



CONTACT US
 Mercy Works
 P.O. Box 25
 Syracuse, NY 13205
 315.435.6934
 www.mercy-works.org

VISIT US
 Vision Center
 1221 S. Salina St.
 Syracuse, NY 13202

MERCY WORKS STAFF
 Tracie Brennan
 Clarence Jordan
 LaToya Sawyer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 Rev. John R. Carter
 Theresa M. Morgan
 David C. Rollinson
 Terry Bish
 Dr. Thomas P. Cappa
 Rev. Lisa L. Carter
 Rev. Joseph L. Coudriet
 David Hunter
 Irene Morgan
 Carmen Spinoso
 Jake Tanksley
 Ed J. Thompson, ESQ.

» **don't miss it** «
 next time: a woman
 who has devoted her life
 to helping kids

clarence's corner **another new year**

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE WE ARE IN THE year 2010, I don't know where 2009 went to. My grandmother told me when I was a young boy that's what happens when you get old. I think because there was so much going on here at the Vision Center that helped it to fly by.

One of the great successes of 2009 was our Robotics program; the kids couldn't seem to get enough of it. As I mentioned before we never thought we'd have as many kids show up as we did. We broke them up into teams and this was a real positive experience for the kids because they learned what it means to work with other kids.

Many of these kids have a difficult time working in a team

atmosphere, they need to work with other peers but often they don't. We had our second graduation on Jan 21st and we saw 20 kids receive their certificate of completion.

We truly believe that some of these kids will end up as engineers some day. One thing we know will happen is that these kids are really anxious to learn and because of programs like this they won't be a part of the kids that are not going to be graduating from high school.

We believe that 2010 is going to be another great year here at the Vision Center.



Clarence Jordan
 Director of Development



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 visions 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.



» **upcoming events** «

TEEN TECH GRADUATION

Join us for graduation at the Vision Center on Tuesday, March 16th!

SYNERGY 2010 REGISTRATION

Fill out an application today. Applications due by no later than March 31st!

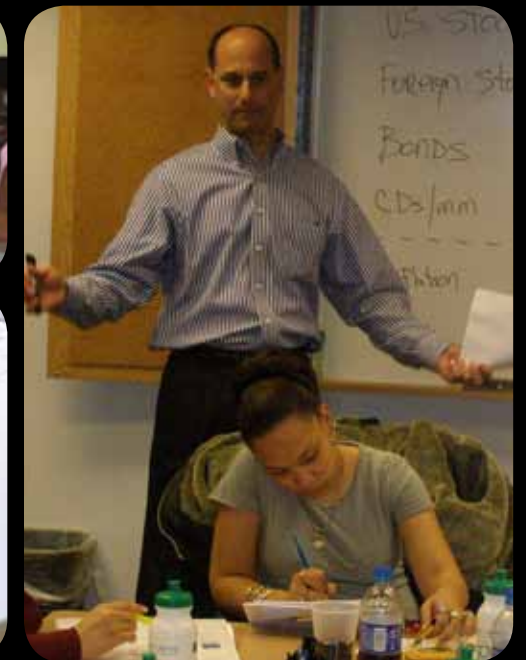
SPECIAL THANK YOU TO PARTNERS UP TO THIS POINT: SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY'S LOUIS STOKES ALLIANCE FOR MINORITY PARTICIPATION AND SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF SOUTH SIDE INITIATIVES.

together we make a difference

together we are

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

volume 8 | issue 1 | february 2010 | www.mercy-works.org



in the past 7 years, enrollment has increased 805%

in 2003 we had 19 kids last year we helped 172



in 2006 when we built the vision center enrollment went up 27%

in the past 2 years participation grew by 20% each year

WE ARE EXCITED ABOUT THE INCREASE IN OUR PROGRAM NUMBERS WE ARE EVEN MORE GRATIFIED BY THE IMPROVEMENT IN THE LIVES THE NUMBERS REPRESENT. Rev. Joseph Coudriet
OUR GROWTH IS IN PART THE RESULT OF OUR ABILITY TO IDENTIFY AND MEET THE GROWING NEEDS OF OUR YOUTH IN A WAY THAT IS EXCELLENT AND EMPOWERS THEM TO BE SUCCESSFUL. LaToya Sawyer

Have a car you don't need? We'll take it! **Donate your car to Mercy Works.** Contact us to learn how!

teen tech graduates making the grade

On Tuesday, December 21, 2009, 17 Teen Tech graduates received a diploma and a refurbished computer. Among other highlights of the night, was Keynote Speaker Aduke Watts-Branch, Program Coordinator and Afterschool Director of Peaceful Schools, Inc., who addressed the crowd gathered at the Vision Center. Students developed an original idea and created a PowerPoint

presentation to sell their idea, aptly named the business competition. The top three presenters were selected from the 17 and gave an encore presentation Tuesday night for a panel of judges and a full house.

Wan'ye Jones took first place in the business competition.

Wan'ye is a 14-year-old ninth grader at Central Tech of Syracuse Central.

Maresh Escoffery, a 16-year-old eleventh grader at Nottingham High School, nabbed second place in the competition for his car that helps the elderly, paraplegic and the blind.

He also received the honor of being the first student to ever ace the post-test.

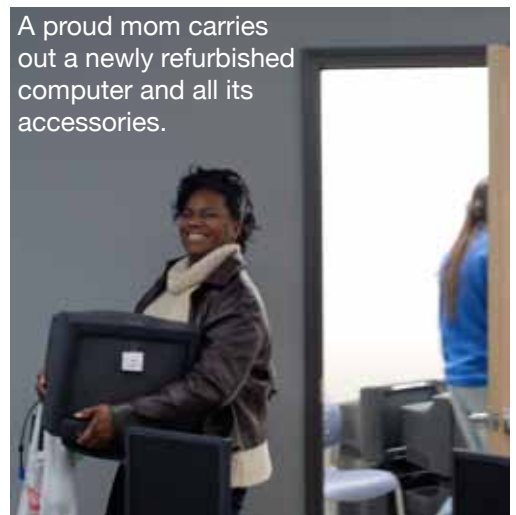
Overall, these 17 students boasted a 113% increase from pre-test to post-test results.



Greiz Mary Vazquez walks away with a new computer.



First and second place winners Way'ne Jones and Maresh Escoffery.



A proud mom carries out a newly refurbished computer and all its accessories.

Our graduating class and Teen Tech instructor John Ginty.



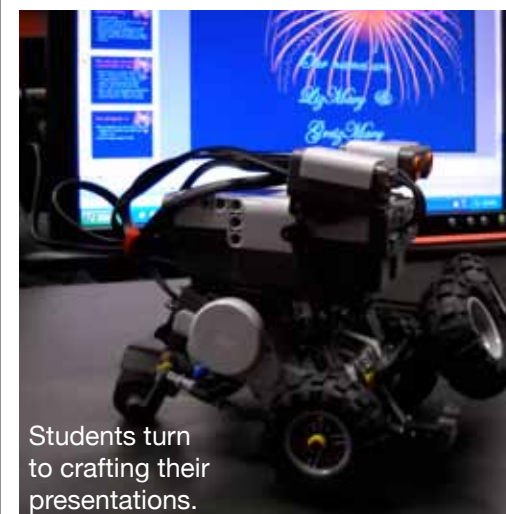
Instructor Damani Musgrave and Don Sawyer III, LSAMP Director, watch as a student works on her presentation.



Making some final touches on their robot.



Could it be WALL-E?



Students turn to crafting their presentations.



iCAN cash prize winners: Erwind Fuentes, Josué Ocasio, Ashley Paneto, Adrian Chico, Kenny Maldonado, Nicholas Lightburn, Jade Jenkins and Danielle Berry.

ROBOTS WERE MADE NOT BY A LIST OF INSTRUCTIONS BUT BY A CREATIVITY OF TEAMS Mr. Musgrave

"I couldn't get him off the pokémon website" jokes iCAN Instructor Damani Musgrave as he handed out twenty certificates of completion.

On January 21st 2010, Syracuse University hosted the winter iCAN graduation in Shemin Auditorium at the Shaffer Art Building on the SU campus.

Damani, Assistant Director for

Technical Systems & Services in the department of Advancement & External Affairs at SU, helped the students design and build their own robotic creations for the ultimate battle on Thursday night.

Twenty-four kids participated in the winter class. Including, four team leaders, or students participating for a second time.

SU senior engineering major,

Luis Romo, gave the students a pep talk and a look into the future as guest speaker for the night. Luis was one of the many LSAMP students from SU who came down to iCAN to help the students build their robots. Student Liz Marie Vega said the process is a form of self expression.

"It is something that can let you be creative and unique."

trading pokémon for battle-bots -- say iCAN!