

The Tuskegee News

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Tuskegee Youth Safe Haven grand opening slated for this week

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Having been in existence since 2005, the Tuskegee Youth Safe Haven/Police Mini-Station project is kicking off its 2011 season with a Grand Opening at 2 p.m. on February 10 at the Melvin Tatum Auditorium located at the Tuskegee Housing Authority. The theme is "Building Power in Families."

Tuskegee Youth Safe Haven is a non-profit corporation located in the Ridgewood community, which is the largest public housing development in Macon County. Stanley Horn serves as the Executive Director.

Tuskegee Youth Safe Haven (TYSH) is an after-school program that operates throughout the school year to assist participants in maintaining or improving their academic achievement and prevent participants from becoming involved in the criminal justice system.

Tuskegee University assists TYSH with specific programs such as the Garden Mentors Program and the Summer Teen Tech Training Program. The TU Department of Social Work conducts a weekly program of group mentoring with the Safe Haven youth. TU students match up with the children for developing and harvesting from a garden at the Dr. George Washington Carver Agriculture Experiment Station, located on the University Farm.

In the winter months, social work students lead the children in craft making, art, games and other indoor activities. The mentors also host holiday programs for the children at Christmas and Easter. This initiative is coordinated by social work instructor Jacqueline McArthur with support from the Tuskegee University College of Agricultural, Environmental and Natural Sciences.

The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health Biomedical Information Management Systems (BIMS) also provide assistance to TYSE by conducting a summer



Tuskegee Youth Safe Haven's Teen Techs pose with staff in the Biomedical Information Management Systems Unit (BIMS) at Tuskegee University.

training program for Safe Haven teens in technology (“Teen Techs”). Youth are given extensive tours of the College’s research facilities, with demonstrations of the research process. They participated in a detailed six-week course covering development skills using the latest technology.

During the school year, the BIMS staff and students provide mentoring and support services to the Safe Haven program and its families. This program is coordinated by Dr. Berhanu Tameru, Director of BIMS/Center for Computational Epidemiologic Biomedical Risk Analysis, under the leadership of Dr. Tsegaye Habtemariam, who serves and dean of the college.

Tuskegee University also provides assistance through the Department of Social Work, the Cooperative Extension System, the Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the Student Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

"We are very grateful for the assistance we are receiving from our partners, like Tuskegee University, Senator Richard Shelby’s office, and Congressman Mike Rogers’ office,” said Safe Haven Director Horn.

Tuskegee’s site is one of 18 national youth safe havens, but the only one in the state of Alabama. Safe Haven is one of several after school prevention programs throughout the United States funded through the Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation.

Major support for the TYSH project has come from 23 partners to date. To learn more about the Tuskegee Youth Safe Haven project, contact Project Director Guy Trammell, (334) 727-7107 or (334) 421-8727; e-mail: info@tuskegeesafehaven.org; website: www.tuskegeesafehaven.org.