

# "We Speak"



## YOUNG LEADERS CONFERENCE 2008

While it was no where near as simple as the recipe states, the end result was definitely awesome. Schrendria Robinson of Clear Vision Seminars & Consulting made her vision for a youth leadership training conference a reality in August. Twenty-one youth, 11- 17 years old, learned how to be better leaders at school, home, and in the various organizations in which they are affiliated. Housed in the exclusive Capital City Club of Columbia, students were exposed to a different side of the business world. The view of the city was definitely an inspiration to the participants. One of them stated that it gave her the mind set that all of the world could be in the palm of her hand, and she just had to reach out and grab it. During the conference, the young leaders focused on four key topics: leadership, public speaking,

### Recipe for Success:

- 1 great vision
- 3 willing workers
- 4 days to work
- 21 motivated youth

Mix all ingredients together. Add a dash of exposure, a pinch of dedication, a cup of experience, and voila! You have yourself an awesome leadership camp.



Young Leaders Conference 2008

financial literacy, and entrepreneurship. These core subjects were taught using activities such as the Road to Success and Knowing Your Money, great speakers like Vince Ford, Judge Mildred Weathers-McDuffie, and Marcus Robinson; and excursions to sites such as the South Carolina State House where they toured the Senate and the House of Representatives Chambers; and Columbia City Hall where students had the opportunity to sit in on a City Council meeting, and were recognized by the chairman. Young Leaders proved, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that there is hope for our future. Everyone who attended this conference, young and old alike, experienced great growth as individuals, and more importantly, as leaders.

### Words From The President

What can I say? I had a vision. I spoke it. I wrote it and I or should I say WE worked the plan. And to see all of my expectations exceeded was phenomenal. I could not of hand picked a better group of young people to participate in the inaugural Young Leaders Conference. This vision was birthed out of my lack of mentorship, exposure and guidance once I decided to start my business and the infamous Ghandi quote, "Be the change you want to see." I decided that I could sit around and complain about what I did not have or sow into the lives of others and give them what I wish I had at an early age. I enjoyed getting to know every single participant. I enjoyed receiving compliments from adults who were so impressed by the group's good behavior and appearance. (Thank you parents). I enjoyed watching the participant's faces as they looked over the city from the 25th floor and began to dream and see a world of possibilities. Now all I can say is THANK YOU. Thanks to the Clear Vision staff, our guest speakers, those who accommodated us for field trips, the staff of the Capital City Club, our photographer, the parents, and most importantly, the students. Students, you were a perfect 10 and I look forward to working with each of you in the future. Finally, I want to thank my loving husband Marcus Robinson who stepped right in day two of the Young Leaders conference, assuring me that everything would go well while I drove to Georgia to attend my aunt's funeral. Thanks honey!! Until next time. . . Speak the Vision. Work the Plan.



# Young Leaders Speak Out!!

Young Leaders Conference From Their Point of View

## City Council Meeting

### What a Day

We sat in on a City Hall Meeting on Thursday, August 6. To my surprise, the meeting was actually okay until a certain gentleman came to the podium with all of his points. That was the point that it got kind of boring for me. Thankfully we left before I began to nod off. We loaded up the cars and went back to the Capital City Club. We heard a few speakers until lunch. Using the Black Pages, We found out how to contact people in the fields that we are interested in pursuing.

#### **Andrew Gates**

Thursday was good for the most part. We went to City Hall and watched people as they gave presentations to council members concerning things they felt needed to be fixed or changed in the city of Columbia. Some presenters were longer than others with what they had to say. When we returned, we had a 74-year-old speaker who just had a birthday. She talked to us about skills we will need to make it in life. She had us to write 10 things that young adults had to have. She was very good. I learned a lot.

#### **Xavier Bell**



## Court is Now in Session

On August 6, 2008, we had the Honorable Judge Mildred McDuffie come speak to us about the 10 skills that we need for life. She also told us about how she became a judge and about the various jobs that she has had. Another important thing that was discussed was how significant opportunities are, and how meeting new people could be a way to help your career. The 10 skills for life that I mentioned earlier are:

- 1) **Confidence**
- 2) **Motivation**
- 3) **Effort**
- 4) **Responsibility**
- 5) **Initiative**
- 6) **Perseverance**
- 7) **Caring- respect others feelings**
- 8) **Teamwork**
- 9) **Common Sense**
- 10) **Problem Solving**

Personally, I learned a lot from what Judge McDuffie told us. The main thing that I learned from her was to always have confidence in yourself no matter where you go, because she told us how she travels to different places and meet important people and she makes sure that she doesn't lose her confidence. Also, these qualities are what make a great leader for the present and future. So make sure that you try to keep all of these qualities for a lifetime.

#### **Shani Alston**



## Never Give Up

Mr. Ford taught us valuable lessons about life. He taught us to go for what we want and never give up, and to get jobs based on what we enjoy doing not just by what pays for our wants and needs. Mr. Ford shared some basic things we need to survive in life and be successful.

The first thing is to never give up. No matter what obstacles may come your way you should never give up. Always keep going and if it requires more effort, give it. Next, he taught us to respect our elders. He stated that the only way you will make it in life is to respect those that paved the way for you. He said if you can't respect your elders then you can't respect yourself or others. Finally, he told us to remember that misery loves company. Anyone that is miserable wants to bring down everybody else around them. They want you to be down and out just because they are. "A hard head makes a soft behind." Mr. Ford taught us a lot of helpful tips to survive in the world. He also challenge us with the biggest challenge there is, to never give up. Mr. Ford, I accept your challenge. Will you?

#### **Courtney Montague**



### Entries submitted by the following Young Leaders

Alicia Dixon, 16	Andrew Gates, 16
Ricki Blakeney, 14	Shani Alston, 17
Sharonda Pye, 17	Xavier Bell, 13
Courtney Montague, 16	Ciara Robinson, 16



## Express Yourself

### Don't Quit

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,  
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,  
When the funds are low and the debts are high,  
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,  
When care is pressing you down a bit,  
Rest if you must, but do not quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns,  
As every one of us sometimes learns,  
And many a failure turns about,  
When he might have won had he stuck it out;  
Don't give up though the space seems slow-  
You may succeed with another blow.

Often the goal is nearer then,  
It seems to a faint and faltering man,  
Often the struggler has given up,  
When he might have captured the victor's cup,  
And he learned too late when the night slipped down,  
How close he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out-  
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,  
And you never can tell how close you are,  
It may be near when it seems so far,  
SO stick to the fight when you're hardest hit-  
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.

-Anonymous

### African Doll

Hush my milkmaid, don't you cry.

You were born in fields of rye.

Fragile cream strained by blood,

Peanut butter chocolate soot,

Legs that never touch the ground,

Coffee stained by vintage tea.

Sing your tribal-feral song,

A spirit that aches for the seas.

First of fury, caress a child.

Never. Make. A sound.

Maya Bradford



### Be

Life is within you.

Just get out and grab it

Don't stick it in a box for dust to collect

You can be the one to make all the difference.

Be the first; not the last

Be the success; not the failure

Be who ever you want to be.

Don't you want to be like the millionaire?

Don't you want tot be like the doctor down the street?

Don't you want to be the one?

The more you dream, the more it becomes reality.

Be the dreamer, be the giver

Be the life that is within you.

Tiffany Woodard



## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### CG BEADZ

CG Beadz is a business formed by four young ladies; three of which attended Young Leaders Conference 2008. Courtney Montague, Sharonda Pye, Gabby Branche and Taliah Shabazz were awarded scholarships to attend YLC 2008 because they won the entrepreneurship business challenge at this years Upward Bound Session at

Benedict College. Courtney, Sharonda, and Taliah had the opportunity during this years conference to speak to the group about the ups and downs of starting a business. These young ladies started CG Beadz as a class project, but continue to do business; bringing in revenue for themselves. CGBeadz is a jewelry company,



specializing in handmade beaded, costume jewelry. CGBeadz has an inventory of made jewelry for purchase, or customers can order custom designed earrings, necklaces and bracelets. Jewelry can be made for any gender, age,

or occasion. Place your order today by calling Clear Vision Seminars & Consulting at (803) 333-0590!

**I AM A LEADER; NOT YESTERDAY, NOT TOMORROW.**



I expected greatness when I entered the Capital City Club on Aug. 4th for the Young Leaders Conference. My anticipations were met, and I was very appreciative of what the conference had to offer. Eventually, the Clear Vision Staff exceeded my expectations. The conference allowed an opportunity for the students in the Midlands to be great leaders. The Leadership Conference started as a program, but quickly became an experience for me. Although four days seemed far too short for my wonderful experience, we packed in public speaking, leaderships skills, financial management, games, fellowships, field trips, food, and a lot of LAUGHS!! What I value the most from the conference are the friendships that have developed. The relationships formed have the potential to last a lifetime. I've grown so much because of the Leadership Conference. I have opened my mind to a more innovative way of thinking. I now know what I can and will be in life. The conference has truly changed my life forever, and I am grateful for the time that I spent with the young leaders and the Clear Vision staff. I am definitely looking forward to the Young Leaders Club and what it will have to offer. I would recommend this program to all of those seeking to improve themselves as people and as leaders. I am a Leader; not yesterday, not tomorrow, but TODAY!!

**Alicia Dixon**

During the Young Leaders Conference 2008, directed by Clear Vision Seminars & Consulting, all participants were educated on the subjects of: youth taking the lead, financial literacy, youth entrepreneurship and public speaking. The conference provided me with life altering lessons that I will apply on a daily basis. This experience taught me the true qualities of an admirable leader. A leader is required to make decisions, take risks, and be the caretaker of their followers. Before this conference I was not aware of the quality and characteristics that a leader must exemplify, but after the Clear Vision staff educated us, I became aware of what a leader truly is. This experience showed me that success comes from being creative, taking initiative, and being assertive. We also were taught the traits that an entrepreneur must demonstrate. An entrepreneur must have independence, self-discipline, concentration, persistence, creativity, a business attitude, confidence, communication skills, and technical ability. I met many new friends that I still contact after the Young Leaders Conference, I have met better friends within 4 days than I have made within my 16 years of existence. I am thankful for the time I spent with the Clear Vision staff, and I would be glad to participate in a Young Leaders Conference held by Clear Vision Seminar & Consulting again.

**Ciara Robinson**

**R  
E  
F  
L  
E  
C  
T  
I  
O  
N  
S**

It's awesome to see young people coming together to better themselves. This is exactly what I witnessed during Young Leaders 2008. I am so proud of the work that was accomplished, and the lessons learned by the young people who attended Young Leaders Conference. It is my wish that the information not only stays with the participants, but that they spread it to other young people so leaders will emerge all over the state and beyond. To the Young Leaders, I'd like to say thank you for all your hard work, and dedication. Don't let your dream go untouched. Instead, do whatever it takes to make it a reality.

Remember, It's Possible!

Natalia McWhite,

Director of Youth Development



**THAT BUSINESS MINDSET**

Spending a week on top of the City at the Capital City Club, being exposed to successful African-American males and females, meeting business owners and entrepreneurs, and meeting young teens with goals and dreams, inspires me. It encourages me to have and keep that business mindset. This week was an extraordinary experience that I wouldn't trade for the world. I'm so blessed and thankful to have been a participant in Young Leaders Conference 2008.

We were required to dress business casual and I believe it gave us each a little more confidence and a little more pride about ourselves and the topics we spoke about. Having that business mindset, wearing business attire, and feeling like a business person has tremendous effects on someone's attitude. It sets us aside from the average teen to start with. You don't usually see young males in slacks, polo shirts, or collar shirts or young ladies in business skirts, suits, blouses and heels. That already tells us that we can be different and different isn't always bad.

This week, I never imagined that I'd be inspired to the point that I was. Looking out of the Capital City Club windows, overlooking the City of Columbia, I realized that I could conquer all of this if only I put my mind to it.

A lot of times, my grandfather says, "You can do it if you put your mind to it." And it sounds so old and played out but, Granddaddy is so right! I can do ANYTHING I've ever dreamed if I just focus and plan ahead. So I keep that business mindset along with financial literacy, entrepreneurial skills, and goals and dreams, I'll be successful beyond imagination! Thank you Clear Visions Seminars & Consulting for broadening my horizon and giving me the opportunity to want more, do more, and think more. This experience will not be forgotten! **Ricki Blakeney**