

A Publication of
“Future Hope”
 A Youth Division of
 Family Restoration
 Project, Inc.

YOUTH ON THE MOVE

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What Does Your Future Hold ?

...A Word From The Editor

What does your future hold? Lung cancer from smoking or maybe you would prefer to go out in a blaze of “false” glory by being shot down in a gang related incident. Unfortunately most teens don’t think about their future when they get involved in these types of activities. Think about it, if someone asked you to come and join their crew, they may tell you how much fun it is and that you could get \$500 a night if you hang with them. Sounds good, right? But they don’t tell you that you may not reach the age of 21; or you may have to rape or kill someone; given that extra information would you really sign up?

It may have started with one cigarette when you were 14 years old and now you smoke 3-4 packs a day. You can end up dead leaving your kids in the foster care system. The truth is no one wants to end up like that. I see youth everyday with great futures. I see Doctors, Teachers, Lawyers and Business Men & Women. I imagine you being all that you can be; I wish that you could see this also.

I challenge whoever reads this newsletter to look in the mirror and ask yourself
WHAT DOES MY FUTURE HOLD?

Self Publish *Your* Book...

Always had a passion to write? Do you have ideas that need to be developed? Or maybe you just want to learn more about self publication. Well when you are ready Karen R. Ward can help you with all of that and more. Owner and Founder of Gracious Hands Company, Karen Ward holds two classes on book publishing and one of them is for youth ages 12 to 18. The price is only \$40 per person, however scholarships may be available for interested youth. The classes are held at **Mood Makers Book Store**, the only African American owned bookstore in the Western NY Region. Karen talks about everything you need to now about self publication of your book; from how to save your money to how to target your audience. Aside from doing these classes Karen Ward has been writing for 12



years and has self published 2 of her own books. Her first book was titled “The Kings Man”, and the second was “It’s All About School”, which is for youth. We interviewed a few youth after taking the class and they learned that not only did they like the class but some where inspired to write even more. They recommend the class to anybody who is ready to express themselves through written word. So if you feel like this may be for you, you can contact Karen Ward by calling 585-235-2976 or by email at KWgracioushands@yahoo.com

Karen Ward—Owner/Founder of Gracious Hands

ATTENTION!!

Youth On The Move is looking for submissions of poetry, event write ups, and art work for the upcoming editions of our newsletter.

We are also looking for writers and artists. If you are interested please contact La’Toya Coan via email:

Lady-T

@rochester.rr.com

Youth And Gang Violence

Youth And Gang Violence



Officer Moses Robinson and La'Toya Coan YOTM Editor.

On Friday, January 28, 2005 Youth Pastor Bernard McNeill, and Minister Solomon Cochran, invited Officer Moses Robinson to New Life Fellowship Church to give a presentation on Youth and Gang Violence to Joshua Generation (Joshua Generation is the youth ministry of New Life Fellowship Church). Moses Robinson is a Police Officer for the Rochester Police Department. In a very informative and interesting presentation Officer Robinson explained the dangers, and consequences of gang violence. A variety of people from ages 14 to older adults came out with the common goal of learning more about the rising threat of gangs in our Rochester community.

Who would have thought that you could get jumped or shot for wearing the wrong colors or wearing a bandana? Police Officer Moses Robinson is stationed at East High School and comes face to face with gangs and gang violence every day. Police Officer Moses Robinson talked at length about the history of gangs and gang violence. In fact when one of his students died from a gang related incident it made him study the history of gangs more in depth so that he could inform people about what signs to look for in their youth, their homes, and their communities. Originally from Philadelphia, Officer Robinson was a youth involved in at least 3 gangs, so he speaks what he knows and lived.



Minister Solomon Cochran, Police Officer Moses Robinson, and Pastor Bernard McNeill.

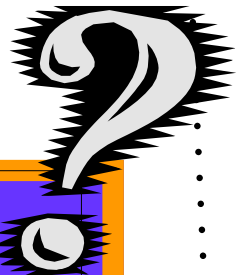
As it stands, gangs are recruiting and accepting kids as young as 9 years old. The media plays a major part in desensitizing our youth to violence. By the age of 18 years old youth have seen 200,000 dramatized acts of violence, and 40,000 dramatized murders. Youth become attracted to it and numb to it's consequences, making them prime targets for gang recruitment. Some examples of gang violence are: On April 24, 2003 in Red Lion, PA a 14-year-old kid killed his principal at a Junior High school, and then he killed him self. In New York City, on February 11, 2002 a 17- year old male high school basketball player was stabbed five times outside of his Bronx school by a gang of five male teens. Youth from ages 14 to 17 are committing the big crimes and getting serious time.

I asked Officer Robinson, " Why do most youth get involved in gangs?" His reply was, "most kids live in a rough neighborhood and have no choice... Some feel the need to belong somewhere; and some youth have low self-esteem". Gang violence is such a big issue in our country that John Kerry made it part of his Presidential campaign. John Kerry proposed a new \$400 million program to combat gang violence. Kerry said in a speech to a largely African- American audience at the National Urban League Convention, "I believe we must do more to give the youth in our cities and metropolitan areas alternatives to lives of hopelessness."



I want to thank Officer Robinson for his diligence and commitment to educating and helping the youth of Rochester!

QUESTION OF THE MONTH.



To learn more information or to get involved go to:

www.realitycheckny.com

Why are youth the target ?



Reality Check is a youth led movement from New York that informs youth about how the tobacco companies are targeting the youth to smoke. Reality check has 4 major goals. 1) To empower youth to lead the movement against tobacco. 2) To change the way youth view smoking and other tobacco produces. 3) To reduce the use of tobacco products by the youth. 4) To expose the truth about tobacco and the manipulative marketing tactics used by the industry to get the youth to smoke. The tobacco industry spends \$ 11.22 Billion a year just trying to get the youth to smoke. Hey, the tobacco industry doesn't want us to know that smoking kills more people, than Aids, Murder, Drugs, Suicides, Alcohol, and car crashes combined. Most teen smokers who want to quit are still trying to quit five years later. The ammonia in cigarettes makes the nicotine reach our brains quicker making us crave it more. We now know that tobacco kills 400,000 American smokers and 53,000 non-smokers through second hand smoke every year.



Reality check also talks about how they are working on the next steps of their campaign which is the Hollywood initiative. The "Hollywood and tobacco: Reality check strikes again" Initiative is designed to educate New York about the issues of smoking in movies and why smoking should not be in rated G, PG, and PG-13 movies. Reality check also says that they are demanding *that Hollywood stop pushing on the youth* for the benefit of big tobacco and big money. A scientific study of more than 3,500 youth found that 52% of the youth who started smoking during the two-year study were primarily influenced by the smoking they viewed in movies. Additionally, between 1999 and 2003, almost 80% of PG-13 movies showed tobacco use. Hollywood (the film industry) has worked with the tobacco industry for decades to make smoking socially acceptable by glamorizing it in movies. In the 90's, nine out of ten Hollywood films showed tobacco use every 3 to 5 minutes. Half of teen smokers may start because of smoking in movies—390,000 each year. Of these, 100,000 will die from tobacco related diseases.



On Saturday, March 5, 2005 the Monroe County chapter of Reality Check hosted a Teen Summit at the University of Rochester. This free event provided lunch,

entertainment, classes and information about youth being targeted by tobacco companies. Jessica Seaman, Samuel Seaman, and Ronald Spencer were in attendance representing Family Restoration Project, Inc., and are now ready to get involved in the fight to educate other youth about the targeting practices of the tobacco companies.



TobaccoFree



**YOUTH
ON THE
MOVE**

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**GET
INVOLVED!**

MAKE YOUR OPINIONS KNOWN !!!!!

SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES OF
INTEREST, WRITE-UPS OF
ROCHESTER EVENTS, POEMS, AND/
OR ARTWORK, TO "YOUTH ON THE
MOVE".

Submit materials via email:
youthonthemove@operamail.com
Or

Mail articles to:

Family Restoration Project, Inc.

360 Wellington Ave

Rochester, NY 14619

Attn. Youth On The Move

*** ATTENTION ***

All articles, pictures, poems, or
other materials sent to "YOUTH
ON THE MOVE" become the
property of "YOUTH ON THE
MOVE" and will not be returned.

Opinions stated in this newslet-
ter are not the opinions of
Future Hope, Family
Restoration Project Inc. or of
Youth On The Move, but of the
individual who submitted them.

"Youth On The Move" is a publication of "FUTURE HOPE", a
youth division of Family Restoration Project Inc.

FRP Mission

Family Restoration Project [FRP] is committed to the restoration,
reconciliation and well being of multi-cultural urban families in the
city of Rochester. To this end we have identified a need to focus on
producing holistic social, behavioral, and educational programs for
youth between the ages of 13—21yrs.

The purpose of this newsletter is to enlighten, share, encourage, and
highlight the achievements of Rochester's Youth.

Him

I see him

**I try to look away but something about him pulls
me back to his gaze.**

I step back with my eyes focused on him.

I don't think he knows the power he holds within.

**The power to make me laugh the power to make
me smile.**

This power he contains is so wild.

So I turn my back and walk away.

Someday I'll be able to return that same power.

Just not today.

By: Anonymous

Looking For A Job?

Try these websites:

snagAjob.com CoolWorks.com jobGusher.com gotajob.com

Jobdoggy.com groovejob.com teens4hire.com teenjobs.com

Or for youth summer employment information contact:

Catholic Family Center-CYO Department (585)454-2030

Action for a Better Community (585)325-5116 ext. 3400

Rochesterworks (585)258-3500