

YOUTH NEWS

National Youth Sports Program

Over 180 youth throughout the region attended the five week National Youth Sports Program at Marshall University. Each week students were taught skills relating to various sports such as softball, baseball, soccer, swimming, track and field, golf, basketball, and football.



Along with learning sports skills, students also attended weekly classes taught by Christy Mulligan and Bill O'Dell on the dangers associated with alcohol, drugs and tobacco.

ARTWORKS

Twelve students enrolled in Operation Right Choice completed their eleventh Artworks project. Artworks is a partnership between the Huntington Housing Authority and the Huntington Museum of Art. Each student created their own Japanese Screen.

Under the leadership of artist Ann Silverman and Youth Programs Specialist, Christy Mulligan, students worked for two weeks on designing and making their own screen from raw materials such as grass, leaves and flowers.



The wooden frames were made by students in the Cabell County Youth Empowerment Program, (Misty Holderby, Justin Estep and Johathon DeBerry).

A Sad Good-bye -

Christy Mulligan, who has served as the Youth Programs Specialist for the past ten months is leaving. She has been accepted at the Marshall School of Medicine. She was one of 80 students selected out of a group of 400 who applied. Thanks Christy for all you did to impact our youth. Good Luck in medical school!

ORC/TACS Youth Attend State Tobacco Prevention Conference

Seven teens from Operation Right Choice and Teens Against Cigarettes and Snuff represented Cabell County at the WV RAZE Teen Tobacco Prevention Conference at the University of Charleston, June 12-14.

These teens joined with over 200 teens from across the state of WV to celebrate their accomplishments over the past year as well as to get pumped and rejuvenated for the fight against big tobacco companies in the upcoming year.

The Cabell County Youth Tobacco Prevention Chapter was one of the most productive chapters in the state. In 2005, these teens conducted over 2000 commotions (presentations) on the dangers of tobacco use throughout our region.

They also represented the state of WV at the Kentucky Teen Tobacco Prevention Conference at Morehead State University last May.

Last year alone, tobacco use among teens in WV dropped 34% due in large part to the efforts of these teens sharing with their peers the effects tobacco use has on their bodies.



During the three-day conference, the group attended a WV Power baseball game and shared information on the dangers of tobacco with those in attendance.

They hosted a memorial wall where people were invited to write the names of friends and family they knew who had died or were suffering due to tobacco related-illnesses on a card and place them on the wall.

Fans were also invited to share their comments about tobacco by writing them down and hanging them on a chain link fence.

Several times throughout the ballgame, RAZE members conducted commotions on the field and in the stands while facts about tobacco were announced over the public address system.

The Cabell County Tobacco Prevention Chapter plans on being as active if not more active this year in the fight against big tobacco companies at area sporting events, dances, parades, community events and in the local schools.

Those ORC students who attended the event along with Tim White, adult advisor, were Ja'Leeza Canada, Bianca Canady, Larry Webb, Cierra Stubblefield, Rosetta Tillet, and Cynthia Nicholson.

