

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Joanna Lake, 757-664-2535

AREA YOUTH ARE GEARING UP TO PUT HAMPTON ROADS ON THE MAP

Hampton Roads, VA—On July 1, sixty local youth will be hitting the streets of South Hampton Roads in search of places to go and things to do. Sound like a recipe for summer mischief? Not hardly. These motivated members of our community will be participating in the Community YouthMapping program. Simply put, Community YouthMapping (CYM) is data collection for youth, by youth. Program participants, referred to as “mappers,” will explore their neighborhoods, over a six-week period, using a survey tool to gather baseline information on the resources available for young people, children and families in their communities. The youth, working in groups of ten, will be the key stakeholders in the planning, collection, data entry, analysis and dissemination of this information. The ultimate goal of the CYM project is to provide a centralized source for connecting area youth to entertainment, jobs, community services and volunteer opportunities. This information will also help to identify gaps in existing resources.

“The information provided by this program will serve not only as a resource for the Hampton Roads community, but will also serve as a directive for individuals and organizations that participate in youth services and program development. For example, we will be utilizing specific data, such as who is hiring youth and what skills sets are being required, to direct our efforts targeting the emerging workforce,” says E. Roy Budd, President and CEO of Opportunity Inc. Furthermore, according to the Academy for Education Development, the sixty “mappers” will have the opportunity to gain fundamental leadership and employment skills. In addition, they will be seen as important contributors to our community, which qualifies them to serve as role models not only for their peers, but to the adult population as well.

Community YouthMapping is a project of the Center for Youth Development and Policy Research located at the Academy for Educational Development in Washington, DC. The Urban League of South Hampton Roads, Opportunity Inc., the South Hampton Roads Alliance for Youth and the eight municipalities of South Hampton Roads, are coordinating this project locally. Hampton Roads is proud to be joining over 35 communities nation-wide who have committed to the Community YouthMapping process.

For more information or to contact youth and program coordinators for interviews, call Joanna Lake at 664-2535.

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