

CAA holds annual Spring Youth Summit

On May 19, 2007, the Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency (CAA) held its first annual Spring Youth Summit in partnership with Mayor Mark Mallory's Office and the University of Cincinnati. Approximately 250 youth attended the event, comprised of 15 different youth groups. Summit discussion topics, chosen by the youth in CAA's youth programs, were violence, drugs and self-image.

The Summit was not simply another opportunity to lecture this City's youth. Instead, the small group sessions were interactive experiences in which the opinions and ideas of the participating youth were crucial to framing the issues. The afternoon session provided an

opportunity for the youth to develop community service projects based on the morning discussions.

As a result of the Summit, 11 different youth groups have begun to create and implement projects all across the county to improve their neighborhoods. For example, one school group is planning to organize a forum to speak to principals and school staff about how to work better and more productively with non-compliant youth - an important project considering the high drop-out rates among Hamilton County high school students.

Another group plans to organize a youth rally to address different neighborhood turf and territory issues.
