



## Program Updates

### Summer Youth Program nets 27,000 hours worked in the Greater Lowell Community

The 2005 Summer Youth program enrolled a total of 135 local at-risk youth, who completed over 27,000 hours of work experience at a variety of sites throughout the Greater Lowell Community.

The Greater Lowell WIB was a proud recipient of a grant in the amount of \$109,600, through the Massachusetts Governor's At-Risk Youth Initiative: YouthWorks 2005. The funding made available through the Governor's Grant allowed the GLWIB to provide 80 jobs to local youth, in addition to those funded by WIA.

More than 2,000 at-risk teens in the following Massachusetts cities were employed this summer through YouthWorks 2005 funding: Boston, Pittsfield, Fall River, Taunton, Brockton, Worcester, Lowell, New Bedford, Chicopee, Springfield, Holyoke, Lawrence, Haverhill, Cambridge, Chelsea, Fitchburg, Leominster, Lynn, Quincy, Randolph and Weymouth.

In order to qualify for the Governor's Grant, each WIB had to provide a cash match, produced through private sector youth hires. We are very proud to state that the Greater Lowell WIB surpassed its required match of \$21,192 and saw a match of \$25,140 overall. Worksites contributing a cash or volunteer hour match for 2005 include: Spindle City Corps, The Lowell Spinners and the Light of Cambodian Children.

### YouthWorks Career Expo 2005 declared a success!

The YouthWorks Career Expo 2005, sponsored by the Greater Lowell WIB and Middlesex Community College, was held in the Lower Café at MCC on May 10, 2005 from 2:00–4:00pm. Over the course of 2 hours, the Expo drew over 470 local teens.

The Greater Lowell WIB would like to recognize and offer a sincere thank you to representatives from the following local businesses and organizations:

**Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell, Career Center of Lowell, Community Teamwork, Inc., Enterprise Bank & Trust, Job Corps, KFC / Taco Bell, Light of Cambodian Children, Lowell School Department, Lowell Spinners, Lowell SUN, Army National Guard, McDonald's, Middlesex Community College's Health Careers Program, Pollard Memorial Library, Spindle City Corp, UPS and the YMCA.**

Your commitment to the Career Expo and donation of your time truly helped in making this event a success. We look forward to seeing you all in 2006!

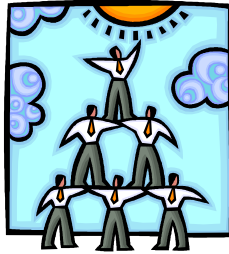


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## Summer Program Spotlight – Summer Van Crew

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The Van Crew, a highly visible work option under the Summer Youth Program, consisted of youth from the City of Lowell assisting in various maintenance and environmental duties under the supervision of six counselors. The crews primarily supplement the City Parks Department throughout the summer, providing trash pickup and light landscaping duties to small and/or out-of-way locations.



School, and rear of Shedd Park; Railroad Bridge at Middlesex and Pawtucket Streets; Sheehy Park, and entrance to Bartlett School on Pawtucket Street; Gorham Street sidewalk at the end of the Lowell

Connector, and the old Butler School grounds; Soccer fields and parking lot on Edwards Street; Canal clean up throughout Downtown; Francis Gate Park cleanup; Clean up and police the downtown area in preparation for the Folk Festival.

Counselors Shelagh Murphy and Brett Schermerhorn stated that the summer work experience proved to be highly successful with a strong, positive outcome for all teens involved. Both counselors saw improvement in the teens' maturity levels, as well as willingness to accept responsibility for their actions, and general work-readiness skills. They mentioned that all of the teens involved truly pulled their own weight in the program, and it was obvious to all of the counselors that the teens truly wanted to be involved, no matter what the job of the day was.

Work sites included:  
Sidewalk and entrance to Pyne

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## Greater Lowell WIB funds 10 Year-Round WIA Youth Programs

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**The Greater Lowell Workforce Investment Board released In-School and Out-of School Request for Proposals in early May 2005, and after careful review selected 10 local programs to assist with WIA funding. Overall, the GLWIB will assist 137 in-school youth, and 130 out-of-school youth.**

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### The following In-School Programs received funding:

**Middlesex Community College In School Drop Out Prevention Program**— offering a comprehensive dropout prevention program for 50 highly at-risk Lowell High School Students. **YWCA of Greater Lowell Project STEP (Strategies for Employment Preparation)** - offering education, professional and personal growth and training to 20 local youth. **Henkel's and McCoy**—an array of Educational/Work Experience/Leadership/Occupational and Life Coping activities, designed to have a

positive impact on 12 youth. **Greater Lowell Technical High School Workforce Program**— providing employment within the community and basic skills to 20 at risk youth with special needs. **University of Massachusetts Lowell – Careers through College Initiative**—Aims to increase the number of first generation college students by targeting 10 LHS juniors to participate in a year-long college awareness program. **Big Brother – Big Sister of Greater Lowell The ADAM Project**— After school and summer program for 25 at-risk youth focusing on dropout and gang prevention as well as work experience.

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### Out of School Programs funded include:

**The GRIP Project – JUMP with GRIP**— allows GRIP to provide GED courses onsite to 15 homeless teens on a rolling basis, as well as life-skills workshops on a weekly basis.



**Middlesex Community College Out-of-School (OSY) Youth Development Center**—an open enrollment program serving 70 youth ages 16-18 with access to secondary education, post-secondary education, GED or employment opportunities. **Merrimack Valley Catholic Charities - Youth In Progress**—a program focusing on GED preparation and vocational exploration for 15 youth . And finally, **Community Teamwork, Inc. – YouthBuild**—a full-time 10 month program with five major components: education, construction, case management, leadership development and graduate services.

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Half of the programs are at full enrollment as of September 30, 2005— with the remainder to reach full enrollment by October 14, 2005.

*Coming Next Issue~  
Spotlight on: JUMP  
with GRIP*