

Life Opportunities, Inc.



CELEBRATION OVERVIEW

Purpose of Kick-off Celebration:

The purpose for the Kick off Celebration is twofold: 1) To provide detailed information about the Team Youth Initiative - 2011. 2) To orientate youth, parents and community partners about their roles in this endeavor.

Goals of Kick-of Celebration:

1. That those in attendance know about Life Opportunities Inc. and the goals and objectives of this year's Team Youth Initiative.
2. That at least 50% of the youth and parents attending the kick-off celebration participate in the orientation session.
3. That the parents and youth attending the orientation session are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities in making this year's initiative a success.
4. That 15 youth are recruited as a result of this community event.

CELEBRATION AGENDA

- Organization overview and project background.....Inez Coleman
Life Opportunities Inc. - Executive Director
- Overview of Team Mentoring Schedule & Theme.....Deon Cheston
Life Opportunities Inc. – Volunteer
- Comments from Co-sponsors, Community Partners & Concerned Citizens
- Steve Fitzgerald – Supervisor Teen Center of Pemberton Twp. Rec. Dept
 - Tegril Walls - Division of Youth & Family Service
 - David H. Jantas – Chief of Police of Pemberton Twp. Police Dept.

INTERMISSION (5 MINUTES)

- Overview of orientation for youth.....Ethel Clegg
Life Opportunities Inc. – Board President
- Overview of orientation for Parents and Community.....Judy Jiles
Life Opportunities Inc. – Board Member
- Closing Comments.....Inez J. Coleman
Life Opportunities Inc. – Executive Director

*“Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life.....
rather the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed.”*

Booker T. Washington (1856-1915)

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TEAM YOUTH INITIATIVE SCHEDULE & OVERVIEW

The Team Youth Initiative will meet twice a month at the BMIA building at 40 Arbutus Street - Browns Mills, N.J from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. During each two hour session, time will be allotted for the following:

- Eating a healthy snack
- Beginning homework and tutoring sessions (if needed)
- Presentation

The following is the tentative schedule and overview for each presentation:

January 11, 2011.....Team Youth Initiative Kick-Off Celebration.

Overview:

To introduce the Team Youth Initiative as a pilot project to youth, parents, community leaders and concerned citizens. The kick-off will serve as an opportunity to:

- Introduce Life Opportunities Inc. to the community
- Give Mission and Purpose of Team Youth Initiative
- Recruit youth participants, mentors & volunteers

January 25, 2011.....Speaker: Steve Fitzgerald (Pemberton Township Recreation Department)

Overview:

This first session will focus on peer leadership; self esteem development and communication skills.

February 8, 2011.....Speaker: Burlington County Sheriff Department-Gang Awareness Unit

Overview:

This session will focus on how peer pressure is impacting our youth in the community.

February 22, 2011.....Speaker: NAMI (National Alliance of Mental health of New Jersey)

Overview:

This session will focus on mental health issues and how we can help individuals and families in our community who are affected by mental illness.

March 8, 2011.....Speaker: Joseph D. Conlin (Prevention Plus of Burlington County)

Overview:

This session will focus on promoting a healthy lifestyle. We want to develop awareness among our youth concerning the dangers and long-term negative effects of drug and alcohol use.

March 22, 2011.....Speaker: Megan McCann (TD Bank)

Overview

This session will also focus on financial literacy for youth. This session is entitled “*The Do’s and Don’ts of Finance*”.

***“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically
... Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.”***

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.(1929-1968)

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TEAM YOUTH INITIATIVE SCHEDULE & OVERVIEW

April 12, 2011.....Speakers: Aleshia Alston (Ignite Change Organization) & Christine Roberts (Kids Against Bullying, Gangs and Violence)

Overview

This session will also focus on how peer pressure and dating violence impact our youth. The more our youth are informed the better choices they make.

April 26, 2011.....Speakers: Lenox Fourdice & Deondra Rhodes (Verizon Volunteer)

Overview

This session will focus on promoting entrepreneurship and working in the corporate world. We want to inspire self-sufficiency in our youth and expose them to alternate career paths.

May 10, 2011.....Speaker: Trina Stackhouse (The Dreamer's Little Black Book)

Overview:

This session will focus on "Goal Setting". Students are more apt to get better grades and score higher on their test and are more successful in life when they are focused and have something to work towards. This session will also teach the youth participants how to prioritize and take personal responsibility for their choices.

May 24, 2011.....Speaker: Paula Redmond (Pemberton Township Recreation Department)

Overview:

This session will focus on providing our youth participants with the tools and skill sets that are necessary when looking for employment. The Facilitator will cover the following topics: How to interview for a job, how to write a resume, and how to dress when going for a job interview.

June 14, 2011.....Speaker: Burlington County Health Department.

Overview:

This session will focus on promoting healthy life style. We want to develop awareness among our youth concerning obesity and the long-term damage of smoking and other activities that are not conducive to a healthy lifestyle.

June 28, 2011.....Speaker: Michael Ritter (Department of Corrections - Project Pride)

Overview:

The youth are invited to listen to juvenile inmates tell their stories and answer questions about "life behind bars" and the importance of making good choices.

July 9, 2011.....Community Picnic 12pm to 4pm

July 10, 2011 – August 10, 2011.....Program Evaluation Period

Overview: During this period, the Life Opportunities Staff and Community Partners will evaluate the success of the program.