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clarence's corner **miracles happen**

THINGS ARE SURE BUZZING HERE AT the Vision Center and our staff is so excited. It's wonderful to see so many young people who really have a desire to learn.

We started our first Teen Tech Class of the year on February 1st and we had over 50 young people send in applications. But with only 25 computers in the lab, how could we accommodate all the students who wanted to come? We were blessed with computers from LeMoyne to award the first 25 students, and one wonderful sponsor – M&T Bank, but we couldn't turn away the other 25 who wanted to learn.

So, we stepped out in faith and believed God for 25 more computers and a sponsor for a second class.

Well, we had a call from our friend Kathy at LeMoyne and she said she could come up with 25 more. Miracles never cease here at the Vision Center. We started our second class on February 28th; this is the first time we ever did this.

We are so grateful for all the friends that God has given us here at Mercy Works who truly believe in what we are doing and want to help our young people.

These young people who enter through our doors are our future leaders. "Together we are making a difference!"



God Bless,

Clarence Jordan
Director of Development

Want to help?
Remember the Mercy Works
in your will. Ask us how!

Have a car you don't need?
Donate it to Mercy Works.
Contact us to learn more!

UPSTATE
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY



Mercy Works, Inc. is a 501 (c) - 3 not-for-profit organization dedicated to identifying and meeting various social needs of the local community by engaging and empowering urban youth and their families through programs that instill vision and a sense of purpose.

Mercy Works owns and operates the Vision Center. The Vision Center is a one-of-a-kind teaching and resource center for at-risk youths and their families.

mercyworks is
making a difference

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SYNERGY's fifth anniversary, five alive celebration

SYNERGY. A mutually advantageous conjunction or compatibility of distinct business participants or elements. The combination of two or more agents to produce a result greater than the sum of the two individual parts. Origins: the Latin "synergia" and Greek "synergos" meaning working together, or cooperative action.

SYNERGY 2011 is well underway. The Vision Center is bustling as applications filter in, as the phone rings with inquiries, as the staff plans the fifth year of our professional development program.

In honor of our fifth anniversary, Program Coordinator, Gina Rivers declares this year's theme is: "FIVE ALIVE!" And she's raising the bar, setting a goal, and placing a challenge to area employers.

Our goal, this year, is to place 50 Leadership Trainees. But we can't do it without your help. Gina says, "I am challenging everyone in CNY to do their

part. Let's show these young people that we really understand what "synergy" means."

Our goal is to keep our local college graduates in the area. These bright, creative minds are going to be overtaking and enhancing tomorrow's workplace. Why should we let our young people leave Syracuse to augment another city's budding workforce?

Join with the Vision Center and some of the area's most progressive corporations, not-for-profit and government agencies to train and recruit the future leaders of Syracuse.

YOU CAN HELP US:

- Sponsor a Leadership Trainee for \$2,500.
- Become a Workplace Partner and host an intern during the seven-week program.
- Save an existing internship position at your company for a SYNERGY intern this summer.
- Take the interns on an in-house tour of your company, or appoint a representative to provide training for the interns at the Vision Center during orientation week.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED WITH SYNERGY 2011, CONTACT US AT 435.6934 OR AT GRIVERS@MERCY-WORKS.ORG

together we make a difference

teen tech welcomes natisha

Teen Tech's expanding again, and now we have a second instructor!

Natisha Crossman comes to the Vision Center with a background integrating youth and technology.

Natisha, a graduate of Syracuse University, is a Business Analyst at Pomco in the IT department.

She makes time to serve as a leader for church youth groups and teaches dance at the Girls Inc. Zonta House. She's also on the Board of Directors at the YWCA.

Natisha has always been driven to help groom and prepare teens. She says, "I am very passionate about the lives of others, especially

teens. I try to mentor and have some involvement with teens as someone who could set a positive example whenever I can."

Natisha views her role at the Vision Center as a blessing, as an "opportunity to enlighten teens about the vast world of technology".

She plans on using creativity and fun while teaching. She says, "I really want them to grasp the concepts so that they can apply them in school, at home, or later in their careers."

Natisha concludes, "Technology is constantly changing, so I want them to be able to learn to grow and change with it -- and better yet, be the catalyst that causes change."

Meet our new
Teen Tech
Instructor
Natisha
Crossman



AN INSIDE LOOK AT SOME OF OUR PROGRAMS...



iCAN:
Lego
Mindstorms



iCAN:
the making
of a robot



Teen Tech:
Another full class

SYNERGY interviews: Edgar Johnson,
of SUNY Upstate & intern Sage Lucas



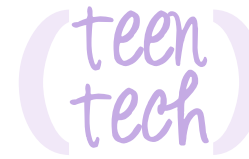
P2V: Chabria & her
mother at a P2V event



In this hands-on class students will build, program, and test LEGO MINDSTORMS NXT robots. Students, ages 13-17, will explore building sturdy structures, working with gears, and computer programming in NXT-G. Whether they are brand new to robotics or already aspiring engineers, they're going to expand their knowledge while still having fun!



This after-school program for sixth through eighth graders is uniquely designed to combine mentoring and educational modules. We give young people the education and skills needed to achieve their dreams. We even give them the follow-up support needed to succeed. Instruction is two hour long learning labs meeting twice a week, October through June.



This informative, interactive program offers Syracuse youth, ages 12-16, valuable computer hardware training and lessons in the Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, Publisher and PowerPoint). Then, teens put their new skills to the test and compete for cash prizes in the "Teen Tech Business Challenge." Graduates get a free refurbished computer and monitor!



We give motivated college students an opportunity to refine the skills needed to succeed. Our leadership trainees receive paid experience with local employers, who are given a first-hand look at tomorrow's workforce. Leadership trainees learn professional skills like time and money management, goal-setting, effective communication and conflict resolution techniques. SYNERGY runs June — August.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE PROGRAMS, VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.MERCY-WORKS.ORG OR CALL US AT 315.435.6934

Passport to Vision is a life-changing experience for high-school girls and their mothers. In this week-long "get away" girls develop stronger relationships in a supportive environment. We offer engaging workshops to foster a positive self-image, develop a vision and focus. P2V, offered during spring break, helps girls reach their dreams.

JOIN US APRIL 18-23. COME FOR THE DYNAMIC WORKSHOPS, PANELS, FIELD TRIPS & MORE...STAY FOR THE COMPLIMENTARY BREAKFAST & LUNCH. APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY APRIL 1ST, SPACES FILL UP FAST!

This dynamic summer program for third, fourth, fifth, and sixth graders offers two high-energy events at Syracuse City Parks coupled with classroom participation here at the Vision Center. Students will clarify their vision, obtain valuable technical skills preparing them for middle school, and learn how to navigate social challenges.

JOIN US FOR STREET SMARTS, WE'LL HAVE FREE FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT:
JUL 2 @ LIBBA COTTEN GROVE — NOON TO 2:00PM
AUG 13 @ SPIRIT OF JUBILEE PARK — NOON TO 2:00PM