



By Tracie Paige, Jr.

TWP

Teens With a Purpose
THE MOVEMENT
 Changing the World One Teen at a Time!

Young and Inspired

TWP FORUM GIVES TEENS THE DRIVE TO SUCCEED

Teen help group TWP (Teens with a Purpose) seeks to empower the youths of Hampton Roads by making them aware of the opportunities available to them and helping to end violence and school dropouts.

On Nov. 14 TWP will conduct a forum called Metamorphosis, open to middle and high school students and parents/care givers. Through the session, TWP hopes to inspire change in the people who attend and help them overcome circumstances that may be preventing them from achieving excellence.

The event will feature true stories about real teens that have recovered from unhealthy experiences and are working to change their lives for the better.

NBC reporter Al Roker, on the TWP Board of Directors, will also be in attendance as the keynote speaker. Roker is heavily involved in the betterment of the teens in TWP. "He has connected with the youth in Teens with a Purpose," says Deirdre Love, who runs TWP. "This is his second time

he has visited with them. Our teens are really hard to forget and so easy to love. Mr. Roker believes in us and what we are doing. It is an honor to have him as our keynote speaker."

Ms. Love formed this group in the Hampton Roads community in 2007, after serving as a volunteer to youth for 15 years and as a coordinator for an HIV AIDS Youth



ministry with The Basilica of St. Mary. Her efforts to see the excellence in teens has even followed her home. Her son Richard "Andre" Love has joined her efforts to empower youth and has been a part of TWP since age 12. Richard is still an active member of TWP as a 19-year-old student at Norfolk State University.

The Metamorphosis forum will cover many pressing issues such as gang violence and dating abuse. There will be guest speakers, local talent, and local television reporters. The event will be held on Nov. 14 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Granby High in Norfolk. For more information on this event and the TWP Group visit www.twpthemovement.org.

TWP TESTIMONIALS

We asked the teens of TWP to describe the ways that the organization has helped them and why they would recommend it to peers.

"It gave me an opportunity to be a role model to young people."

Richard Andre Love, 19, Norfolk State University

"It's a great way to meet new people. It is informative but we also have a lot of fun. I have grown to love the members of TWP. I feel as if I have gained a family."

Tasia Thomas, 19, TCC

"TWP has greatly changed my life for the better. It has provided me with an outlet to express myself, not to mention given me a new set of friends."

Anthony DJ Holly, 20, Assistant Manager, Boston Market, Chesapeake

"A strong teen group that is trying to change the world."

Jayne Peterson, 19, Old Dominion University

"It has impacted my life in many ways ... we empower our fellow peers."

Paige Robinson, 19, Norfolk State University

"TWP is like a haven for youth. It is a place where you can learn to make good decisions."

Joseph Peterson, 16, Kempsville High

"TWP has impacted my life for the better. I am able to apply the information I have learned to everything, especially towards the future."

Chinyere Onyirimba, 16, Granby High School