



**write us!**

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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.

**clarence's corner: onward & upward**

This looks like it is going to be the greatest summer we have ever had here at the Vision Center.

As I write this note to you, I am happy to say that we just finished orientation for our SYNERGY program, we have 45 students enrolled this year and we were able to have our orientation up at Le Moyne College. The young people stayed overnight for four days, which really helped them to really bond together in a wonderful way. Last week we had 22 students graduate from our Teen Tech program and the following Monday we had 18 graduate from our iCan Robotics program. On July 8th we started another Teen Tech program that will run through the summer.

So you see we are busy here at the Vision Center for which we are very happy to report. It looks like our Golfless Tournament will be successful again this year, we don't have our final figures in yet, but I believe we will come close to reaching the amount we raised last year because of our matching sponsor. We want to thank every one of you who faithfully support Mercy Works year after year.



*Clarence Jordan*  
Director of Development

**PAR! GOLFLESS GOLF TOURNY UPDATE**

**\$71,100** raised to date, a very big thank you to all of our faithful sponsors and partners who contributed!

**Special thanks to our SYNERGY partners: CNY Works, OnPoint for College, Premier Catering, and Upstate Medical University!**



**TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

MERCY WORKS | THE VISION CENTER | 1221 S. SALINA ST. | WWW.MERCY-WORKS.ORG | 315.435.6934

mercy works  
the vision center

**making a difference**

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www.mercy-works.org

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**THE FACES OF SYNERGY 2013**

**MEET OUR SYNTERNS!**

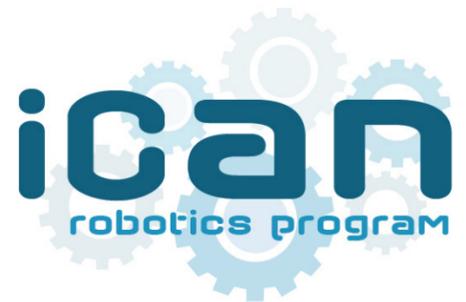
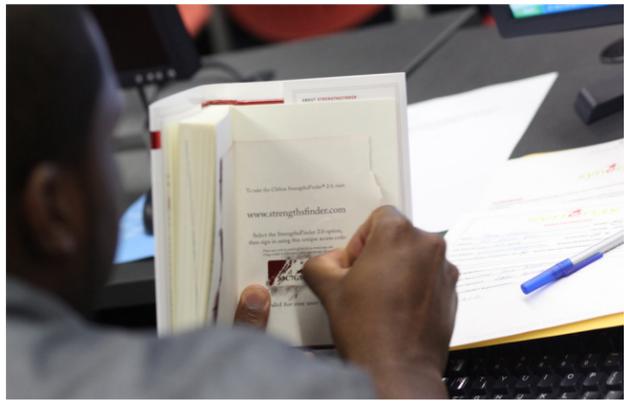
This year, we have 45 leadership trainees. **INSIDE:** hear & see all about orientation, the boardroom, work, service projects, and more! Plus, visit us online at: [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/VISIONCENTERSYRACUSE](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/VISIONCENTERSYRACUSE)



**WANT TO SEE MORE?  
WANT TO DONATE?  
WANT TO VOLUNTEER?**

**SCAN ME &  
CHECK IT OUT NOW!**





In this hands-on class students will build, program, and test LEGO MINDSTORMS NXT robots. Students, ages 12-17, 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 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.

# P2V PASSPORT TO VISION iCAN TEEN SYNERGY VISION VELOCITY



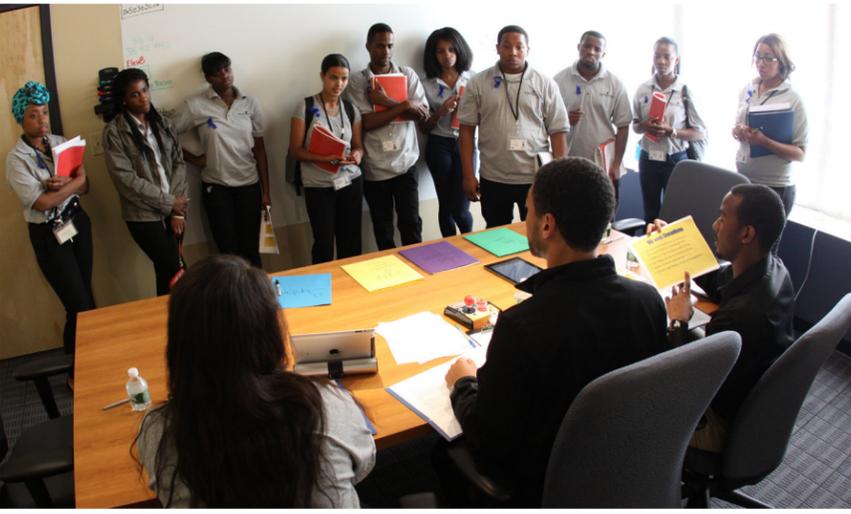
This vision based after-school program for elementary, middle, and high school students is uniquely designed to combine mentoring and educational modules. We give young people the education and skills needed to achieve their dreams. We even give them the follow-up support needed to succeed. Programming is delivered through two hour long "vision learning labs" meeting twice a week, October thru June.

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, is designed to help girls reach their dreams.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY OF THESE PROGRAMS, OR TO FIND THE APPLICATION TO REGISTER VISIT US ON-LINE AT:**

[WWW.MERCY-WORKS.ORG](http://WWW.MERCY-WORKS.ORG)

**CALL US AT 315.435.6934 OR JUST STOP BY AND SEE US: 1221 SOUTH SALINA STREET**



# iCAN, YOU CAN!



On July 1, 2013, 18 young scholars were recognized as graduates of the iCAN Robotics Program.

After six weeks of hands-on training with instructor, John Ginty, students learned the LEGO Mindstorms NXT 2.0 hardware and software. They even tested their abilities by competing in a robotics race, with each member of the winning team receiving a \$25 Apple gift card.

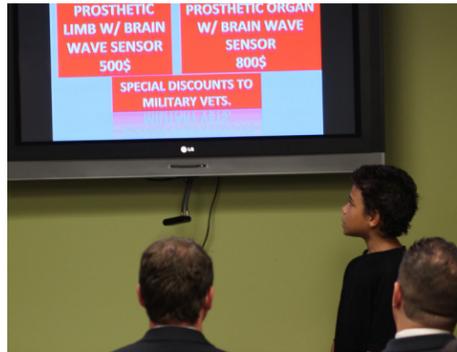
Graduates gained skill and experience in computer programming and structural design. They all learned to demonstrate logical thinking with an infinitely imaginative mind.

Contact the Vision Center today to learn more about iCAN and our other dynamic programs.



## SPRING TEEN TECH 2013

Not only did we celebrate our wonderful graduates, but: **Van Robinson**, President of Syracuse Common Council, was our Guest Speaker. Our judges for the night were: **Helen Hudson**, Common Councilor, **Joe Rossi**, VP of Park Strategies LLC, **Alan Thornton**, CEO of the Rescue Mission, and one of our faithful volunteers, **Liz Morgenthien**. And a special thank you to **Little Caesars** for supplying the food and **M&T Bank** for sponsoring this session of Teen Tech!



# synergy orientation

“Orientation” is defined as, “a person’s awareness of self with regard to position and time and place and personal relationships.”

SYNERGY strives to maintain an emphasis on vision, but we still understand the value of growth and progress. Our choice to conduct the program’s first week as a retreat was deliberate—to help create an unbreakable cohesion among the SYNterns as they prepare for the rigors of the summer season.

**SUNDAY: THE RED & BLACK SOIRÉE**—a rhythmic and unifying way to introduce the SYNterns to their home for the week. The lobby of Le Moyne’s Dablon Hall became a gateway into a movie scene starring all who entered.

**MONDAY: CUSE VISION CASTING**—Before you can make a change, you must have an understanding of where you are and where you want to go. After discussing the Syracuse community and what it would take for its people to improve it, the SYNterns were made aware of their challenge: **GO & DO IT.**

The SYNterns were strategically divided into five teams, with factors like past SYNERGY experience, career interests, and talents indicated by the Strengthfinder 2.0 test results, which played a substantial part in the selection process.

After being given time for deliberation, each team voted for who they felt would be appropriate for the leading role of Project Manager. Then, teams were informed of the point system that drives the Apprentice-style competition taking place throughout the remainder of the program. The SYNterns ecstatically accepted the challenge with open and eager arms—**GAME ON!**

**TUESDAY: HEALTH & WELLNESS**—After starting the day with a group stretch and power walk around campus, the SYNterns were given time to utilize Le Moyne’s athletic facilities. Following lunch, the Scavenger Hunt commenced. With only two hours, the five teams were challenged to decipher riddles, gather various materials, and uncover a wide range of facts—all without being able to use their cell phones! The collaborative efforts of the SYNterns continued through the evening as they all participated in a

mesmerizing SYNERGY Talent Show.

**WEDNESDAY: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**—The 2013 SYNERGY Workplace Partner Luncheon served as an opportunity for the SYNterns to connect with their supervisors in a relaxed setting. After hearing wise and encouraging words from the current leaders of our workforce, the SYNterns learned more as to how they too can become leaders in the Syracuse community by further developing their levels of confidence and self-awareness.

**THURSDAY: FINANCIAL FITNESS**—The final day of our Le Moyne stay focused on fortifying the SYNterns’ knowledge of building a strong financial foundation for their futures. Important topics like financial aid, scholarships, stocks, credit, and assets vs. liabilities proved to be worthy investments of time for the SYNterns, as they attentively took notes and asked questions to maximize the value of their ROI!

**FRIDAY: THE VISION ASSIGNMENT**—For the final scene of Orientation, the SYNterns arrived at the Vision Center to receive their SYNERGY handbooks before enduring their first of four Boardrooms. Now standing united as a cast of fully orientated SYNterns, the day ended in an amazingly captivating way with the surprise unveiling of the 2013 Barney II Foundation Vision Assignment... **[TURN THE PAGE FOR MORE]**

# nationalgrid Foundation

**A BIG THANK YOU TO THE NATIONAL GRID FOUNDATION FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF SYNERGY!**

The National Grid Foundation donated \$15,000 to Mercy Works in support of the service learning component of SYNERGY. This is the third year that we have been awarded this grant. The National Grid Foundation is committed to contributing millions of dollars every year to deserving programs focusing on energy renewal, education and the environment.



# the seed of vision, the joy of giving

What would you do to make an impact on someone's life using one hundred dollars? This was the question that nearly 45 college students asked themselves when they were given an envelope containing \$100.

Each student was given two weeks to use the money to help some person (or persons) other than themselves. The assignment must be documented and each SYNtern must give a presentation to their peers about how and why they chose to "invest" their money in this way.

Vision is emphasized and imparted into each participant. A lack of focus creates a lack of vision. One person, one hundred dollars, and a vision, equals endless possibilities.

On the final day of Orientation, while at the Vision Center, the SYNterns were asked to cross the street together, turn around, and look at the building. The word "vision" appeared spelled out on the second story windows using 45 envelopes containing the seed money.

The staff and coordinators purposely presented the assignment this way to stress the importance of understanding vision. It's easy to look at the problems or challenges we see when we're a step removed. The hard part is identifying the need, creating a solution and taking action, or making a change.

This program is funded in part by the Barney II Foundation, run by Bill and Sabra Reichardt, longtime supporters of Mercy Works and SYNERGY.

**"LONG AGO WE REALIZED THE POWER OF GIVING AND THE JOY IT BRINGS,"** Mr. Reichardt told students. **"WE HOPE THIS LITTLE SEED WILL GIVE YOU AN OPPORTUNITY TO BRING JOY AND MAKE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT HELPING SOMEBODY ELSE."**

The Reichardts have started many projects around the U.S. over the past 15 years encouraging students to give back to the community.

