



e-Blast, November 11, 2017

**Gerald R. Ford Job Corps Center** was visited by representatives from *The Grand Rapids Red Project* who spoke to students about HIV prevention. The students were encouraged to maintain a focus on empowering themselves to make positive change as they define it for themselves, in their own lives, and in their communities. *The Grand Rapids Red Project* is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to improving health, reducing risk, and preventing HIV. Since 1998, they have served the city of Grand Rapids by providing people with access to tools, information, resources, and support to stay healthy. Now that Ford Job Corps is a community partner with the project, workshops, training for staff, and volunteer activities will be available within this partnership. Pictured (l-r) are students Jazzlyn Newman, Solange Uwajenezza, Red Project Outreach Coordinator Wesley Watson who was accompanied by his father Tommie Watson and Red Project Early Intervention Specialist Nathan Bentley as shown, and student Day'Shanna McClinton.



**Gulfport Job Corps Center** students and staff participated in this year's annual American Cancer Society Breast Cancer Walk at the Biloxi Town Green. By all accounts, the walk was a huge success with Gulfport Job Corps coming in second place for the group with the most participants. Gulfport Job Corps students and staff donate funds and participate in the 3 mile walk, run or jog each year to show support for a worthy cause. The Gulfport Job Corps Wellness Department actively recruits staff to participate in the walk, assist with the event registration, or distribute water and bananas to participants. As always, Team Gulfport represented very well for this most worthwhile cause. A portion of the team is pictured.

Approximately twenty **Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks Job Corps Center** students and four staff members attended the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual National Civil Rights Museum Freedom Award Student Forum. The event honored those who have dedicated their lives to the advancement of civil and human rights. The honorees for 2017 were Rev. Bernice King, daughter of Dr.



Martin Luther King, Jr.; Hugh Masekela, composer and activist against Apartheid; and Civil Rights Attorney Morris Dees. The Freedom Awards Student Forum is designed to specifically address young people and inspire them to take action and stand for something meaningful in their communities. The forum included Teen Talk; a tribute to special guests – The Memphis City Sanitation Workers who protested unsafe work conditions, unjust treatment and unfair wages; student questions and answers with honorees; and entertainment. Prior to attending the forum, Hooks Job Corps students engaged in classroom activities related to civil and human rights and the honorees. With their focus already peaked, the students were very excited to learn a piece of history that took place in Memphis with the Sanitation Workers, and to continue learning more through activities once they were back on-center. Student Keymian Crisp is pictured with Reverend Bernice A. King.





For the second year, **Denison Job Corps Center** assisted New Hope Village, a home for adults with disabilities, with their annual soup supper fundraiser. The meal featured three different soups and was well supported by the community. Ten Denison Job Corps students from the health trades served guests, kept tables clean and set, washed dishes, cut and served desserts, and kept the beverages flowing. Their smiles and cheery hellos set the tone for the evening as they provided a helping hand in areas that needed attention to make the event very successful for the benefit of families supported by New Hope. Without a doubt, it was a pleasure to be a part of this special event. These students (l-r) are pictured (kneeling) Katelyn Gregg and Tamara Morgan; (standing) Kiyana Fuller, Josephine Hitt,

Aye Aung, Isabella Mireles, Alejandra Arroyo, Selena Mercado, Daisy Flores, and Alexandra Gilliam.

**Excelsior Springs Job Corps Center** main campus and the Alternate Training Location (ATL) in Kansas City, Missouri recently held a Fall Graduation ceremony at the Pleasant Valley Church in Liberty, Missouri for 198 graduates. The graduates and guest gathered to hear Excelsior Springs Mayor Brad Eales speak about events that catapulted him into a life of service. As a strong Excelsior



Spring Job Corps supporter, he attends center events and serves on the Community Relations Council. Mayor

Eales stated that he is no stranger to social judgements because in his teen years he presented a surprise family, and experienced a home fire that destroyed everything he owned. But, due to the kindness of strangers, community, and hard work, his family flourished. He decided early that giving back was going to be one of his life's missions. He has come to know and appreciate several Excelsior Springs Job Corps students for their talents and perseverance. He works to encourage young people in the community to join the Job Corps program in order to improve their lives by earning a career training certification. His

message was one of sincere congratulations to the graduates and their families. Pictured left (l-r): Lori Sams, Director of Training; Mayor Eales; Dr. Bill Allen, Center Director; Sherman Williams, Director of Residential Living; Troy Wulfemeyer, ATL Director; Nanci Bush, Manager of Academics; Leah Johnson, Team Manager; and Crystal Jones, Team Manager. Pictured right are two proud graduates Meisha Stewart and Kolman Bobby Duncan.



**Shreveport Job Corps Center** has a presence at the Louisiana State Fair which opened October 26<sup>th</sup> and runs through November 12<sup>th</sup>. As part of a partnership with the State Fair, Shreveport Job Corps sets up a concession booth where the Student Government Association (SGA) sells a variety of food items as its biggest fundraiser of the year. The booth was built by Building Construction Trade students. Both students and staff man the booth which serves Hot Dogs, Frito Pies,

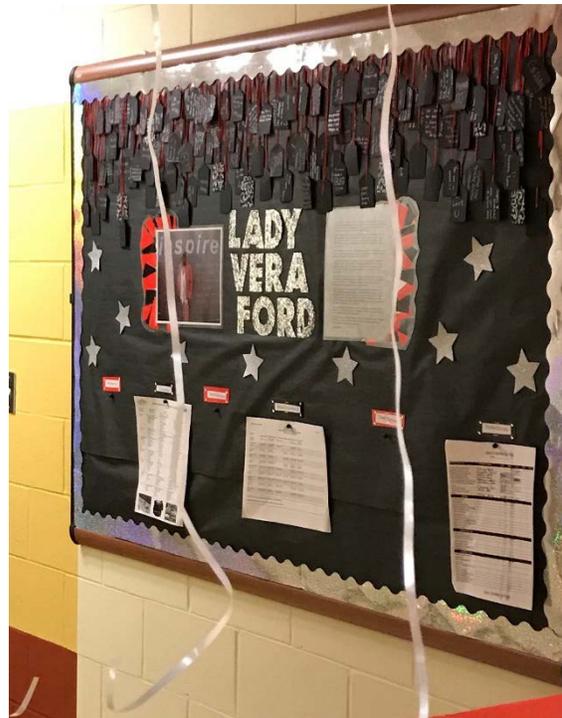
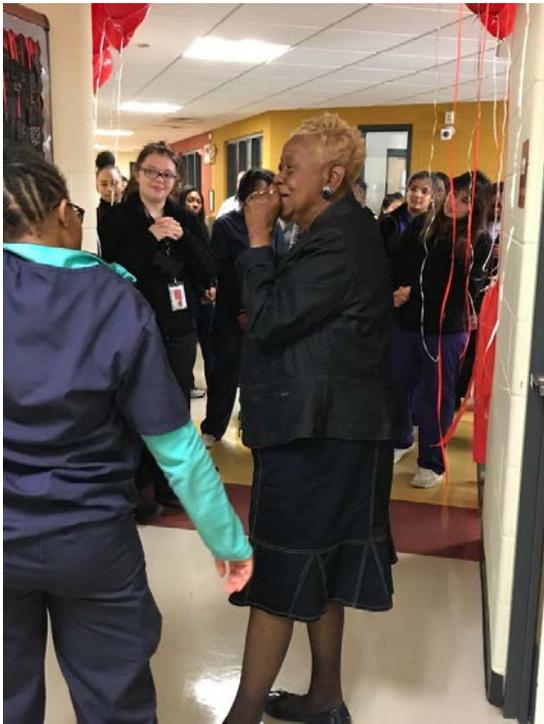


Pickles, assorted drinks, Kool-Aid pickles, nachos, and chips. Through interactions with customers and making sales, students showcase their work skills and customer service skills, and apply math skills. The booth is an attraction because it offers the lowest prices on the midway, but profited approximately \$3,700 last year; the goal for this year is \$5,000. The partnership also provides community service and paid jobs for students, Work-Based Learning opportunities, and the perfect location for outreach. A recruitment tent is set beside the concession booth for Outreach and Admissions staff to invite youth to "Train for

Your Future" with Shreveport Job Corps. Pictured (l-r) Cody Lauppe and Maya Howard manning concessions; and Career Advisor Ophelia Atkins assisting a potential student.



**Milwaukee Job Corps Center** recently initiated an Independent Wing in the female dorm. This Independent Wing will house female students who are enrolled in local colleges, and those are working to prepare for their transitional needs. Victor McGee, Director of Residential Living, met with the young ladies and informed them that they could officially name their wing. Student Destiny Watkins immediately suggested naming the wing *Lady Ford* (after Business and Community Liaison Vera D. Ford). The students immediately began to discuss all the things that make Ford special to them. They included: how she cares for students, how she welcomes them to the program, how much she is like a grandmother to them, how working with her on various volunteering events gives them so much happiness, and how long she's been involved with Job Corps. Ford is a 1966 graduate of the Los Angeles Job Corps Center and was the first Director of Residential Living at Milwaukee Job Corps Center. The *Lady Ford Wing* was unveiled to the surprise of Ford as student Tiara Lang expressed how much of an honor it is to name the wing after such a wonderful woman. As part of the unveiling, students shared their personal feelings about the role Ford plays in their lives and their hopes for the future. Appreciation tags bearing expressions from students adorned the dedication bulletin board. With tears in her eyes, Ford told the students what a delight it is to have the dorm wing named in her honor, and she pointed out all the hard work the students have done to earn residency on the Independent Wing. She said, "It is moments like this that make working with you all worth it!"



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