

Empowering Youths to Make a Difference in their Community

By Syeita M. Rhey

A team of youths dedicated a portion of their summer to serving non-profit organizations within their communities. They underwent training in designing websites through Cayasco Academic Achievement Program or (CAAP) Summer Program hosted by Capital Community College and presented by CAYASCO. These 6th-10th graders completed this fast pace demanding course within a short period of time and were able to successfully design websites for the two volunteered organizations: *North End After-School Program (NEASP)* and *International Foundation for the Exoneration of Marcus Garvey*. The program served predominately Hartford students but was open to the Greater Hartford Area. Students from Windsor, Bloomfield and Hartford worked collectively to develop tailored websites for NEASP and International Foundation for the Exoneration of Marcus Garvey. The program taught writing, interviewing, web developing, and presentational skills while also fostering creativity.

The students' combined efforts paid off when they recently presented their sites to the Executive Directors of the organizations on Thursday, August 30th who greeted the results with satisfaction and gratitude. Michael Gordon Executive Director of NEASP commented, "CAYASCO, is the foremost young adult organization that has been seeking out small community organizations like ourselves and enhancing us into the 21st century." Distinctions were celebrated during the Award Ceremony; Shonchunise Currey obtained the highest score for writing skills and CAAP's Apple Ipad recipient Mario Foster was presented with the highest honor of Outstanding Achievement. All participants in the program received certificate of completions and free movie tickets courteous of Crown Theater. The student's hard work will be available soon for viewing at the following web addresses... NEASP: <http://www.neasp.com> and International Foundation for the Exoneration of Marcus Garvey: <http://www.marcusgarveyfoundation>.

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