

Metro Jackson Community Prevention Coalition



QUARTERLY ALERT

Prevention News to Use

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Metro Jackson Community Prevention Coalition is to reduce factors that lead to alcohol, tobacco and other drug use and increase resiliency factors of adolescents, children and families in high-risk environments in Jackson, Miss.

CALENDAR

Bi-Monthly Coalition Meeting  
October 9

LST Phase III Retreat  
September 14

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Metro Jackson Community Prevention Coalition conducts a successful summer teen camp at Eagle Ridge Conference Center

While students were enjoying summer vacation, Metro Jackson Community Prevention Coalition (MJCPC) staff was hard at work preparing for this year's Summer Teen Camp held at Eagle Ridge Conference Center from July 10-14.



MJCPC Staff and Camp Participants

Summer Teen Camp is a week-long residential summer camp for middle school students and serves as the second phase of the LifeSkills Training Program (LST). The second phase of the program builds on the first phase and consists of ten 45-minute sessions which address the following topics: *Drug Abuse and Violence: Causes and Effects, Making Decisions, Media Influence, Coping with Anxiety, Coping with Anger, Communication Skills, Assertiveness, Resolving Conflict and Resisting Peer Pressure.*

The selection process for the Summer Teen Camp was highly competitive and began during Phase I of the LifeSkills Training program conducted at Hardy Middle School from January to April with Coach Linda Lewanika's sixth grade girls gym class. During the training sessions, Terry Bennett, MJCPC outreach worker, and Dorlisa Hutton, MJCPC Project ALERT training specialist, rated the

students on attendance, participation, behavior and interaction with fellow students. With only 20 slots available for

this year's summer camp and 60 of the students eligible, MJCPC staff prepared letters to inform the parents and

students of their eligibility and that participants would be selected on a first to respond basis via telephone or mail.

On June 22, a Summer Teen Camp meeting was held at the Jackson Medical Mall for the selected participants and their parents. MJCPC staff and the camp counselors, E. Jean Michael and Carolyn Brooks, were introduced to the parents. Alvin L. Clark, MJCPC program manager, discussed the purpose of summer camp, parent and student release forms and insurance information forms. Velesha Williams, project director, discussed camp rules and expectations. Hutton presented a PowerPoint presentation titled, *Trends in Alcohol, Tobacco and Marijuana.* MJCPC staff members Clark, Bennett and Hutton were successful in setting up appointment times for the parents and participants to come to MJCPC's office to review camp information if they were unable to attend the meeting.

*Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work® Day***Metro Jackson Community Prevention Coalition has coordinated observance since 1996**

Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work® Day has been a highlight of Metro Jackson Community Prevention Coalition's year since it began coordinating this worthwhile national event at Jackson State University in 1996.

Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work® Day, a registered trademark of the Ms. Foundation for Women, is designed to expand opportunities for girls and boys, expose them to what adults do during the work day, show them the value of an education, and give them an opportunity to share how they envision their future. For these reasons, the Coalition has been by partnering with a middle school in the Jackson Public School (JPS) District and various Jackson State University departments and organizations.

In past years, the students selected to participate in Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work® Day have been chosen from the LifeSkills Training Program. Hardy Middle School students were eligible to

participate in the activities April 27, but due to preparation for the Mississippi Curriculum Test all field trips were cancelled for JPS middle schools. Therefore, John Wesley Bradley Educational Center and Saint Mary Catholic School were selected to participate. A total of 24 students were placed for three hours at three sites — the Jackson State University main campus, Mississippi e-Center @ JSU and the Jackson Medical Mall. Students had the opportunity to work hand-in-hand with their adopters as they learned about the importance of the day-to-day operations of their respective areas and engaged in work-related activities such as graphic design, preparing folders for meetings, filing paperwork, Web page design and evaluating marketing samples.

Before bringing the day to a close, the students and their adopters attended a luncheon. The theme of the luncheon was "Shaping the Future." Dr. Brenda Kaye Miller Thompson, director of the Center for Student Professional Development in the College of Liberal Arts and professor of geography in the Department of History and Philosophy, served as the guest speaker. Dr. Thompson's speech was titled, "The ABC's of Success."

Words of wisdom were also offered by Jonathan Harris, JSU student and MJCPC Peer Educator.

The luncheon concluded with each student receiving a certificate of participation and a gift bag.

MJCPC looks forward to building on the new relationship established between John Wesley Bradley Educational Center and Saint Mary Catholic School.

*Summer Teen Camp**continued from page 1*

MJCPC staff also made home visits to ensure that all students who wanted to attend summer camp were given the opportunity.

On July 10, MJCPC staff, camp counselors and camp participants departed from the Jackson Medical Mall for a week of drug prevention education, team-building activities and unlimited fun. In addition to the LST Phase II sessions, the students participated in MJCPC Olympics, bridge-building activities, movie and game night, talent showcase, face painting, girl talk and other activities. One notable highlight of the camp was the gang awareness and prevention presentation given by Mark Fomby of Fomby Consultants.

By the end of the week, camp participants were not ready to return home and wanted to extend camp by another week. Nevertheless, the staff had to proceed with close-out activities. Each participant completed a Summer Teen Camp Evaluation Form and received a certificate of participation. Two camp participants, Tameron (Tammy) Frazier and LaVonsha Fields were named Best Campers and given medallions based on their participation and leadership skills.

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## *Peer Educators Reach a Milestone*

### *Nine area students remain drug-free, participate in MJCPC graduation ceremony*

On June 8, Metro Jackson Community Prevention Coalition held its Annual Peer Educators Graduation Ceremony at Western Sizzlin' Steakhouse. The theme for this year's celebration was "Succeeding Because We're Determined." The theme was very fitting for the nine young metro area graduates who are dedicated to living drug-free lives and assisting peers in making the same choice.

This year's graduates included Tokia Boone, Forest Hill High School; Chenika Davis, Lanier High School; Samantha Ford, Clinton High School; Samuel Hardges, Midtown Community Development Corporation; Courtney Holmes, Forest Hill High School; Jacob Johnson, Jim Hill High School; Carlos Meeks, Provine High School; Derikan Sheriff, Mt. Calvary Adult Education; and Bradford Wilson, Forest Hill High School.

The nine graduates entered Metro Jackson's Peer Educator Program as middle school students. Through dedication and determination, they successfully completed the training-of-trainers (TOT) workshops presented by Metro Jackson staff, attended youth conferences, assisted MJCPC staff with community training sessions

and educated their peers on the dangers/consequences of drug use and the benefits of non use.

C. Leigh McInnis, English professor at Jackson State University, served as the guest speaker. As an educator, McInnis provided the Peer Educators and their guests with practical no

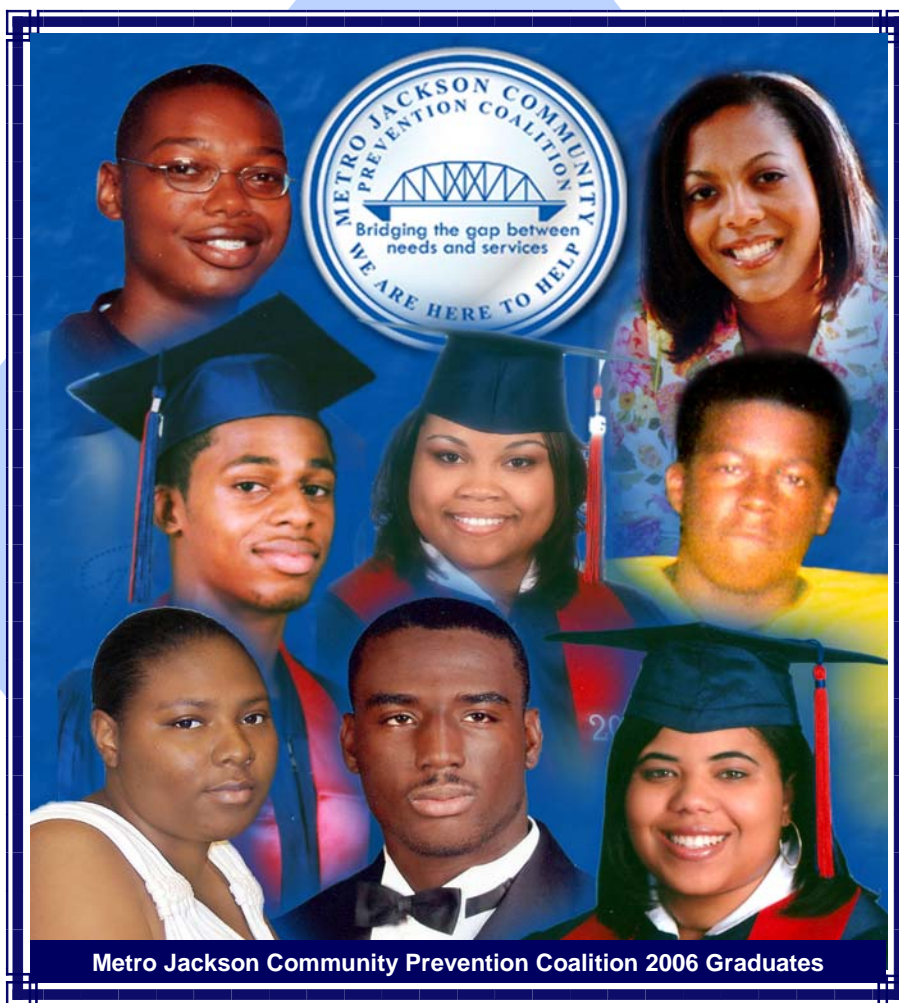
fall victim to not being able to balance their studies with the freedom college offers.

Even with the conclusion of McInnis' motivational speech, the graduation ceremony was far from ending.

Metro Jackson Community Prevention Coalition believes in encouraging and rewarding youth who enter the Peer Educators program, complete all the requirements and most importantly remain drug-free. So, in appreciation of their efforts and commitment to combating the drug epidemic in the Metro Jackson area, Metro Jackson Community Prevention Coalition awarded each Peer Educator a certificate and an educational incentive to support their post-secondary education efforts. Upon receiving their certificate and educational incentive, each Peer Educator took the opportunity to

convey how the Peer Educator program had changed and in some ways saved them from making decisions that would have had a negative impact on their lives.

MJCPC is elated to have served as a positive role model in the lives of the peer educators and is proud to announce that all are continuing their education on the collegiate level.



**Metro Jackson Community Prevention Coalition 2006 Graduates**

nonsense advice on life, but most importantly on education. The Peer Educators were instructed to set goals in life and set a course of action to obtain those goals.

McInnis stressed that continuing their education was key to accomplishing most, if not all of the students' goals. He also noted that over the years he had seen many bright and promising students

## Highlights from the MJCPC's Peer Educators' Graduation Ceremony



Samantha Ford of Clinton High School reflects on the memories of serving as a Peer Educator for MJCPC. Ford plans to attend Jackson State University.



C. Leigh McInnis, Jackson State University professor of English, served as MJCPC's Annual Peer Educators' Graduation Ceremony speaker.

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