



News Release
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USADF's Mayor's Youth Leadership Institute Interns Honored

WASHINGTON, D.C. – August 12, 2008 – The District of Columbia's Mayor's Youth Leadership Institute (MYLI) held its "Honoring our Heroes" Banquet at Howard University on Thursday, August 7, 2008. ADF's summer interns, who are a part of that program, were recognized along with program alumni and other community leaders at the annual event. Attending the event for ADF were President Lloyd O. Pierson, and Catherine Gates, Director of Management and Administration and Chevella Talbert, Senior Human Resources Assistant, who coordinated the internship program for the Foundation.

The Mayor's Youth Leadership Institute (MYLI) is a year-round program to train District youth in the concepts of leadership and self-development. The program follows an innovative approach which focuses on personal growth, community development, work readiness, life skills, career exploration and internships.

This year, for the first time, the African Development Foundation participated in the program as a 2008 Summer Partner along with the American Institute for Research. ADF was recognized for hosting 6 students who have worked in every division of the Foundation assisting us in a wide range of activities; our interns are:

Shonte Carmon
Anthony Curtis
Tiara Hudson
Hanae Lyons
Marcus Thornton
Shamella Williams

As a special part of the banquet's program, one of our own interns Hanae Lyons presented a poem she crafted that reflects her time with ADF this summer. It is entitled, "Way of Life".

Way of Life

Welcome to my world,
Where blacks suffer everyday,
Trying to make a living,
Trying to make a way,
Trying to take care of their families,
But living in a shack,
Living in a village,
Where mothers wear babies on their backs,
Where families pray day and night,
Asking GOD to protect their lives,

That's what you have to do,
If you want to survive.

Our beauty,
And history is where it all start,
But that also when,
Our country fell apart,
In the North, we have droughts,
Only in the beginning of the year,
A lot of people pass on,
While others drown in their tears,
Our population is decreasing,
All because of AIDS,
Some don't get to see,
Their olden days.

So don't look down on us,
Just give us a hand,
Because you're still a part of us,
A part of our homeland.

©Hanae Lyons

The Foundation wants to thank Hanae and all of the interns for their help this summer. Along with the MYLI interns this summer, ADF was also privileged to have Demetrius Battle join us as another high school student intern. Foundation employees enjoyed having all of the students around, not only for the work they helped us with, but for the gifts and experiences they shared.

The United States African Development Foundation (USADF) is a United States Government agency dedicated to expanding access to economic opportunity in Africa. Currently USADF operates in 18 African nations. Over the past 25 years, USADF has funded nearly 1,100 projects representing in excess of \$150 million in support of African enterprises and local African communities. For more information on USADF, its programs and application guidelines, visit www.usadf.gov.

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