

ROSS Program Update

This month has seen the ROSS program continue into its first full month of operation. The program has had many successes during this month as we developed the self confidence of the students. The students began to go participate in building of the Huntington Habitat for Humanity house 148 Oney Road. The students learned various things while working on that house including: stumping of ceilings, staining trim and doors, insulating pipes, building concrete forms, seeding grass and painting. The highlight of going over to the Habitat house is getting to know the home owner who happens to live at Marcum Terrace with her 3 children. She has encouraged the students to continue their work in the program and that they have the power to get out of public housing and become self sufficient.



Other activities during this month is the students learning how to become, what I call, self empowered. The students began a week long process to learn how, with very little money, to start a small business and make money in order to become self sufficient. They demonstrated their learning by brainstorming ways in which they can use their own skills, gifts and abilities to not only help themselves but also to meet the needs of others. One student's idea was to start her own hot dog business, another wanted to make candy, and another made gift baskets and a doll bed out of a shoebox. Also, a guest speaker, Teresa Killen, came in and taught the students how to get started in the candle business for next to nothing. She also helped them make their own scented candles and each student made 2 candles for their own use.



Another part of the program is the students' participation at the Huntington School of Fine Woodworking. The students have been working on various woodworking projects. Several students are making cutting boards, one is making a tic-tac-toe board, another is making praying hands and finally another student is making a coat rack for her kids to hang their coats on. One student, Carmon Mills, said it best about her cutting board, "I didn't know I could make something like this, I really didn't think I could make something so beautiful!"