

## Youth Programs

Andrea Gilman, Youth Programs Coordinator

### Operation Right Choice

**Marcum Terrace—(Sports Center) Mondays 5pm**

**Northcott Court—(Community Room) Wednesdays 5pm**

The Operation Right Choice (ORC) classes will continue throughout the summer. Teens between the ages of 11-18 are encouraged to attend. If you need transportation, please call 522-0576. Come and join other youth for a summer of fun activities and great

### ArtWorks

The fourteenth ArtWorks project entitled “Turning Pages, Changing Faces” was unveiled to the public in April. It is on display at the Cabell County Public Library. The next Artworks Project will be held Monday - Friday, July 30 - August 10. Artworks is open to any teen who participates in Operation Right Choice.



### PRIDE Conference



Ten of our ORC students and two staff members received scholarships to attend the National PRIDE Conference which took place April 11-14 in Charleston. Over 4,000 young people from across the nation and other countries attended this event. Our team facilitated a workshop on building strong adult/youth partnerships.

Our team has been invited to teach the same workshop at the WV Faces of Leadership Conference in Charleston this July.



ORC students have a busy summer planned with the WV RAZE conference in June, Faces of Leadership in July and Artworks in July and August they will stay active and involved in making their neighborhood, community, state and region tobacco, drugs, alcohol and violence free.

## Middle School Teen Institute

Our teens were very busy planning the last Middle School Teen Institute which took place April 19-21 at Asbury Woods Conference Center, 10 miles south of Huntington. The theme: R.I.O.T.

Responsible Individuals Of Tomorrow. Over 100 students and adults attended this two-night, three-day student leadership training retreat.

Each teen was placed in one of four posses; Eastside Leaders, Westside Leaders, Northside Leaders and Southside Leaders.



Each posse was then challenged to create their own step dance, cheer, skit or song and perform it at the end of the conference.

One of the highlights of the conference was

having the national award winning Power Team with us. They broke baseball bats with their bare hands, blew up hot water bottles until they burst. They tore entire phone books in two and smashed stacks of cinder blocks with their arms. They then shared with the students how drugs, tobacco and alcohol would make them weak and would interfere with them reaching their goals and dreams.



## Teen Issues Day

Saturday, May 19th was the second annual Teen Issues Day at Ritter Park. It was held in conjunction with the anniversary of the quadruple murders of Michael Dillon, Megan Poston, Donte Ward, and Eddrick Clark who were murdered on May 22, 2005.



The day started with the dedication of the Hope House, 1410 Charleston Ave. the site of the murders. From there a walk for Justice took participants from the Hope House to Ritter Park for Teen Issues Day. Throughout the day people enjoyed

interactive games, received valuable information about the dangers associated with tobacco, drugs, alcohol, and violence.

The day ended with a candlelight vigil to honor the four teens.

