



4275 El Cajon Blvd., #200
San Diego, CA 92105

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jeff Hancock
Phone: 619.269-1684 x-207

HOW I SPENT MY SUMMER VACATION

City Heights Technology Corps Uses Technology Skills to Benefit Community-Based Organizations.

Youth participating in the City Heights Technology Corps will have plenty to write about in the traditional back-to-school essay. Eighty six youth ranging in age from 16 to 20 participated in technology-based summer work experience and community service. The San Diego Futures Foundation provided the program for youth in the City Heights community. All of the youth had prior experience with technology through enrollment in Hoover High School's Academy of Information Technology, Crawford High School's Media Arts Programs and other educational programs. A few examples of the community service projects are:

- 1.) One-to one training for residents in City Heights Square, a Senior Community Services affordable housing program. Youth helped seniors learned how to use email and find resources on the Internet.
- 2.) Two students provided assistance in the new Ronald McDonald House Technology Center at Children's Hospital, helping parents and families with computer needs. They also created a website with on-line resources available for children with serious illnesses and parents. One of the students, who had overcome an illness as a child at Rady's Children's Hospital, was grateful for the opportunity to give back and help parents facing the same difficult situation as his own parents had.
- 3.) 20 students at the Fab Lab in City Heights collaborated on public art projects to raise awareness of solar power. Students collaborated on a 10 foot sculpture made of recycled e-waste which lights up when hands are placed on copper solar panels. Other youth helped with the completion of a year-long project which designed and fabricated a three dimensional printer.
- 4.) Students in residential housing programs and at the Jackie Robinson YMCA ran computer camp summer programs for children that incorporated academic skill building through on-line games.

Other youth participated in included building social networking sites, assisting with website development for nonprofit organizations and administrative assistance, e-waste salvage and recycling.

The City Heights Technology Corps was primarily funded by the San Diego Workforce Partnership Hire-a-Youth program through competitively-procured American Recovery Reinvestment Act funding. The \$250,000 grant was used to pay the youths' wages and incentives. The Northrop Grumman Corporation and Price Charities also contributed support to augment the program. Youth completed work readiness and financial literacy training prior to their worksite placement. In addition to increasing technical skills while earning minimum wage, youth became aware of needs within their community and demonstrated their own abilities to help others and make their community a better place.

ABOUT SDFF

The San Diego Futures Foundation is San Diego's premier provider of technology to the nonprofit community. SDFF provides opportunities to use technology as a tool to enhance and change lives. Whether it's developing job skills, building confidence, enhancing life skills, increasing organizational capacity, improving communications, expanding access, or promoting community development, technology helps individuals and organizations achieve their goals. To that end, SDFF has donated more than 20,000 computers and 18,000 hours of technical support to San Diego nonprofits, community-based organizations, schools and families. For more information, log onto <http://www.sdfutures.org/index.htm>

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