

# Help Increase the Peace @ Civitas

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## Special points of interest:

- What It's Like to be a Peer Mediator
- What We Learned
- Advice to Make the World More Peaceful
- Who's the New Peer Mediators

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## Reflecting on Session 4 by Ms. Mia

This session has been so many things. It's been productive, eventful, stressful and fun for HIPP @ Civitas. Peer Mediators Kini Reid and Talaytha ushered in the program by mediating multiple conflicts and have been doing a wonderful job with Ms. Turner.

HIPP @ Civitas also hosted an Open House. Not many people showed, by HIPP @ Civitas students really showed their leadership and presentation skills, impressing student, teacher and outside organizations a like. They taught participants active listening skills, win-win problem solving, and communicating feelings. They also facilitated an activity and discussion on the root causes of peace and violence. I am extremely proud of all the

students who were involved. I was even more proud and impressed at their Final Presentations where students, staff and a few visitors listened to how HIPP @ Civitas students planned to improve their community. Their ideas and presentations were wonderful. We heard everything from fundraisers for families and schools to peer mentoring groups for young men and women. Keynote speaker, Mama Charlotte O'Neal, longtime community activist and artist who co-directs the United African Alliance

Community Center in Tanzania, shared her amazing life story and poetry with us.

I am excited to see what extraordinary things will happen next session as we learn how to put our plans into action.



Ms. Mia with the Peer Mediation Class

HIPP @ Civitas will be helping to plan

PEACE ON PURPOSE., a day of workshops, discussion and performances on May 21 that highlight achieving peace in our community. Look out for updates!

## Being a Peer Mediator by Talaytha Carter

It is hard being a Peer Mediator because everyone wants you do better than other students and to be example to others. At the same it can be very fun. We get to go on fun trips and get to help people and get to meet some very cool people and get to

see real people and how they really act. You get to see how you feel about working with people and see people after you mediate them.

I think being Peer Mediator is a big job and it means a lot to me to be one and would like to thank Ms. Mia for

teaching me how to be a Peer Mediator.



Help Increase the Peace @ Civitas

## HIPP Goes to AVAM by Kini Reid

On Wednesday March 31, 2010, we went to the American Visionary Arts Museum. I thought the museum was very interesting. The atmosphere was creative, peaceful and had a lot of meaning. Some of the art was very creative. There was one piece I thought was really cool. It was a very modest tree house. It was very detailed and every-

thing was made of trees. The class saw there were names on the tree house of previous visitors of the museum so we put our names on the house as well. We were a part of an art piece! The museum also had meaning. The theme of the exhibit was "Life Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness." My favorite was life. It showed that life is a gift



Talaytha, KaTia and Kini inside the Tree House

and because every life is a gift, we should be thankful for it.

*"I learned to be truly proactive not reactive"*

## My Time in Peer Mediation by KaTia Moses

Hey, my name is KaTia Moses and I am a Peer Mediator. I am going to describe to you my total experience so far. When I first came [to the class], I just went for control or to feel that I had the upper-hand over the students but as time went by

it was all about gaining wisdom. I began to get to know people better. I learned to be truly proactive and not reactive. I was given an awesome teacher, Ms. Mia, who really cares. We even got to go to the White House and meet Michelle

Obama (no lie). Man, that was good. My catch phrase is "I don't care..." but I can say I think I love this class!



## Love Everyone by Alicia Butler

I learned that people shouldn't judge people. They are just being human beings, just ordinary people. We should love each other the same no matter what race you are, or what you're background is like. The only person that should judge is God. I learned in class

that you should help people with problems even though they are going through tough times. Still help them through thick and through thin. I think we shouldn't fight one another. We need to solve the problem.



Alicia Butler in the Tree House at the American Visionary Arts Museum

## HIPP @ Civitas Open House by Brooke McDonald

“Pay attention, I need you to participate” said (I forget the name of the student doing the tree of violence/peace) as she explained a Help Increase the Peace activity. Young people in the Peer Mediation class at Civitas take their jobs seriously – they are becoming peer mediators and they want to help the school by preemptively dealing with conflict and violence. In order to do so, they know that they need to be leaders in the community, not afraid to tell others to pay attention to what they have to say. And what the Peer Mediation class has to say is this: they want to help make their school, and their city, a safer place.

On Wednesday March 24, the Baltimore Civitas School joined the city Health Department's Office of Youth Violence Prevention, the Mayor's office, and several other community based organizations that were holding a series of events, workshops and open houses to highlight the issue of youth violence. It was National Youth Violence Prevention week and the Peer Mediation class opened their doors to the school community so that they could teach others what they had been learning: problem-solving behavior and techniques.

I was lucky enough to be able to attend the open house and I was impressed with the professionalism

of the students. They were willing teachers and I learned about listening techniques, the root causes of violence, and ways to keep young people out of trouble. I hope that other Civitas students can learn by the example of these dedicated youths.



DaQuan teaching fellow students the art of communication.

*“I hope other Civitas students can learn by example of these dedicated youths.”*

## You're Invited: PEACE ON PURPOSE!

American Friends Service Committee is hosting: Peace on Purpose!

A series of workshops, film, discussion and performances dedicated to different peace and justice issues in the community and our world.

Topics include the youth violence prevention, the prison system, popular education, community engagement, human rights and the real cost of war.

Students and staff are both invited and encouraged to attend.

Date: May 21, 2010  
 Time: 10am-8pm  
 Place: Stony Run Friends Meeting House  
 5116 N. Charles St  
 Cost: FREE (including meals)

Email Ms. Mia at [mjones@afsc.org](mailto:mjones@afsc.org) for more details!



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## Quaker Values in Action

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## Insightful Words from HIPP @ Civitas Students

“To make the world a better place you must change negative characteristics about yourself FIRST.” Chanell Stansbury

“Every story has two sides, it is up to us to pick one to stand for, but prior to that we must analyze both of them to get all the info.” -KaTia Moses

there are so many ways to minimize a conflict than just thinking about fighting. The role plays were fun.” – Kini Reid

HIPP @ Civitas is the Peer Mediation class at the Baltimore Civitas School. This class was established through a partnership between the American Friends Service Committee and the Baltimore Civitas School to empower youth to resolve conflicts and therefore solve problems at Civitas and beyond. Peer Mediators are trained to deescalate situations before they turn to violence also mediate conflicts between students in order to come up with creative and sustainable solutions.

Peer Mediators for this session are: Kini Reid, Talaytha Carter, KaTia Moses and Chanell Stansbury! These students continue to work hard to make Civitas a better place!



HIPP @ Civitas Student hard at work