

Aspiring to Impact the Future

By: Jelisa Robinson

Before Aspiring Youth, my after school evenings were filled with boring games I made up to pass the time. Sometimes I'd be so uninterested in the world around me that I'd spend countless hours writing nonsense, making prank calls and just being down right unproductive. After I joined the Aspiring Youth after school program, I immediately saw a change in my behavior, grades and self-esteem. In aspiring youth, the instructors, like Ms. Varnado and Mrs. Collins, give us valuable lessons in not only academics but in life and living. The activities and warm, caring people have given me a better outlook on life. In the great words of Robert Collier, an acclaimed motivational author, "Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out." Each day I attend the program, I'm adding to the great success that I will acquire now and later in life. The exemplary program stresses that in order to succeed we must first believe we can.

Aspiring Youth has influenced me in several ways. First of all, I have acquired a great amount of confidence. Before I joined the aspiring youth program, I was a silent little girl who never spoke up for what I believed in. After a few weeks in Aspiring Youth, I became this outspoken diva who stood up for what she believed in and had an excellent time doing so! My confidence isn't the only thing that has changed. My grades have also sky rocketed to the top! I used to dread the evil four- letter subject ... MATH.

Now I take on Algebra head on and do math problems with no problems whatsoever. It's just numbers, patterns and a simple way of doing things to get an answer. Patience has never been an asset that I had, but after a few weeks in Aspiring Youth I became more patient with others around me. My ultimate favorite thing about Aspiring Youth is the field trips!!! Never in my lifetime would I ever think about going to a hockey game! The Aeros hockey's game was exciting, exuberant and entertaining. We also participated in the taste program where we learned about the jobs of people who worked at Hewlett and Packard. Among the many educational and cultural fieldtrips I'd have to say that Rodeo Houston was my favorite of all time. Even though I've been to numerous concerts, that Alicia Keys concert was by far the best because I love her amazing music and admire her unique singing and songwriting skills.

Aspiring Youth, as you can see, has truly touched my life. It really wasn't the fantastic fieldtrips, the funny friends or the lessons learned. It was the people who touched my life and inspired me to aspire to impact the future.