



March 27, 2017

Contact: Donna Scott-Martin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

301-699-3500, ext. 6152

Local Strength, Youth Leadership Program

Contributors: Jamyel Jenifer and Andrea Bell-PGCMLS staff

Hillcrest Heights, MD - Teens in Local Strength are not just talk; they are all about taking action. Local Strength teens are in the process of learning how to code in HTML (Hypertext Markup Language). In a few months, they will be able to create a website for a local domestic violence nonprofit. Members of the group are also writing a grant in order to implement an awareness campaign that combats youth homelessness. Moreover, these teens completed a six-week Job Readiness training to prepare for summer employment opportunities with the Prince George's County Summer Youth Employment Program.

What is Local Strength? In Local Strength, teens are given experiences, tools and knowledge to become leaders within their communities. The program teaches youth how to identify, prioritize and create problem solving models that address community needs. Teens also gain valuable interpersonal and work skills as they collaborate with each other and guest presenters to complete service learning projects. This youth leadership program offered by the Hillcrest Heights Branch of the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) is for youth ages 13-18 and meets Thursdays, 4-5:30 pm.

Local Strength was created by PGCMLS staff member Jamyel "Jam" Jenifer in the fall of 2016. Her passion for working with marginalized groups led her to create this teen-centered program which is modeled after her experience as a volunteer with the Peace Corps. In her time as a volunteer, Jenifer worked with women's groups in starting entrepreneurial initiatives that they could use to gain skills to support their families. Jam now channels what she learned in the Peace Corp into the Local Strength youth.

Upcoming events include: CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) training, HIV/AIDS (human immunodeficiency virus / acquired immune deficiency syndrome) discussion and a session on education with Aaron Gilchrist from NBC 4 News. Also, the Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce President and CEO and PGCMLS management staff will address the teens with respect to business plan development. Jenifer plans to add a second weekly meeting date for Local Strength members in response to their demand.

About Prince George's County Memorial Library System

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS), consisting of 19 branches, offers strategies for lifelong learning. Skills development library resources include: Rosetta Stone Library Solution, Lynda.com, Brainfuse's HelpNow and JobNow, ArtistWorks for Libraries and Learning Express Library. Early literacy resources are: Ready 2 Read Centers, Ready 2 Read Backpacks, ABCmouse, AWE Early Literacy Stations, Beanstack, Playaway Launchpads and PebbleGo. All these services are free with your PGCMLS library card. Also, enjoy Minecraft, 3D printing, DREAM (Digital Resources for Electronic Applications in Media) lab, chess clubs and MAC (Manga and Anime Clubs) free at your library. Engage with us on social media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Flicker](#), [Pinterest](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#). Check out our [mobile apps](#)! Learn more about what your Library has to offer at www.pgcmls.info.

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