



The Skillman Foundation Presents

YAKTIVITIES FOR HELPING KIDS

Project Graduation

Detroit Parent Network Program Puts Kids on Track for College

Project Graduation helps parents or other caring adults develop a customized action plan to get their children in Grades 7-12 on the right track to graduate on time and enroll in college.

This free program targets parents and students in all six areas of The Skillman Foundation's Good Neighborhoods program through one-on-one counseling, community workshops, panel discussions and other informational programs in community-based settings.

Project Graduation has been under way for one year now, and Detroit Parent Network (DPN) has enrolled 142 parents and 168 students from the Foundation's Good Neighborhoods program.

Many of those same parents and students have attended Skillman Foundation workshops and forums throughout the year.

Achievements of Project Graduation

Detroit Parent Network does a lot of work in the community, but what matters the most is the impact its programs have on the lives of parents and students.

Here are some of Detroit Parent Network's achievements in the first year of Project Graduation:

DPN organized visits to 16 colleges in six weeks during the summer with more than 150



parents and students attending. Campuses toured in these visits included the University of Michigan, Wayne State University, Oakland University, Eastern Michigan, Michigan State and the University of Toledo. The visits were the first time many of the students had gone on a college tour.

DPN hosted a Back-to-School Bash at the Teen Hype Center at Detroit's main library. More than 50 parents along with 150 students came out to get information on Project Graduation. Parents had the opportunity to get a mini-massage and attend an hour-long workshop titled "How to Effectively Search for Scholarships." The youth hung out in the center and played video games, enjoyed karaoke and listened to a guest speaker from a local college fraternity, who spoke on college life.

DPN hired eight Project Graduation students to work with DPN over the summer. The youth helped plan the Back-to-School

Bash, did outreach work in six Good Neighborhoods, researched scholarships and helped with the college tours.

Scholarship Session Today

Detroit Parent Network knows that there are many parents and students who need help keeping on track for graduation and college. It believes strongly that it is essential teens graduate from high school and go to college if they want to compete in the work force and be successful.

To help parents get the information and help they need to ensure their children graduate from high school, a community scholarship initiative will be held from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. today (October 23) at Rock Financial, 577 E. Larned, Detroit. The meeting will educate the community on local scholarships that are available to all students. For more information, please call Phylcia Allen at 313.309.1457.



If you are interested in Project Graduation, please contact Shannon Perry at 313-309-1458 or email at sperry@detroitparentnetwork.org.

TALK ABOUT GRADUATION

Nothing contributes more to a student's future success than graduating from high school. A high school diploma is necessary for getting into college and for getting better jobs as an adult. Staying on track to graduate requires strong character, self-discipline and a willingness to work to achieve goals. As a family, talk about the qualities that give each student in your family strong character. Then brainstorm ways each student can use his or her strengths to stay on track to graduate from high school and go to college.

