

# SW Students Visualize Their Neighborhood

By Carey Davis

Fifteen young adults from Southwest Philadelphia exhibited artwork at Temple University's Tyler Gallery August 15. The show ended a six-week summer program during which they reflected upon their community and translated their thoughts and feelings in painting, sculpture, and video.

The program was provided by Temple UCCP and the CityLights Network, and included walking tours, interviewing community leaders, and researching statistics on crime and other issues.

"People think Southwest is a bad neighborhood," said Joseph Kemp, "but a lot of good happens here, too." Kemp and his artistic partner Marque Green used Photoshop software to paint portraits of fellow participants which emphasized each student's unique qualities.

Saneetha Scott and Ikeya Foster created a brochure about Southwest places to "check out" like ethnic food spots, parks, and schools. "We are all trying to make a better life for ourselves," the young ladies agreed.



Kaleesha Isaacs uses conflict and sunlight to project hope amidst the struggle in Southwest.

A very thought provoking piece, "Race Cemetery," depicted four coffins with skeletons of different races. Next to the caskets were grim statistics about violence and pain that confront people of color. "I knew things were bad [for blacks]," recounted Antonio Slaughter, "but I was surprised at how bad it really was." He plans to press for change in his own life and his community.

The students said they were excited to have their voices heard through their artwork (and be paid something, too). Many looked forward to future advisory and leadership roles in Southwest.

# Youth Beautify Co

Sixty church members and community youth gathered at New Spirit Community Presbyterian, 58th Street and Chester Avenue, last Saturday morning, for a full day of flower and shrub planting around the church grounds and adjoining properties.

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Typical of the responses to the day's landscaping work was that of New Spirit Nelson Jones who attends Bok High School. "It's always a good idea to make the church look better," he said, "downing a cold drink. "It tells something about our church when neighbors see us working together to make the community more beautiful."



Jessica Freeman, Danya flowers at New Spirit Presbyterian of YOACAP and Naté Lee of Re

"We were really happy with the turnout," said organizer Miner James. "Folks really pitched in, and the youth stayed busy."

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"We want to thank CityLights,

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