



# Teens With a Purpose

## THE MOVEMENT

Changing the World One Teen at a Time!

Vivian C. Mason Arts & Technology Center | 700 E. Olney Road, Norfolk, VA 23504

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### CELEBRITIES, ARTIST, EDUCATORS, ATHELETS AND COMMUNTY LEADERS HELP HAMPTON ROADS YOUTH – MOVE FORWARD!

**NORFOLK, VA** - The local non-profit organization [Teens With a Purpose](#) held their annual fundraiser campaign on November 9th & 10th of 2012. The **2012 No Holding Back** campaign combined the [2012 TWP Gala with Al Roker](#) with the 15th Annual Teen Event: No Holding Back - A Multimedia Event! The advocacy work of Teens with a Purpose (TWP), a local youth development non-profit agency, has the support of community, government & political leaders. Many inspired leaders of Hampton Roads attended the Gala to celebrate local youth and raise money for the youth development agency, TWP. The Gala guests marveled at the compelling and talent driven presentations delivered during the Gala by TWP youth. Speakers and distinguished guests included **Al Roker** of the **NBC Today Show**, **Nicole Livas** of [WAVY-TV 10](#), **2012 Gold Olympic Medalist Francena McCorory**, the newly appointed **Dr. King, Superintendent of Norfolk Public Schools**, **Marcus Jones, City Manager** of Norfolk, **Joe Thomas**, Regional Vice President of **GEICO** Virginia Beach, Congressman **Bobby Scott**, Dr. Kirk Houston of the **Norfolk School Board**, Mrs. Jobynia Caldwell Assistant Superintendent, **High School Education in Virginia Beach City Public Schools** and Warren Harris, **Director of Economic Development for Virginia Beach**. This year marks **Teens With a Purpose** 15th year of serving Hampton Roads with teen programs that started as Teens With a Purpose, a youth AIDS ministry at the **Basilica of St. Mary of The Immaculate Conception** in Norfolk and later became Teens With a Purpose - the Youth Movement, a community based organization. TWP alumni dating all the way back to 1996 also attended the Gala and "After Party" featuring TWP alumni DJ Phillie from Hot 91.1 Radio.

The **2012 TWP Gala with Al Roker** main goal was to honor youth in Hampton Roads and their mentors who we consider as **Move Makers** - those who have beaten the odds and have triumphed over adversity, and to raise money to champion the **Teens With a Purpose** Mission: "We empower young people to change their lives, empower their peers and use their voices, their energy, their abilities to demonstrate the power to effect personal change, improve the lives of others and foster a more knowledgeable community that is more invested in both themselves and each other. Simply put, we help build happy, healthy youth today and outstanding leaders for tomorrow!" Two young winners are selected, one from the community and one from within Teens With a Purpose. The **2012 Move Maker winner** is Clara Huff, a young girl whose uses Art as her weapon, has been featured in the Brooklyn Museum and in a Manhattan Pediatric hospital. The **2012 TWP Move Maker winner** is Khayla Walker, a joyful positive spoken word activist who has overcome losing her African-born mother to an AIDS -related illness and being shuffled through the Foster Care system but used that pain and turned it into a springboard to educate her peers on HIV/STD prevention and awareness. Walker is also an advocate for helping youth in the Foster Care system. The top four runner-ups for each category were also honored because these youth all deserve the praise. Runner-ups included Mariah Smith, teen founder of **Blankets for the Homeless** who will be collaborating on a project with Teens With a Purpose this winter serving homeless teens. The awards were presented by a Move Maker in her own right, 2012 Gold Olympic Medalist Francena McCorory who is from Hampton Roads and a great inspiration to the youth here.

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Adult Move Makers were also recognized for their contribution to the Youth of Hampton Roads & TWP. The **2012 Adult Move Maker Awards** were presented to **Nathan Richardson**, an avid supporter of Youth & the arts, published Poet and Author who has been helping and supporting TWP for five years. The second winner was **Andrea “Ms. Blendz” Castleberry**, a pioneer in the local music scene, **DJ on 103Jamz**, and creator of a local award show highlighting artists from Hampton Roads area. Castleberry works with the **Music division of Teens With a Purpose**, advising and guiding the Youth as they make positive original music. The **2012 TWP Gala** also included a **live and silent auction** with a wide range of items, from **Lunch with Al Roker in New York**; tour of WAVY-TV stations’ studio, view live taping of show and **dinner with Nicole Livas**; live painting by Jade Andwele, VIP Tickets to the **Wendy Williams Show** with autographed swag and original photography from the 2012 Hear our Hearts Collection, an original Photography collection featuring or by Teens With a Purpose members.

The next day TWP held their 15th Annual Teen Event: **No Holding Back – A Multi-Media Experience!** On November 10<sup>th</sup>, **300** Teens, parents and volunteers gathered at the Crispus Attucks Cultural Theatre to participate in the original multi-media youth-led event. In addition to the talented youth from TWP, Youth were recruited from **Norfolk** and **Virginia Beach City Public Schools** to complete the all youth cast and crew. The production was hosted by Face of Fox 43 Ronda Arrington and included original drama, dancing, singing, poetry, stepping and a full band SoulStice Reb’L which includes TWP’s youth **Music Director Richard “Testimony” Love**. It also included the use of photography, video, sound clips to deliver an out-of-the box fresh and hip production that would resonate with young people. **No Holding Back** received community support and was funded by Norfolk Recreation, Parks & Open Space, GILBANE Building Company, Virginia Beach City Public Schools and Congressman & Mrs. Scott Rigell. At the event, TWP used peer-led activities and entertainment to address sensitive issues with teens including dating violence, suicide, and HIV/STD prevention and awareness during the closed –door break-out session. Over 60 parents participated in their own closed-door session, which was led by Tawana B. Fortune, M.A. Ed.S. **No Holding Back** included workshops, lunch, and ended with a curtain call mini-concert “With a Purpose.” Due to the huge success of the production, TWP will be producing a **No Holding Back** community tour, replicating and enhancing the performance at various venues in Hampton Roads starting at the **Downing-Gross Cultural & Arts Center** on March 2, 2013.

### About Us

**Teens with a Purpose** was developed in 1996 with a mission to promote abstinence and help build self-esteem through innovative programs for teens in the Hampton Roads area. Throughout the year, TWP hosts numerous events and programs to educate teens and Young Adults on HIV/STD Prevention and awareness, Gang Violence, Dating Abuse, Suicide, Teen Pregnancies, Distracted driving, Bullying and other life-changing issues facing today’s teens. Additionally, the organization utilizes evidence based curriculums and the arts to produce a fresh young take on these curriculums. TWP Meetings are held from **6pm-8pm on Mondays** at Vivian C. Mason Arts & Technology center for 700 E. Olney Road in Downtown Norfolk and **every 3rd Wednesday** at the Downing Gross Cultural Center on 2410 Wickham Avenue in Newport News. Teens With a Purpose headquarters are located at City of Norfolk Recreation, Parks and Open Space facility the Vivian C. Mason Arts & Technology Center. For additional information or to connect with us, go to [www.TWPTheMovement.org](http://www.TWPTheMovement.org) Facebook.com/TWPTheMovement Twitter.com/TWPTheMovement or call 757-747-2679

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