

# CAC NEWS



Children & Charity International Newsletter: Volume 9 Issue 1

2016 - 2017

## ‘STEM’ERS Continue to Shine

During the past two summers, two hundred, twenty (220) District youth, 16-21 years old, joined Children & Charity International (CAC) at five worksites for their summer work readiness experience. Youth engaged in a variety of enrichment activities like, exploring STEM; tutoring; peer mentoring; job training; leadership, life, and work readiness skills; financial literacy; drug awareness and prevention; and cosmetology techniques. Forty-five (45) primary students, K-8, also participated in six weeks of STEM-based activities that included math, science, technology, reading, and creative arts. Engagements from

June to August included:

—Youth in STEM sessions were challenged to perform by junior engineers, and computer scientists from Carnegie Mellon, Spellman, University of Maryland College Park, and three NASA Swarmathon student instructors from University of the District of Columbia. All youth had opportunities for creativity and innovation. One group of youth built and programmed robots that competed with each other in a Megabot showdown. The math group created apps that provided measurements of structures, and solved mathematical problems using algorithms. The engineering/computer science group created a functional Face recognition software program from scratch, and

programmed a mechanical car to operate using any smart phone. They also built bridges, rockets, and a double rollercoaster.

—Youth visited the USDA Student Discovery Garden in Beltsville Maryland where they learned about civic engagement and social entrepreneurship. They were taught sustainable and organic agricultural techniques and how to apply them to an urban setting. Youth explored the garden and participated in lectures about the importance of food research and gardening in the city. Together they harvested vegetables and herbs before departure.

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### Structural Exploration



### Megabot Showdown

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Teamwork was vital for this engineering project.

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*“I really did not think this STEM thing would work for me, but you made me a believer. I know now that I am going to college to pursue a degree in computer science. Thank you Mrs. James.”*

- Rody

## ‘STEM’ERS Continue to Shine

—Youth visited the Patuxent National Wildlife Reserve, Maryland in August where they met with Park Rangers who shared information and gave contacts to youth that were interested in conservation, biology, or becoming rangers themselves. The group participated in a lecture, and toured the Reserve under supervision of the rangers.

— Youth received Financial Literacy and Money Management tips from the D.C. Department of Insurance Securities & Banking-Bank On DC. Students learned about the importance of budgeting, setting up accounts and saving

through banks and credit unions. They also learned about the difference between credit and debit cards and the impact of credit scores on people’s ability to get loans.

—Youth had exposure to arts and craft, and culinary techniques during Lift-Off Work Readiness and Skills Training segments. Interested youth honed life skills by knitting hats, creating vision boards, applying make-up tips, making floral arrangements and corsages, and cooking. Two youth that wanted to pursue culinary careers were challenged to prepare a meal to share with the group.

## Youth touring Wildlife Reserve.



Youth pose with completed Culinary Project

The two youth did an outstanding job creating a mouth watering and tasty meal.



Det. Thomas Jr. speaks to youth on drug awareness and prevention.

# SPOTLIGHT

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STEM youth wins Scholarship



Molding Thinkers Innovators And Builders For A Brighter Tomorrow



## A Message from the Director

“Children learn what they live, children live what they learn,” written by Dorothy Law Nolte many years ago, is one of the driving forces behind Children & Charity International intent to positively impact the lives of the students we serve in our Expanded Learning Opportunities: Year-Round Tutoring and Homework Help; Out of School Time Academic Enrichment; Mentorship; Summer Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); and Work Readiness and Skills Training Programs.

Statistics show that women in Washington DC make up 41% of the tech workforce—well above the national average of about 26 percent. This is an increase of 1.5 percent between 2014 and 2015, and is great news as Children & Charity International continues to offer STEM programs and ensure young women from the Washington DC area are included. In the last 2 years, 13 CAC students received the Mayor’s Outstanding Youth Awards and 5 youth received \$2,000 each from the 2017 Mayor’s Opportunity Scholarship.

Education empowers individuals to find solutions, improving not only themselves but lives around them. Over the past 2 years CAC impacted many lives - 1,400 K-12 students and families in the Greater Washington DC Area; 250 in Haiti; 120 in Trinidad and Tobago; and 1,200 in four African countries. We plan to continue our efforts.



## Year-Round Opportunities

During the school year K-8 students received homework help, enrichment and tutoring in mathematics, reading, science, and technology. Students practiced math and reading skills using Scripps, and Nettekker software. Spelling Bee competitions highlighted students’ capabilities and potential that with a little effort they can achieve great success. Students also received social interaction through music, art, dance, and drama.



## STEM Educators Visit CAC



Ninety-six (96) STEM Educators from the Busan Metropolitan City Institute for Gifted Education of Seoul Korea visited Children & Charity International (CAC) Summer STEM Program in July 2017.

## Contact Us

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Children & Charity International (CAC) is a USA registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.

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## Ongoing Humanitarian and Relief Efforts



Children & Charity International continues its humanitarian mission and disaster relief efforts. We support people affected by earthquakes and hurricanes with supplies and support. We have assisted during Hurricane Katrina 2005, Ike 2008, Sandy 2012, and now Harvey 2017. Today we continue medical mission trips to provide free clinics for children and elderly people that cannot afford to pay for treatment.

CAC also supports the Take Heart Association Project (THAP) in Kenya that provides pre-op and post-op care for patients suffering from heart diseases in Kenya; and continues its quest to motivate children and youth to attend school by hosting special education projects in Ghana, Haiti, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone.

Lend your professional skills and expertise as lecturers/trainers in the US or join us on a mission trip. Visit the website for upcoming trips.

**All size tax-deductible Donations are welcomed!**