



Summer 2010

Church Hill Activities and Tutoring

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Opening Homes, Transforming Lives, Rebuilding Communities

GRADUATION 2010



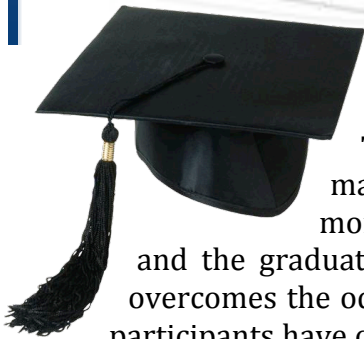
Monique Johnson



Essence Brown



Sam Taylor



The emotion, the excitement and the thrill of graduating high school is an event many of us remember in our past. For Church Hill, that event is a rare and even more exciting event. With drop out rates well over 50% in Richmond's East End and the graduation rate even lower, it is a well-deserved grand celebration when a student overcomes the odds to prove our society's dimly incorrect expectations of them. Three CHAT participants have done just that. Essence, Monique and Sam have pushed aside the neighborhood's devaluing of education and raised the bar for all CHAT participants to come. Education is cool now. It is a goal to be attained. It is changing lives. For these three, all first time high school graduates in their families, they have changed the course of not only their futures, but all of Richmond city. Bob Wise from Richmond Times Dispatch wrote "For Virginia alone, the nearly 29,200 students who did not graduate from high school in 2008 represent nearly \$7.6 billion in lost lifetime earnings. And unlike high school graduates, dropouts are more likely to be unemployed, involved in illegal activity -- and to be tax consumers rather than taxpayers." We as Christians must believe that change is possible.-change of a person, change of a family, and change of an entire community. Change is starting with Church Hill Academy's first ever graduation. Essence, Monique and Sam have proven just that -change is real and possible. Essence and Monique are not only graduating from high school but have been accepted to college in the fall. A new generation is rising up in Church Hill that will change the course of its history with quality education that started three years ago in the basement of an old house in Richmond's East End.



SNAG-A-SUMMER-JOB



The competition is tough for this summer's Street Leader positions. Twenty seven youth are competing for ten Street Leader positions to work as counselors or entrepreneurs with CHAT's summer programs. These youth attended two interview preparation workshop at Snag-A-Job headquarters in Innsbrook and put on their "Sunday Best" to make an impression at their interview.

Dive In to Summer with CHAT – Be A Sponsor!

CHAT's 2nd Annual summer day camp serves 65 area youth and hires high school participants to work as counselors. Day camp includes a full day of fun, lunch, snacks and field trips. Young adults are also hired for a 10-week internship.

Sponsor a day camper

1 child for \$180
2 for \$360
5 for \$900.

Sponsor a summer intern

\$100 for a week
\$500 for a month
\$1500 for the summer.

Interested in being a summer sponsor? Send checks to 601 North 31st St. Richmond, VA 23223 with "Summer Sponsor" in the memo line or contact chris.whiting@chatrichmond.org.



Thirteen college students moved into Church Hill this weekend. They will be serving CHAT throughout the summer in its various programs. Living with host families from the community, the summer interns will have three months overloaded with activities and kids but also the realities of inner city life and the call to urban ministry.