

Vol.1 Issue 1

Winter 2005 Edition

Martin Luther King, Jr. & Under Ground Rail Road Honored



Corpsmembers watch in rapt attention as "Harriet Tubman" recounts her travails.

Over a hundred people including the NJYC Regional Directors, Corpsmembers from Trenton, parents, grandparents, and neighborhood youth were transported on the wings of imagination on a magical journey by way of the play "Needing An Angel." It was written by actress/playwright Millicent Sparks; and directed by actor Lenny Daniels with performances by the actor Marvin Jefferson and music arranger and accompanist Damon Bennett and featuring the NJ Youth Corps Players (of Newark/IYO) under the watchful eye of NJYC Academic Coordinator Emmanuel NKwodimmah, with input from project historian Giles R. Wright.



The play posits what if Dr. Martin Luther King, civil rights leader and Harriet Tubman "conductor" on the Under Ground Rail Road (UGRR) could come back and share the meaning of each of their struggles, with a group of



Dr. "MLK" stops corpsmember in their tracks as he expounds on his struggles.



G.E.D. ACHIEVERS

<i>Jennifer Baker</i>	<i>Allee Taborn</i>
<i>Michael Coaxum</i>	<i>Brandon Troutman</i>
<i>Wali Cooke</i>	<i>Crystal Valentine</i>
<i>Darren Davis</i>	<i>Charity Williams</i>
<i>Tonya Davis</i>	<i>Sakim Williams</i>
<i>Leicia Dennis</i>	<i>Jamil Wilson</i>
<i>Taneefah Inison</i>	
<i>Taherah Kirkland</i>	
<i>Dajon McCoy</i>	
<i>James Pitts</i>	
<i>Myesha Pitts</i>	
<i>Shaquana Rutledge</i>	



During this season there are heart warming assurances that our environmental projects have not been in hibernation. Having watched the Branch Brook Park (BBP) Legacy DVD, a fired up Environmental Projects Team installed trail posts every 400 feet along the entire length of the 2nd River Trail/Mill St. From Broadway/Washington Avenue to Franklin Ave. Each post was emblazoned with a blue plastic reflective marker on either side of the post, with the first and last posts. Construction has started on 2 waterproof, wooden map and trail guide holders to be installed in Branch Brook park after the spring thaw.

Partnered with Rutgers U in New Brunswick to utilize their ArcView GIS mapping software to create a large color map of Branch Brook Park including details such as park and neighborhood roadways, the 2nd River and Lenape Trails, park buildings, and community points of interest. It will be brought to local printer, reproduced and laminated.



There have been ongoing efforts in the Urban Gateway Enhancement Program and the Adopt-a-Highway sites including general landscaping; cutting grass, picking up litter, pruning dead trees, and removing invasive plant species. We look forward to tree and flower planting in the spring. On the home front picking up litter and broken glass, weeding sidewalks and planting flowering bulb gardens will continue

One of the highlights was participation in landscaping activities in preparation for the Rancocas Indian Reservation Annual Arts Festival and assisting with the archery instruction, food service and clean up.



Jennifer Baker started the program In Newark in September 2004. Jennifer was rewarded for her hard work by passing the GED test in November, and obtaining her driver's permit in January 2005 . Jennifer's goal is to become a botanist. Her interest lead her to become a member of the environmental work site, where she expanded on her knowledge and assisted in designing and marking a trail for Branch Brook park in Newark. Jennifer was recommended for an internship with the NJ Environmental Federation, a non-profit organization fighting to protect natural resources and drinking water, reduce the use of pesticides and clean up pollution. Jennifer's duties include assisting the organization on all program activities, special events and projects, media campaigns and grassroots organizing. The organization is seeking funding to extend her internship from three months to a year. Jennifer will begin Essex County College in September 2005



The Corpsmembers gained an understanding of the past an appreciation of the Under Ground Rail Road's significance and exposure to the theatre related skills and careers.

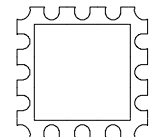
The play was dedicated to the memory of Mr. Derek T. Winans, IYO's Deputy Director of the last twenty or so years, whose vision and tenacity and work with the martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Commission, which helped to make it all possible.



*New Jersey Youth Corps
At I.Y.O.*

**Corps Recap
Newsletter**

of Newark
and Essex



The Start of a Brighter Future

James Wallace, Founder

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