LATEST ARTWORKS PROJECT DEDICATED

On Thursday, July 2, at 6:30pm a public unveiling and dedication ceremony was held on the east lawn of the Cabell County Courthouse for the eighth ArtWorks project completed by students in the Operation Right Choice Program.

This project was entitled "Windows" and consisted of 24 panels measuring 8 feet by 10 feet and mounted in the south and west side of a four story building on the corner of Fourth Ave. and Eighth St.

This was by far the biggest and most detailed project completed by these students. Each student was responsible for creating two panels depicting something that represents the past and something that represents the future.

This project began back in January and students spent eight Saturdays in January, February and March designing and working on the project under the leadership of Artist Sabina Hague and Tim White.

Those students who participated in the project were Paul and Russell Bailey, Whitney Hodges, Katelyn Clay, Josh Clark, Brent Walls, Ja'leeza Canada, Teresa Canady, Britney Jenkins, Jaytese Westmoreland, Rosetta Tillet, Megan Miller and Michele Day.

Congratulations to these students for another job well done. Thanks for all you do to brighten up our community through art.

ORC Students Serve as Staff at Day Camp

HHA is proud of Joshuawa Clark and Larry Webb, two students in Operation Right Choice who worked as camp counselors for the Huntington City Mission's Day Camp. These young men are only 14 years old, but have decided in their young hearts to help make a difference in the lives of other youth.

Josh and Larry helped supervise the children who attended the day camp at the pool, park, and numerous other activities. They learned a lot on how to manage children's disagreements and helped the children pass their swim test. They commented that working at the camp has been a learning experience for them both. They will also be counselors at the City Mission's Over Night Camp during July 26 through July 30th which was held at Camp Mad Anthony Wayne.

ORC STUDENTS HOST RAZE ON THE WAVES

Last June and July, ORC members who were involved in TACS - Teens Against Cigarettes and Snuff hosted tobacco education and prevention tents at Dreamland Pool and Waves of Fun in Hurricane and the A.D. Lewis Pool in Huntington.

Over 1500 people we able to see and hear demonstrations and information about the dangers associated with tobacco use.

TACS members demonstrated the effects of tobacco as well as showed others some of the 4,000 harmful cancer causing chemicals big tobacco companies put in cigarettes and snuff.

Two of the more popular demonstrations are "Smoking Sue" and the real lungs.

Smoking Sue, demonstrates how a woman who smokes during her pregnancy increases the chances her baby will be born premature, have under developed lungs, have asthma or breathing problems.

ORC STUDENTS PRODUCE TV COMMERCIAL ON UNDERAGE DRINKING

34% of 15-20 year old drivers in WV killed in motor vehicle crashes during 2000 had been drinking - 36% in the nation.

Underage drinking is widespread in the United States. Approximately 13,212,000 underage youth in the United States drink each year. In 2001, according to self-reports by United States students in grades 9-12:

- 78% had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more days during their life.
- 29% had their first drink of alcohol, other than a few sips, before age 13.
- 47% had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more occasion in the past 30 days.
- 30% had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row (i.e. binge drinking) in the past 30 days.
- 5% had at least one drink of alcohol on school property on one or more of the past 30 days.

In 2001, underage drinkers consumed 16.2% of all alcohol sold in the United States.

Last June, six ORC students were contracted by the WV Prevention Resource Center to write, produce, and star in a TV commercial targeting underage drinking.

Students were KiaRon White, Randy Pleasant, Katelyn Clay, Whitney Hodges, Ja'leeza Canada and Paul Bailey. Tim White served as chaperone and advisor.

Their commercial focused on the fact that a person has to be 21 to purchase alcohol in WV. Most youth under the age of 21 get their alcohol from adults; either their parents or other adults who are willing to buy it for them. Their commercial was as follows; the students were carded at the store so Randy called, his uncle, KiaRon, who gave the group beer. Randy was the designated driver so he did not drink but the others drank so much that Paul got sick and threw up in Randy's new convertible (Tim's car). This distracted Randy and he did not see the young girl (Katelyn Clay) crossing the street. Randy hit her and killed her. Even though Randy did not have a drop of beer he was arrested and charged with vehicular manslaughter.

Channel 13 News came and did a story on the group and aired it on their 5, 6, 7 and 11 o'clock news. The commercial will begin airing on TV in September so look for our students to be on TV and battling on underage drinking.