

Fusion's DLA Group Project:

The Riley Institute's Diversity Leaders Initiative Midlands Class II 2009 Fusion project group developed the idea of bringing young people together in a service environment, led by the youth corps of City Year, to build leadership skills, relationships and community among high school seniors of different backgrounds in public and private schools in Clarendon County. Clemson's Education Friendly Communities program will give this initiative a longer life, and will continue to lead programs in Summerton that will keep these young leaders united. Ben Boozer of Clemson is leading that effort.

The group has raised nearly \$5,000 to cover costs for this project. Sponsors thus far include First Citizens, Bank of Clarendon, Dr. Rose Wilder, Representative Cathy Harvin, and Tony Cooper.

DLA FUSION group project team members include:

Dr. Rose Wilder, Superintendent, Clarendon School District 1
Mr. James Darby, Executive Director, Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments
Mr. Trip DuBard, Executive Director, Palmetto Horizon, Inc.
Mr. Tony Cooper, CEO, SC Education Lottery
Ms. Kimberly Davis, VP Community Development, Wachovia
Ms. Paige King, Executive Director, Urban Land Institute South Carolina
Ms. Amy Love, Deputy Executive Director, New Carolina

First Session:

City Year Corps members led the first session at Scotts Branch High School. For many, this was the first time these students had met each another. They did team building exercises, and brainstormed ideas for a group service project. Clarendon Hall students wanted to tour Scotts Branch to see inside the educational world of the public school students.

Second Session:

City Year Corps members led the second session at Clarendon Hall. The students defined their projects that would show leadership and unity in Summerton. The students named their initiative "Unite Summerton" and here is what they did:

- Playground Equipment - clean and repaint
- Basketball Court/Mural - relining the goal lines on the basketball courts and adding a three point line. Paint 'Unite Summerton' mural
- Park Beautification - Trash pick-up and cutting back the overgrown trees and lawn

Final Session - Service Day: WIS News covered the event

The final session was the service day in Summerton. After working with the Clarendon Hall principal, a new 3-point line was painted on the basketball court. The principal told us that the Scotts Branch coach was now including the Clarendon Hall students in extracurricular activities, and that she encounters Scotts Branch students all over town. The relationship building is working!