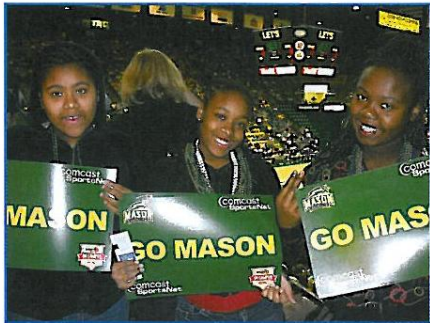


Resident Services

Teen Program is Changing Lives



AHC's Teen Program is planning 3 college trips this year.

AHC's Teen Program has a very straightforward goal – keep teens in school until they graduate and help them maximize their potential. Because many students face steep economic and social challenges as first-generation Americans, achieving this goal can be tough. In response, AHC has developed a holistic approach, combining strong academic support with one-on-one mentoring and coaching – critical ingredients for teens who often lack such encouragement at home.

AHC's strategy is making a real difference. Teens that were at risk of dropping out are staying in school, grades are rising, and lives are changing. "AHC's Teen Program gives students the tools to believe in themselves and helps make their dreams become realities," says Jennifer Endo, AHC's Director of Resident Services. Last year, seven out of nine seniors graduated from high school; six went to college. All were the first in their families to achieve that goal.

One success story is Aneela Mousam. Originally from Kashmir, Aneela graduated from Yorktown High School in 2009 with a grade

point average of over 4.0. She received a full scholarship to Virginia Tech and credits AHC's Teen Program for helping her. "I have been involved with AHC programs since I was in elementary school," explains Aneela. "The biggest thing that has helped me is the support I have gotten from everyone. There was always someone that I could ask for help on homework, college applications or anything else I was dealing with. I still keep in touch with my tutor and know I can always talk to her about any problems I have."

Teen Tutor Learns as Much as She Teaches

AHC's teen tutoring program is an incredibly productive program, which I am proud to be a part of. I started participating as a tutor in September 2006. I started because I wanted to help kids, but I had no idea what a huge positive experience I was in for. This is my fourth year, and I'm thrilled to be back and working with these terrific students another year.



Sarah Hippolitus tutors 8th grader Asad Khan.

What I love about this program is it's an opportunity for caring, interested individuals to come in every Tuesday and help students, who may not receive much encouragement either at home, school, or both. It is so tremendously worthwhile for these students to have role models, who are there every week specifically to not only help them learn, but to also encourage them, motivate them, and invest in their well-being.



Tuesday Teen Tutoring at The Frederick,

The students and I really bond, and I walk out of there every week knowing that I made a positive impact on them, and vice versa. It is my opinion that because we are not parents or teachers, who are seen as authority figures, we often have more influence on the students. We are seen as their "cool, older friend," and that I find gives us more pull and credibility.

Tuesday Teen Tutoring is always my favorite night of the week. I know I'm making a positive difference in these students' lives just by being there and caring about them. I hope this program is around for a very long time, and that it expands. Clearly, it is near and dear to my heart because I truly believe in its contribution to the success of its students.

– Sarah Hippolitus, Teen Tutor