



## Youth Empowerment Summit benefits African-American youths

Story by  
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NBDA

Due to the absence of summer programs and the lack of summer camp opportunities designed specifically for African-American youths, National Black Deaf Advocates (#11177 in the 2008 CFC Contributor's Guide) launched the Youth Empowerment Summit program in 1997 with the help of Combined Federal Campaign funds.

It has been 11 years since the establishment of the Y.E.S., an annual one-week intensive leadership training program for African-American youths between the ages of 13 to 17.

The objectives of

the summit are to promote leadership development among Black deaf and hard of hearing youths and young adults; to increase cultural self-esteem through exposure to Black deaf and hard of hearing role models; to increase familiarity and knowledge about NBDA and contributions of Black deaf and hard of hearing people worldwide; to promote excellence in their academic and career endeavors; to have a great time with peers from different states.

CFC funds enable NBDA the opportunity to provide summer campsites and materials for the youths.

The Y.E.S. program has

been one of the NBDA's successful programs, welcoming boys and girls from all across the country. With the help of peer advisors, participants of Y.E.S. take the opportunity to improve their self-esteem, leadership and motivational skills.

One of the benefits is meeting the many successful leaders and role models within the African-American community to learn and understand NBDA's history and significant Black deaf and hard of hearing issues.

One of the first Y.E.S. participants, Earl Allen Jr. from Indianapolis, Ind., discovered 10 years ago that Y.E.S. opened doors for him and his future. During

the week-long summit program, he was elected president of the Y.E.S. group, and successfully empowered fellow boys and girls to make the most of their experience.

He excelled so much in schools that he graduated among the top 10 of his class. He has received various awards including a citizenship award and a scholarship as a result of his leadership skills.

He went on to graduate with a bachelor's degree in sociology, with concentration in criminology.

He has worked an office job with the Virginia State Police and was an officer of the University's Department of Public Safety. He also provided sensitivity presentations to new recruits and lateral transfers within the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department, where he focuses on how police officers can safely interact with members of the deaf/hard-of-hearing communities in an effort to minimize miscommunication and misconception.

Allen went back to school and earned a master's in school counseling and guidance. He is currently working with the U.S. government.

For more information, contact NBDA at vicepresident@nbda.org or visit <http://www.nbda.org>.

For more information or to make a contribution, contact your organization's campaign coordinator or keyworker, visit the APG CFC Office at Top of Bay, building 30, Down Under or call 410-278-9913.

## APG top 10 charities

Listed below are the top 10 charities that Aberdeen Proving Ground personnel donated to during last year's Combined Federal Campaign.

International	National	Local
Catholic Relief Services - USCC	American Red Cross National	Harford Habitat for Humanity
Feed The Children	American Cancer Society	Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation
Campus Crusade for Christ's Great Commission Foundation	Catholic Charities USA	Humane Society Harford County
Salvation Army World Service Office	St. Jude Research Hospital	Boys & Girls Clubs of Harford County
Heifer Project International	Fisher House Foundation	Animal Rescue, Inc
Compassion International Inc.	United Negro College Fund	Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Children's Hunger Fund	Disabled American Veterans Charitable Service Trust	Aberdeen Area Youth Services
Save the Children Federation, Inc	Samaritan's Purse	The House of Ruth Maryland, Inc.
World Wildlife Fund, Inc	Armed Forces Family Survivors Fund	Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center, Inc.
World Vision, Inc.	Zachary and Elizabeth M. Fisher Center	Maryland Food Bank, Inc.

### LEAVE DONATIONS

To participate in the Voluntary Leave Program, use forms OPM 630, Application to Become a Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program; OPF 630-A, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (within agency); and OPM 630-B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (outside agency). For more information, call Carolyn Russell, 410-306-0078, fax 410-306-0100, or e-mail carolyn.russell2@us.army.mil.

#### Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Donald Adamson	Beverly King (caring for husband)	Melvin Showell
Neoma Amberman	Dana Kirkley	Willie Stevenson
Angela Barnett	Glenn Kresge	Angela A. Taylor
Karen Blades	Randolph Larracuenta	Lavonne Telsee
Debra Bonsall (daughter has brain tumor)	Joy Meadows	Gale Thompson
Jeanie Bowman	Frantz Midy	Mark Walker
Michelle Brooks	Karen Milton	Joyce Woods
Donna Butler	Deborah Moore	Charles Young
Donna Cianelli	Marie D. Nowak	Barbara Zenker
Joyce Clark	Dorothy Nowak	
Barbara Crossley	Cindy Orwig	
John Daigle	Adrienne Pearson	
Liesolette Dorsey	Judith Ratledge	
Lisa Foust	Reta Reynolds	
Rita Fowler	Steven Sadler	
Miriam Garcia	Gloria Scott	
Jerome Hesck	Barbara Seker	
Linda Hindman	Donna Sexton	
Sinclair Joe	Algje Shaw	