

## FIRST FRIDAY REPORT

A Monthly Update for Friends of the YMCA of Northwest North Carolina

JUNE 2008

Greetings,

An important part of the work at our YMCA is developing leadership skills with the teenagers we serve. Here are a few highlights of some of that work:

- **YMCA hosts 2008 Southeastern Regional Teen Summit.** During the weekend of April 25th-27th, the Winston Lake Family YMCA hosted the 2008 Southeastern Regional Black/Hispanic Achievers Teen Summit at the Hawthorne Inn. The Summit brought together teen leaders from Georgia, South Carolina and throughout North Carolina to hear workshops from community leaders, tour area colleges and universities and experience the "City of the Arts." The event started with a stirring speech from Judge Denise Hartsfield and ended with a Prayer Breakfast and Awards Ceremony. Several teens made the comment, "I can go back to my community and make a difference."
- **Hispanic Achievers Recognized at Banquet.** The annual Hispanic Achievers Recognition Banquet was held on Friday May 16th at East Forsyth High School. The event brought together over 100 Hispanic Achievers and their families to celebrate their success and to thank the Adult Achievers that committed their time to mentoring these young people. Eddie Hernandez from Modern Automotive Network challenged the students to complete their education, set high goals and strive to reach them. The goal of Hispanic Achievers is to address the growing drop-out rate for Hispanic/Latinos by reaching out to English as a Second Language high school students. Program participants come from East Forsyth, North Forsyth, Parkland and Reynolds High Schools. There are nearly 175 students in this growing program and it is meeting a critical community need.
- **Students Become Entrepreneurs in "Right on the Money" Program.** On Wednesday May 21st, the Kernersville Family YMCA hosted the "Right on the Money" celebration. In partnership with Southern Community Bank and Trust of Winston-Salem, teens in the YMCA after-school program learned about entrepreneurialism. Southern Community Bank and Trust gave each team of seven students a \$200 loan to start a business. Each month the students learned about developing business and marketing plans, budgeting and investing. The students formed five teams and took turns selling their products in the Kernersville Family YMCA and Southern Community Bank and Trust's lobbies from March to May. One team, "Shampoodle", discovered the need to be flexible when their dog-washing business wasn't making money. "We learned about interest and didn't want to be in debt. It wasn't that our business idea was bad. It just didn't fit the location," said one team member. The team who made the most money was "Fruity Smoothies". When they sold smoothies, they were able to pay back their loan and make a profit but discovered a different challenge. "The toughest thing about business is not eating the merchandise!" the team said. Other teams sold snack mix, baked goods, and car washes. Every team was able to pay back its loan and make a profit. Southern Community Bank and Trust gave students a check for the profits they earned and encouraged them to save the money. The students learned a valuable life skill and had a great time doing it.

*Thank you for your continued support.*

IN SPIRIT, MIND & BODY,



Curt Hazelbaker  
President and CEO