



News Release

Russell M. Pry – Summit County Executive

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: August 25, 2009

Contact: Jill Hinig Skapin
Director of Communications
330-643-2627
jskapin@summitoh.net

County Executive Russell M. Pry's Youth Employment for Success Program Unveils Arts Enrichment Project, Executive Summer Work Corps

On Friday, August 21, 2009, County Executive Russell M. Pry's Youth Employment for Success (YES) Program sponsored an open house at the Summit Center, located at 140 East Market Street in downtown Akron. The event was held for the purpose of unveiling the program's annual arts enrichment project, as well as one of many work assignments completed by the Executive Summer Work Corps.

The art project featured cube-shaped, outdoor planters personalized for 11 YES worksites. The large flower pots were constructed and designed by YES program participants.

"This art project served as a creative outlet for program participants to communicate their appreciation to their worksites," stated YES Coordinator Lynn Parmentier. "Each planter features unique and colorful expressions of gratitude."



The personalized flower boxes will be gifted to the following YES program partners: Boys & Girls Club, Dee-Maret Care Center, Goodwill Industries of Akron, Joy Park Community Center, Kandy Kane Community Center, Lawton Street Community Center, Minority Behavioral Health Group (MBHG), Middlebury Manor, Project: RISE, Summit Lake Community Center and the Summit County Division of Animal Control.

The open house also provided parents, guardians and members of the community with an opportunity to view the clean-up, paint and repair work made to the Summit Center by the Executive Summer Work Corps: a segment of summer youth training and work experience program participants being managed by the Youth Employment for Success Program.

Participants proudly offered tours of a freshly painted multipurpose room, two restrooms and two classrooms. Similar updates were also made to the building's loading dock and second floor.

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In addition to upgrading the repair work made to the Summit Center, space currently being leased to the Akron Area Arts Alliance (AAAA), the Executive Summer Work Corps performed a wide array of work assignments at over thirty-five community-based organizations, including: Akron Urban League, All-American Soap Box Derby, Boys & Girls Club, East Akron YMCA, Goodwill Industries, Open M and The Salvation Army.



"They have assisted with the set-up at community events, cleaned, landscaped, painted, sorted donations at Goodwill and much more," added Parmentier. "Throughout the summer, it was a delight to see these youths mature and learn the importance of good work habits."

The Youth Employment for Success program provides academic support, leadership development, job skills training and subsidized employment to Summit County youth to help them meet their academic and career goals.

In addition to partnering with YES, in May 2009, the County of Summit also contracted with the following community-based organizations to facilitate the summer youth training and work experience program: Akron Public Schools, Akron Urban League, East Akron Community House and JOG Our Way Workforce Advocacy for Youth.

As a result, 900 area youth, ages 14-24, received paid work experience opportunities. Each participant worked 20 hours per week at \$7.30 per hour (minimum wage). American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) dollars were used to fund this youth workforce and training effort.

For more information on the Summit County Youth Employment for Success Program call 330-643-7886, or visit www.co.summit.oh.us/executive.yes.htm.

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