

## Program Objectives

- ❖ To provide an internship and cultural exchange opportunity in Haiti to 5 minority youths between 16 to 19 years of age for four weeks.
- ❖ To collaborate with Youth Service providers to secure recruitment of eligible youth for the program.
- ❖ To contract with four indigenous social service organizations based in the host country to oversee the internship process. They will provide direct services to the youths, including room and board.
- ❖ To conduct evaluation of program through ongoing monitoring, pretest-post test interview of program graduates and longitudinal observation of program graduates.

## Program Goals

The Youth Alliance with Caribbean Peers offers an opportunity to troubled youths to experience life from the perspective of communities with greater social and economic needs. Participants will:

- ❖ Develop a greater sense of self and purpose.
- ❖ Expand their understand of the world and how they relate to it.
- ❖ Increase self-esteem
- ❖ Acquire interest in achievement
- ❖ Recognize real privileges that are bestow to them as Americans
- ❖ Enhance their skills to service their community in a more positive way.
- ❖ Reduce involvement with the law
- ❖ Decrease early parenthood.

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ERITAJ FOUNDATION

**Youth  
Alliance  
with  
Caribbean  
Peers**

# The Youth Alliance with Caribbean Peers

**T**he Youth Alliance with Caribbean Peers program offers urban minority youths with an opportunity to visit Haiti for four weeks, to start to learn a new language, to build resiliency and to expand the breadth and scope of coping strategies.

A critical element to be learned in the internship program is that the world is larger than what they have known and is filled with choices and opportunities.

The students will be immersed in a much poorer community than theirs, and they will explore living conditions where people cope better despite having fewer resources.

The students will engage in community service in areas such as health care and prevention education, sanitary care, food for pregnant women, children and their families and literacy training. They will be placed in Port au Prince and Gonaives in community-based centers contracted to oversee and monitor the internship experience and will stay in the homes of the Executive Directors of these organizations.

## Project Rationale

The lack of clear answers to the complexity of issues faced by deviant youths leave scholars, educators and policy-makers perplexed. Moreover, there are divergent views among these experts as to the causes of poor achievement in schools, delinquent behavior, the high incidence of teen pregnancy, involvement with drugs and high school dropout rates among African Americans. Although a vast array of programs and services are designed to address the varied and multiple needs of this population, minimal successful outcomes have been documented.

## Target Populations

While most traditional student exchange programs are usually available only to

wealthy and advantaged populations, this program will target the poor, disenfranchised urban youth. Within the African American community, there is a pervasive sense of hopelessness and despair coupled with all too frequent patterns of destructive and negative behavior. It is incumbent upon us to continue to seek innovative approaches that truly impact the lives of disenfranchised youths from these communities. The Youth Alliance with Caribbean peers would offer just such a high-impact innovative approach to tackling the intrinsic problems of African American youth.

## Program evaluation

Evaluation of program outcomes includes pre-test/ post-test surveys, empowerment and self-esteem indicators, change in behavior and program graduates <sup>TM</sup> longitudinal surveys.

*“One critical element in the YACP exchange program is the opportunity for the youth to learn that the world is larger than that they have known and filled with choices and opportunities that cross all strata of society.*

*“Within the African American community, there is a pervasive sense of hopelessness and despair coupled with all too frequent patterns of destructive and/or negative behavior. It is incumbent upon us to continue to seek innovative approaches that truly impact the lives of disenfranchised youths from these communities.”*

Mirlande Butler  
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