

Hands On Youth Activities Program, Inc.

Juliette Watts
P.O. Box 611072
Birmingham, Alabama 35261

<http://handsonyouth.webs.com>
jubabewa@hotmail.com
(205) 244-1109 Fax: (205) 244-1087

Hands On Youth Activities Program, Inc. was founded in 1996. This program is a reflection of Juliette's parents and their creative spirits. Inspired by Dr. Lois Gyan, Juliette set out to teach youth some forms of age old traditions. She met Trudy Phillips in early 2000 where she was inspired again to pursue this desire she had to teach our youth Cultural Arts. Giving our youth an opportunity to be a part of advancing and preserving some forms of age old historical art traditions while allowing them to express themselves by being creative and putting their energy into being creative in a constructive way.

Juliette grew up in a family whose parents instilled in them self motivation and drive. She was taught to be loving, kind and respectful to others. At an early age having sisters and brothers, she learned how to share and be considerate of others. She has always enjoyed working with her hands and became hook on traditional arts. She has a talent to create and designed. She is a creative cook and extraordinary designer. Her Father showed her how to bake cakes, while her Mother showed her sewing, crochet and planting seeds techniques along with other traditional arts. Juliette enjoys sharing her talents with others, especially youth of today.

The enjoyment of making hats, dresses, purses whether it be crochet, knitting or sewing and also baking the best cakes in town, wearing her creations and receiving great compliments and having her family and friends enjoy her baking and wearable's gave her self-satisfaction and encouragement to do good and be successful in life.

Her goal is to show today's youth that they can achieve their goals and by focusing on the positive in life, not the negative, that hard work and dedication will develop good character and inspire them to be successful in all that they choose to do. Showing them things that you can't always get in a classroom, but yet is a vital part of their lives along with some of these age old traditional arts not only helps their creative skills but it develops their character and help them become productive people in society. Juliette sees the good in all the kids she works with. She shows them how to plant seeds to feed their bodies and how to plant seeds of hope for their well being.

Hands On Youth Activities Program go into the Birmingham City Schools as well as other surrounding Schools, Communities and Neighborhoods, continuing the mission of the program by doing workshops, retreats and camps. Helping our youth develop character by using age old traditional art techniques.

As a member of NUSA, Community efforts are one of her focal points. Juliette is constantly encouraging our youth, helping them discover their potentials, telling them to relax and enjoy their youth. She often tells them to "stop sweating small stuff". She encourage youth to be themselves, stay in school and get their education so when they become adults they will have the tools they need to live a productive life. Be leaders not followers, always take the road less followed, be respectful and have a positive attitude, be a good example to others and that they can be anything they want to be, the sky is the limit is what she always tells them.

Experience speaks for itself, Juliette has been featured in The Birmingham News, The Birmingham Times, The Sun, Woman's World Magazine, The Mobile Daily and on Fox 6 News, just to name a few.

Hands On Youth Activities has work with the Birmingham City Schools Youth at Risk of Failure Program since 2004-2010. As part of Arts and Craft Month as well as Crochet month, their work has been displayed at Birmingham City Schools Board of Education since 2004. Hands On Youth Activities Program has done crochet and kids cooking workshops at the Birmingham Public Libraries since year 2000. Hands On Youth Activities Program, Inc. (HOAYP) received the 2004 Library Champion Award given by the Jefferson County Public Library Association. HOYAP has also work with Fairfield City Schools Youth at Risk of Failure Program in 2008-2010 school years. Hands On youth received the 2010 Hidden Hero Award from the City of Birmingham, William A. Bell, Sr. Mayor. Since 2009 our youth have participated in the Special World Winter Games Scarf Making Projects.

Embracing our youth and teaching them cultural arts will empower them with skills that will definitely have an economic impact in our communities. Thank you for allowing Hands On Youth Activities Program, Inc bring the spirit of experimentation to our youth.