

YOUTH PROGRAMS UPDATE

Students enrolled in Operation Right Choice have been very busy this summer with various leadership events and training opportunities.

WV RAZE ON

In June they attended the WV RAZE ON Conference at the University of Charleston. Over 350 teens from across WV attended this two-night, three-day tobacco education/prevention conference.



Students attended workshops and participated in activities designed to teach and empower them to understand the dangers associated with tobacco use and to share that information with others.

Their efforts have paid off. Over the last five years, tobacco use among WV teens has decreased by 43%. Last year our group facilitated over 500 tobacco prevention/education commotions throughout the region.



YOUTH TRANSFORMATION INSTITUTE

Also in June those students who served as Youth Staff for the Region II Middle School Teen Institutes and members of Cabell PRIDE attended a two-night, three-day youth leadership academy.



Along with participating in workshops designed to empower them to take on leadership roles in their school and community, the teens got time to hang out and have fun swimming and roasting hotdogs and marshmallows by the campfire.



WV GOVERNOR'S FACES OF LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Back in January of this year, youth in Operation Right Choice were asked to help plan the Youth Leadership Service Academy for the WV Governor's Faces of Leadership Conference which takes place every July in Charleston.

Teens from across WV were invited to this conference to learn how to incorporate service-learning projects in their community.

Members of Operation Right Choice facilitated two workshop. One on the Power of Caring Adults and one on Artworks.



On Wednesday afternoon during the WV America's Promise Awards Luncheon, Joseph Riner was asked to speak on the power of caring adults in his life. He did an excellent job and received a standing ovation. Many in the crowd were moved to tears by what he said. After his speech, First Lady Gayle Manchin asked Joseph to sit at her table so she could get to know him better and hear more about all the wonderful things he is involved in with his church and community.

The conference ended with all youth participating in one of five service learning activities. Our group chose to go to Cato Park and help build walking paths through the forest.

Youth Sponsor Car Wash



On Saturday, July 19, members of Cabell PRIDE sponsored a car wash to help raise money for summer activities and to attend future conferences throughout the region.

Through their efforts they were able to raise over \$250. We want to thank Auto Zone for donating the water and washing solution and to all the folks who stopped

by getting their car washed or to make a donation to the cause.

If you are a youth between 11 and 17 years of age and want to join Operation Right Choice call Andrea or Tim at 522-0576.

OPERATION RIGHT CHOICE STUDENTS GRADUATE

After twelve long years of hard work, home work, and effort, two ORC students successfully completed all requirements to graduate from high school.

Bianca Canady

Bianca has been involved in Operation Right Choice for over five years. She has participated and attended weekly classes focusing on drug, tobacco, alcohol, and youth violence education and prevention.

Bianca also participated in Artworks, RAZE, TACS, and was a member of Cabell County PRIDE Team.

Bianca served three years as a youth staff member for the Region II Middle School Teen Institute and attended the Region II RAZE ON and WV statewide RAZE ON.

Bianca currently is volunteering her time to coach sports at the AD Lewis Community Center and plans to enroll in college in the fall.

Congratulations Bianca for graduating high school and good luck in all your future endeavors.



Brent Walls



Brent enrolled in Operation Right Choice over six years ago and was very active in all aspects of the program. Brent also attended weekly classes on drug, alcohol, tobacco and youth violence prevention and education.

He too participated in Artworks, RAZE, TACS and attended the WV Teen Institute for two years.

Brent was involved in the JRROTC program at Huntington High School.

Brent received metals and award pendants for many of his accomplishments while attending Huntington High School.

Brent works at Golden Corral as a waiter and has been awarded scholarships to attend WVU in the fall.

Congratulations Brent on your hard work and all your accomplishments. Good luck in the future with all your endeavors.