



# Garden Seeds

Building communities together...one gardener at a time

Volume 1; Number 1 - July 12, 2006



Ga'Melva and Andrew painting a flower pot.

## Upcoming Events Get Your Calendar Ready!

- |                     |                                                                                                                                            |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Parent Day          | Thursday August 3rd, 5—7 p.m.<br>Bring a dish to pass<br>Tour the garden, paint and plant<br>flower pots and pick some<br>yummy vegetables |
| Community<br>Picnic | Thursday August 17th,<br>5:30—7:30 p.m.<br>Garden tours, face painting,<br>balloon hats, hot dogs, chips<br>and pop.                       |



Andrew making "paint punch" while Katie and Deajah look on.

## Our Garden Begins!

Dear Parents.

Hello! We hope you are enjoying a nice summer day. First, all of our mentors and staff would like to thank you for all your help by giving us a chance to hang out with your youth. These past two weeks have been awesome. All the kids are a joy to have around. They are smart and helpful. They are providing the sunshine we need to begin the long days out in the garden.

So what's this garden about anyway? Well, we're here to have fun while learning a new experience. Sometimes we paint, sometimes we play games and sometimes we work hard to keep our garden thriving. At some point, your child will have a chance to take home some vegetables for you to enjoy.

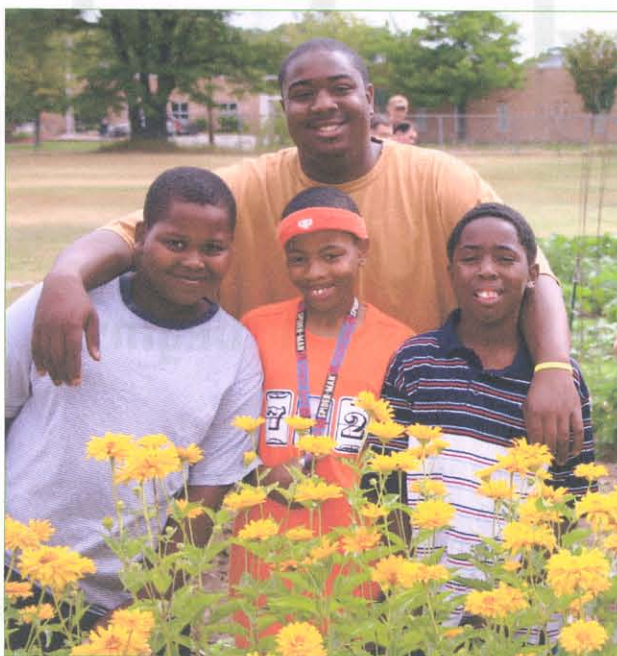
The garden is also a place for learning. Last week we learned about the good bugs that help our garden grow and the bad bugs that eat our plants. After an hour in the garden we head to the classroom to learn about Botvin's Life Skills. Lessons educate kids on how to keep a positive self-image while equipping them with the tools to resist drugs and alcohol.

In each newsletter we plan to introduce you to one of our mentors and showcasing the great things your kids are learning in the garden.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to read about our gardening news.

Sincerely,

Sofi Dutcher & Ga'Melva Banks,  
*High School Student Editors*



D.J. with some of his boys from Moon Elementary School.

## Mentor Profile: D. J. Wyrick

Mentoring youth since 2005

Member of Muskegon County PRIDE since 2002

Age: 15

School: Muskegon High

Grade: 10th

College in future: Ferris State University

Ambition in life after college: Music Producer

Role model: Grandmother

Spare time favorite activities: Playing basketball, of course, or watching the Miami Heat win, especially Dwayne Wade.

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The Community Garden is a collaboration between Muskegon County Health Department, Muskegon County PRIDE Youth Programs, Muskegon Public Schools, Goodwill Industries and the Muskegon Family YMCA.

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