



# 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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### Out of the box Multi-Media Teen Production addresses REAL issues!

**NORFOLK, VA** - The local non-profit organization **Teens With a Purpose** held their annual teen event on November 10th of 2012. The 15th Annual Teen Event: No Holding Back - A Multimedia Event! premiered at the Crispus Attucks Theatre. 300 Teens, parents and volunteers gathered at the **Crispus Attucks Cultural Theatre** to participate, watch, or help with 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** this and was completely comprised of original drama, dancing, singing, poetry, stepping and a full band **SoulStice Reb'L** which includes TWP's youth Music Director Richard "Testimony" Love. The creative and innovative use of photography, video and sound clips delivered an out-of-the box fresh and hip production that truly resonated with young people.

This year's production took the audience on the multi-media journey of four "wanderers", young people who came to TWP searching for a place to belong, bringing with them their troubles, their talent and their potential to change. They confront lifes' obstacles head on, with **NO HOLDING BACK!** TWP's key vehicle for change, positive peer influence, is brilliantly demonstrated. Each segment of **No Holding Back** highlighted a different set of circumstances teens' face. It represented different roads to resolution, creatively played out in song, dance, drama, photography and poetry. Young audience members delighted in their opportunity for exposure to the arts while benefiting from an afternoon of youth empowerment.

**No Holding Back** featured two acts presented between interactive workshops between the Actors and the audience **WITH** games and prizes all designed to encourage young people to hold on to their dreams and to persevere regardless of the obstacles. Professionals such as Atumpan -The Talking Drums, Nathan Richardson, Andrea Castleberry and Allen Whitley, supported these Young Artist as they crafted this serious yet entertaining production.

The main message of **No Holding Back** was simple: to inspire youth to realize the power in a single step forward - **No Holding Back**. This production was a collaborative effort between the members of **Teens With a Purpose** and through school and community engagement with organizations such as Norfolk Recreation, Parks & Open Space, City of Norfolk Public Schools, and Virginia Beach City Public Schools. Young artists brought their artistic influence to the production and the result was an invigorating production with original and catchy music, dancing and **Spoken Word**.

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**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** address sensitive issues with teens including dating violence, diversity, and HIV/STD prevention and awareness on stage and during the closed -door break-out session. Over **60 parents** participated in their own adult session, which was led by Tawana B. Fortune, M.A. Ed.S. **No Holding Back** , lunch by Tropical Smoothie, 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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