



Inspiring mural created by youth at the Department of Juvenile Justice' Crossroads Juvenile Center

Youth at DJJ create inspiring artwork for personal change

On Wednesday, July 28, 2010 residents of the Department of Juvenile Justice Crossroads Juvenile Center came together with New York City Cares to create an inspiring mural, part of an art program to assist youth in working together and find constructive ways to express themselves.

The art program was designed by New York City Cares to help develop positive self-expression, self-awareness, and self-esteem. The mural allowed the youth to express their feelings through a non-verbal medium, while developing self-control and encouraging inspiration in their environment.

The mural, with the word INSPIRE painted across the top, embodies the principles Initiate, Navigate, Strive, Participation, Invest, Responsibility and Education. These principles will be incorporated in the theme of the next youth murals, which will focus on their future and personal growth. Program Director Andre Mullings stated: "The girls and boys worked together to develop this touching mural and it will be displayed in the facility for all to draw inspiration from. They did a great job!"

The program was a humbling experience for staff, the volunteers, and residents at Crossroads Juvenile Center. New York City Cares was founded by a group of friends who wanted to make a change in New York City.