



YGAB

Grant Award Presentation 2007 and Youth Congress

The Youth Grant Allocation Board (YGAB) of The Community Foundation of South Alabama (CFSA) facilitated a public meeting on Sunday, April 29 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at its office on 212 St. Joseph Street during which YGAB held a Press Conference at 2:30 p.m. to announce their Grant Award recipients. With over 90 in attendance, Honorable Sam Jones, Mayor of Mobile, applauded the young leaders for their ability to go through the grant making process, come to conclusions and decide on a recipient. The Community Foundation's Vice President, Ron Melton, also extended his appreciation for the time and effort this volunteer youth board offered to serve their communities.

Composed of 24 sophomores and juniors from 14 public and private high schools in Mobile, Baldwin and Escambia Counties, YGAB was given responsibility by The CFSA to wisely allocate \$10,000 from the Undesignated Community Endowment for their initial year. With staff guidance, the students successfully used consensus skills to select a Human Service with Education Initiative with criteria consisting of programs within the three counties that motivated underprivileged children to learn, encouraged community involvement, provided mentoring and promoted self worth.

Several YGAB members talked about various aspects of the program. Kourtney Jackson spoke on the importance and impact of leadership in a community. Samantha Parrott talked about the mission of YGAB and summarized the meetings. Evan Howell told about the nonprofit organizations YGAB visited each meeting along with their missions. Elizabeth Cameron explained the grant process they were taught, and Kat Screven described the service projects in which the board participated.

YGAB reviewed thirteen grant applications and decided to fund two organizations. Mary Kate Hinton awarded a **\$5,000 grant** to Phyllis Harris at **Helping Hands Ministry Foundation of Mobile** for a new leadership pilot program for the recruitment, education and training of African-American teens to become peer leaders within their schools and communities to educate and promote awareness of HIV/AIDS and its effects within the teenage population, increasing opportunities for teenagers to make good choices about their lifestyle.

Brandon Pilot awarded another **\$5,000 grant** to Dr. Kathryn Coumanis of **Penelope House** to help fund part of the salary, benefits, and travel for the prevention education coordinator for their school-based abuse prevention education program.

The award presentation was followed by the convening of the first Youth Congress composed of representatives from area youth leadership/service programs in Mobile and Baldwin Counties. The purpose of the Youth Congress was to acknowledge and encourage engagement of area youth to benefit the greater good of our community. Delegates to the Youth Congress exemplify good citizenship through their responsiveness as active members in our community.