

**Youth Programs  
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**Operation Right Choice**

**Marcum Terrace—(Sports Center/Teen Center) Wednesday 5pm**

**Northcott Court—(Community Room) Fridays 4pm**

The Operation Right Choice (ORC) classes are continuing within the housing communities. So far we had approximately 10 new ORC students actively participating in the ORC classes. Additionally, we have close to 15 former ORC graduates still active in our youth programs and still involved with ORC. The teens involved in ORC are very active in making their schools, neighborhoods, and communities' drug, alcohol, tobacco, and violence free. The All Stars material is still the primary curriculum with corresponding activities integrated with it. The students respond well to the worksheets and really enjoy the related activities. The Operation Right Choice (ORC) program is beginning recruitment of new student for this spring schedule.



Three of our students, Krissy Keith, Cynthia Nicholson and Jewel Webb competed in a dance-off contest and Jewel Webb won a free gift certificate to CiCi's Pizza. They had a lot of fun and hopefully we can make it to another game.

Ten ORC students were able to attend the first Huntington Hero's football game to celebrate all their accomplishments. Free tickets were provided by Tiffany Crum, the choreographer for the Huntington Hero's dance team and for this last ArtWorks project. The students were able to eat snacks, cheer on their team, and participate in half-time games.



## ArtWorks



The teens worked on several projects, all of which contributed to the final presentation. They made dinner plates out of clay; they printed T-shirts for the recipients to wear; they made hand made paper for invitations; they cooked two full course meals with desserts; and they helped choreograph and learn a short dance number as a final performance.

The sixteenth ArtWorks project finished on March 8<sup>th</sup> with great success! The 13 participants explored a variety of art making processes, which was presented in a final presentation to a community group, the Pretera Center's Renaissance program.



All of these projects were facilitated by surrounding area artists and the participants had a fantastic time. Once again, they did a great job and we are all very proud of them.

## Middle School Teen Institute

We held our last MSTI planning meetings this month and are very excited about getting this upcoming T.I. under way. We had approximately 15 former and current ORC students interested in being youth staff and

facilitating different workshops at this teen institute. The students decided on the theme "Flip the Scrip" and to focus the decorations toward Hollywood and the media. The colors will primarily be red, black, and white. The students came up with some great ideas. We are holding our first formal dinner and dance at this TI, including a red carpet. We are definitely going to "Flip the Script" at this up-coming teen institute, which is scheduled for April 10-12 at the Asbury Woods campsite.

## PRIDE Youth Program

Those students who joined the Cabell County Youth PRIDE Program held their last practice and meeting this month before they head to Cincinnati, Ohio for the National Youth PRIDE Drug Prevention Conference, April 2-5.



Students have been asked to perform an educational piece for the PRIDE talent show.

They will also be performing at the Middle School teen Institute, the WVAHA Spring Conference and also as an opening act for motivational speaker, Milton Creagh, at several schools in Huntington as well as at



a town hall meeting on drug prevention.

These students have been working collaboratively and diligently on a musical performance with the help of a volunteer choreographer. The performance delivers a positive message about hope and perseverance and is very inspirational.



Funding for uniforms, banners, equipment and travel expenses was made possible through grants and donations from the Governor's Safe and Drug Free Communities Grant, the Cabell County Substance Abuse Prevention Partnership and the Huntington Housing Authority.