



Teens With a Purpose

THE MOVEMENT

Changing the World One Teen at a Time!

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For Immediate Release

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Teens With a Purpose comes to the Peninsula!

Teens With a Purpose empowers and develops Youth on the Peninsula with new partners the Downing Gross Cultural Arts Center

Norfolk, VA – Teens With a Purpose (TWP) – The Movement expands reach and settles in Newport News at the Downing- Gross Cultural Arts Center, thanks to the invitation from Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center and Ms. Joanne Palmeira, Director of Programs. Teens With a Purpose will be holding an introductory Open Mic and the first TWP peninsula meeting in September. TWP is honored to partner with the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center, the prestigious, City of Newport News venue that houses the Ella Fitzgerald Theater that honors the "First Lady of Song".

Teens With a Purpose is a non-profit, youth development organization whose mission is to help empower young people to use their voices, their talent, their energy to effect positive change in their lives, the lives of their peers and their community. TWP creates a safe space for self expression for all youth. Youth members and peer leaders use their creativity to educate and entertain which are manifested through drama, positive music, poetry, performing and visual arts that encourage young people to make healthy life choices with a fresh and unique delivery.

Teens With a Purpose poetry team, **Hampton Roads Youth Poets (HRYP)** has used their talents to speak on international stage for the past five years during the world's largest youth poetry festival and competition, called Brave New Voices as seen on HBO. TWP **peer leaders**, facilitate a teen leadership & development summer camp funded by Norfolk Recreation, Parks and Open Space, called Camp Inspired which approximately served 120 Teens in 2012. The music team known as **Music Made Simple**, has written, produced and performed numerous songs encouraging healthy life choices, including a teen safe driving song used as part of a Drive Safe Campaign in partnership with GEICO and Drive Smart Virginia. TWP consists of a group of young leaders that edu-tain during community events throughout Hampton Roads; they conduct teen and adult workshops and volunteer and assist throughout the community. In 2012, Teens With a Purpose was awarded "Youth Volunteer Organization of the Year" by Volunteer Hampton Roads.

Teens With a Purpose **peer leaders** are trained to facilitate evidence and researched based interventions endorsed by: the CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and The Virginia Department of Health, divisions of violence prevention and sexually transmitted disease prevention. These interventions are developed specifically for young people addressing various topics including: bullying, dating violence, assertive communication skills/conflict resolution, and sexually transmitted diseases prevention & awareness.

TWP celebrates its 15th annual teen event this November, with No Holding Back. As always, this event is for, by and about teens. It is produced, directed and starring youth from Hampton Roads. The Teen event includes an electrifying theatrical presentation, workshops for parents and caregivers plus interactive teen workshops conducted from the stage of the Attucks Theatre with an encore planned for March at The Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center.

On Saturday, September 15th, TWP will host an introductory open mic called: **VIBES "the livest teen open mic in the 757"** 6-8pm at Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center! Then on Thursday, September 27th TWP will hold their **first monthly peninsula TWP meeting** where young people ages 12 – 24 will have the opportunity to learn more about Teens With a Purpose and get involved! During the meeting, people will have the opportunity to meet some of the peer leaders and adult mentors. Prospective members will be able to define their unique needs, wants and desires as future members of Teens With a Purpose. Parents are welcome to come out and meet with the founder, and Executive Director, Ms. Deirdre Love. This event will include original music, poetry and as always fun!

Please visit our website for additional information, www.TWPTTheMovement.org

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