Access to Neighborhoods (C.A.N)	K-12 College Parents Residents	Over 150 participants averaging between 532 and 1,089 hours per month.	In partnership with community groups and local business to address the digital divide. The CAN Partnership, a public/private venture was developed to increase student achievement, engage the public, and provide our students and families greater access to technology.
Focus on Future Leaders – Youth Leadership Development		25	
District 2 Youth Involvement Council	Everyone	500 participan ts	Elected officials along with youth and parents, community partners assisted youth in hosting 5 major event that were planned by the youth during the months of May, June, July, August and September. The Summit, Breakfast with Parents, Sports and Fitness Day, Picnic and Youth Swim Days.
Summer Camp		15	2008 we did not host a summer camp at the YSA Academy and Northwest School of the Arts. However, we placed 15 students with scholarships at other summer camps and provided transportation
Parent Involvement Nights (PIN)	Parents and Students	75	YSA, in partnership with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Leadership Charlotte 2007, and Park and Recreation hosted a successful night of activities for parents and students. Topics included: Effective parenting to increase your student effectiveness in the classroom; improving communication with your child/teen. Guest speakers discuss issues of concern with families and their children.
Resource Library and	Parents and	50	The resource library contains applications,

Community Services – Coordinating resources for older adults, families, and children, by encouraging self-help through teamwork and partnerships with public and private entities	Students		brochures, as well as financial aid forms and scholarship information –on line and at the Academy for independent schools, summer programs and colleges. If residents or students have a concern or issue to be resolved – They know they can find the answer at the Academy Resource Library. The Library is open to everyone.
Annual “Building Passion for Historic Washington Heights - Passion Is Power Festival in the Park	Everyone	450-500 participants	<p>We come together to celebrate the positive changes and energy at this celebration. The Historic Washington Heights neighborhood has experienced many changes throughout its 98 year history, yet one thing that has not changed is the commitment and determination of its residents to ensure that Washington Heights remains a viable, safe, and nurturing neighborhood;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A day long event filled with excitement and information for families, friends, neighbors, and the community featuring food, games, fellowship, music, prizes, information booths, arts and crafts, health and wellness, homeownership classes, and child and adult learning villages.
First Tee Golf	Everyone	25	Wachovia Championship participants
Reading for Fund	Everyone	1500 books distributed	The Academy is home of over 2500 books that were donated. Over 1500 books distributed to children and families
Resume Preparation and on-line job applications	Everyone	35 avg. per month	Internet access available for students, parents and residents to access and complete on line job applications. Assistance provided for resume preparation.
Career Speaker Series	Students	30	YSA offers motivational talks featuring career professionals from the community who discuss career planning and relate personal experiences. Students have the opportunity to visit professionals at their job sites.
YSA Mentoring Program	Students	25	YSA volunteers mentor youth of YSA and their families. They provide moral and educational support in helping students and their parents make important decisions to plan for their future.
Division of Community Corrections – Community Service Work Program	Students Adults	50	YSA serve as mentor and positive environment for youth assigned to do their community service hours.

YSA Holiday Project	Parents and Students	15	In partnership with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, foods baskets and gifts are provided for families of YSA participants.
YSA Family and Community Mailings	All	Monthly	Letters, flyers, newsletters are sent to residents, churches, community organizations and schools, informing the community of YSA programs and initiatives
Neighborhood Monthly Meetings	Everyone	35-40 monthly participants, guest speakers and CMPD community police officers	Subcommittee monthly meetings are held at the Academy, 2725 Dundeen St. All monthly meetings are held at Tabernacle Baptist Church

1 Other 2008 Initiatives and Involvements

	Description	
Housing Charlotte 2007 Affordable Housing Conference	Conference of over 450 participants – www.housingcharlotte2007.org	Planning Committee and Program Committee
Streetcar Advisory Committee	Study of funding sources to recommend to Council	
Business Corridor Revitalization Plan	Plan adopted by City Council	
Annual City of Charlotte – Neighborhood Symposium	Leadership and Capacity Building – Residents and youth participated in City of Charlotte's Community University, Annual Neighborhood Symposium, and Neighborhood Summit	Residents also participated in on-site Block Captain training
Homeownership	Increase home ownership	
Code Enforcement	Neighborhood Development website of code violations for our neighborhood	
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department new Metro Station	Ground breaking ceremony held in 2008 and completion by 2009 at the corner of Beatties Ford, Renner St., directly across from Historic	

	Washington Heights	
NAP Meetings City of Charlotte Neighborhood Development	Monthly Neighborhood Action Plan meetings	
LeadSafe Charlotte	Lead reduction program – community awareness program and educational program	Continue to monitor and encourage residents to call regarding the inspections.
Decorative Street Lighting and upgrade of street lights throughout the neighborhood	Crime reduction initiative in partnership with CMPD	Strong collaboration with CMPD and supportive of our media initiatives.
City of Charlotte World Changers Program	Urgent repairs; lead reduction program; Housing Rehab – 20 homes	
