



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Youth Ambassador

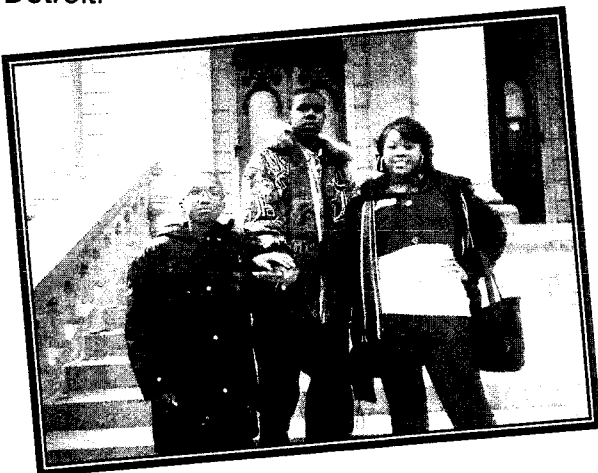
The Youth Development Institute (YDI) of the Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion Bureau of Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment and Recovery will launch YDI Youth Ambassador Clubs, in partnership with 27 prevention providers, throughout the City of Detroit this fall.

Youth Ambassador Clubs provide youth with a unique opportunity to make positive changes within their school, neighborhood and community. Youth are equipped with the necessary leadership development skills to conduct team meetings, advocate for change, make informed decisions, and create and implement initiatives/ activities that positively influence their peers and promote a drug and violence free message.

All YDI activities are peer led/peer driven initiatives. Adult Advisors serve as guides and support for youth initiated efforts to reduce violence, drug use, and bad decision making by youth. Youth Ambassadors positively influence their peers by:

- Acting as peer role models
- Using fine and performing art as an advocacy tool
- Creating messages that are meaningful to youth through activities and the use of social media tools such as Facebook, Myspace, YouTube and the online prevention community.

Youth Ambassadors are able to recognize the changes that need to occur in their environment to ensure the safety and success of Detroit's youth. Youth Ambassadors identify problems in their school, neighborhoods, and community that can have a negative impact on their development. They work with coalition members from the 12 sectors of the community to help create and change policies, develop service learning projects, educate and build community awareness, and participate in community outreach projects with the Partnership for a Drug Free Detroit.





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The Youth Development Institute uses Pride Youth Programs for training and resource information to build effective Youth Ambassador Clubs. Pride Programs focus on four activity areas to reduce violence, drug use, and bad decision making

1. Community Outreach
2. Community Service
3. Prevention Education
4. Drug and Violence Free Activities



1. Prevention Education- YDI Youth Ambassadors go through rigorous evidence based Life Skills training and drug prevention training throughout the year to ensure that they understand the dangers of drug use, health effects, and are equipped with the necessary skills to refuse drugs, set goals and make healthy choices. They use this training to create messages and positively influence their peers and the community.

2. Community Outreach- YDI has talent! Youth speak, dance, rap, sing, cheer, step, and act to promote their messages to peers and the community. High school youth make presentations to middle school students and middle school students present to elementary school students. Youth also reach out at local events through the DHWP/BSAPTR prevention provider network.

3. Community Service- YDI Youth Ambassadors care about the community and others. Assisting in clean ups, serving dinners to homeless and elderly, tutoring younger students, and coordinating efforts to raise money, food, or clothing for others in need is an important part of youth development.

4. Drug Free Activities- Movie Nights, Carnivals, Conferences, Skating Parties, and other fun activities keep kids off of the streets and engaged in positive activities attended by other positive youth. YDI Youth Ambassadors plan, promote, and attend drug and violence free activities that youth

