



# Community Technical Assistance, Inc.

## CTA'S Corner

### College-Bound High School Graduates from East Orange Campus High School!



Jevonna Morrison

Jevonna Morrison has been a participant of the TDC program since her sophomore year of high school. In the fall, Jevonna will be attending Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (New Brunswick) on a full scholarship, where she will major in Urban Planning & Public Policy and minor in Psychology.



Hakeem Harvey

Hakeem Harvey is currently a Planning Student Intern at CTA. Hakeem will be attending University of New Haven this fall, where he will major in Accounting. Hakeem says the program is preparing him for the business world and improving his professional skills.



Lasheema Edwards

Lasheema Edwards became an Urban Planning Student Intern at CTA during her junior year of high school. Lasheema has received a full scholarship to the Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (New Brunswick), where she will be attending this fall. Lasheema will be majoring in Urban Planning & Public Policy.



Jessica Constant

Jessica Constant started the TDC Program as a Public Health Student Intern, during her junior year of high school. She said "During my time at CTA, I gained a lot of knowledge concerning my community's health." In the fall, Jessica will be attending Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (New Brunswick) on a full scholarship, where she will major in Public Health and minor in Biology.

### Our Most Recent Accomplishment!

Community Technical Assistance, Inc. (CTA) is now a New Jersey approved Supplemental Educational Services (SES) Provider. (Provider #278), Statewide for K-8, Language Arts and Math

- Our comprehensive SES program will be provided free tutoring as part of our **'Back-To-Basics'** theme aimed at helping public school students gain confidence, improve their academic skills, and establish a foundation for learning they can build upon throughout their lives.

### What's Coming Up?

1. International Study– Cape Town, South Africa, Fall 2008– Understanding and gaining knowledge of African communities and their impact on Planning & Public Health.

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# Community Technical Assistance, Inc.

## CTA'S Corner

Community Technical Assistance, Inc. (CTA) mission as a New Jersey based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization is to provide technical assistance in low-to-moderate income neighborhoods in order for youth, residents, community-based and faith-based organizations to transform their distressed community.

### "Never Forgetting the Past While Preparing the Future!"



Urban Planning Student Interns begin their design.

This summer, CTA's *Transforming Distressed Communities* (IDC) program engaged middle and high school student interns from the City of Orange Township and the City of East Orange Public Schools in an intensive 8-week process to transform a former Brownfield site into a usable space.

The project site is located at the intersection of Alden and High Street in the City of Orange Township, NJ, on the former U.S. Radium Corporation site. The site is predominately owned by the City of Orange Township.

The overall project goal is to provide sustainable and responsible solutions that will address the design of a public recreation and open space.

The nature of the project's scope involved the inclusion of Public Health and Urban Planning as part of the project's professional development by the student interns who:

- Conducted historical research and neighborhood surveys
- Ascertained the uniqueness of the population's characteristics
- Identified the natural resources and the surrounding neighborhood for the project site
- Engaged in the elimination of health disparities among minorities and reduction of the sedentary lifestyles among adults and youth
- Concluded with the creation of a recreation and open space **Vision.**

Both the Public Health and Urban Planning Student Interns assessed the area, and then created a vision based on their findings, which included the residents' opinions. Inside you will see the steps our student interns took to transform a former Brownfield site into a usable space.

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#### Look Inside:

1. TDC Summer 08 Project Highlight.
2. Panelist Comments & Opinions
3. College-Bound High School Graduates

#### Editor:



**Tiffaine Stephens**  
Tiffaine Stephens is currently a sophomore at East Orange Campus High School. She has been a Student Intern at CTA since her freshman year. She is currently our marketing and development student intern.

#### Contributors:

Roland Whitley, Jr.,  
Executive Director

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# Part I– Assessment: CTA’S Corner

The Assessment phase of this project included research of the history of the site, population characteristic data collection, research of health disparities, adult and youth data collection (BRFSS, YRBSS), physical activity education, and case study research.

### Urban Planning: Project Manager– Ngozi Obi



Interior of U.S. Radium Corporation

#### Urban Planning: Part I-Assessment

**Goal 1:** Characterize the History of the Site

**Goal 2:** Define Uniqueness of People Who Reside in the Neighborhood

**Goal 3:** Research Natural Resources for Project Site

**Goal 4:** Conduct an Assessment

The Urban Planning student interns

presented the following findings:

- The U.S. Radium Corporation was a company that developed a glow-in-the-dark radioactive paint to use on watch dials; Many of the workers died or became ill due to the ingestion of the radioactive material.
- **86%** of residents living within the study area consider themselves as **Black**.
- 29% of residents in the study area had not received a High School Diploma or received a 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade education.
- The median household income for the study area is \$38,593.
- The project site has three natural resources: 1) Water– Wigwam Brook, which ultimately connects to Atlantic Ocean. 2) Wildlife– Mallard Ducks and Fat-headed Minnow Fish. 3) Vegetation– Japanese Knotweed.
- The project site is 4 acres of vacant land in the D-1 District with Recreational centers (Open Space) as a principal permitted use.
- Pedestrian hierarchy is not present along the High Street (collector street) and Alden Street (local street).



### Public Health: Project Manager– Jasmine Doughty

#### Public Health: Part 1– Assessment

**Goal 1:** Decrease Health Disparities in Minorities relating to Physical Activity

**Goal 2:** Increase Environmental awareness and Physical Activity in the Neighborhood

**Goal 3:** Develop Recommendations for the Creation of an Open Space that will increase Physical Activity and Quality of Life.

The Public Health student interns presented the following findings:

- Decreasing disparities in obesity, increasing healthy eating and physical activity, and improving quality of life is an essential connecting goal identified for the project.
- **40%** of Black and Hispanic Adults and Youth engage in the least amount of physical activity for the State of New Jersey.
- More than **50%** of adults on both the Metropolitan and Metropolitan levels responded no to participating in moderate or vigorous physical activity.
- 95% of surveyed residents surrounding the project site reported that they are not doing enough physical area.
- More than 75% of residents wanted a clean, safe and quite neighborhood.
- Case Study research revealed that educating the community about environmental concerns relating to the project site and keeping them informed is very important. One method identified is via health pamphlets on the benefits of physical activity and the process.



Project Site– ‘Cleaned to Residential Standards’



# Part II– Vision: CTA’S Corner

During the Recommendations and Visioning process phase of the project, the student interns collectively set goals and design solutions based on their established issue from the Assessment as well as community survey results.

### Recommendation and Vision Solutions

#### Pedestrian Hierarchy



Alden and High Street Perspective for New Traffic Calming Devices

The implementation of pedestrian hierarchy for the project site was a primary goal in order to allow pedestrians to have access to the project site. To achieve their goal, traffic calming devices were included at major intersections with traffic lights and stop signs highlighted by pedestrian crosswalks.

#### Historical Memorial Recommendations



Grace Fryer Monument

The Grace Fryer Monument memorializes Grace Fryer– a former worker who filed a lawsuit in 1928 against the US Radium Corporation. She was later joined by 4 other co-workers known as the ‘Radium Girls’. In addition to the closing of the US Radium Corporation, four (4) National Environmental Policies, OSHA, Clean Water Act, RCRA and CERCLA were positive outcomes.



US Radium Memorial

The US Radium Memorial replicates the hazardous working environment of the workers due to their handling of the radium to create glow-in-the-dark watches for soldiers in World War I. The memorial design also includes the historical timeline from 1917 to 2005 of significant events commemorating the past and present.



US Radium Memorial

#### Cultural & Walking Recommendations



Aerial of Proposed Cultural & Educational Literacy Center

Survey results from the surrounding residents indicated that 45% of the residents wanted more cultural identity, which resulted in a new Cultural Building. The design reflects the African American culture with programmed spaces for educational literacy, cultural activities, health fairs, and historical site archives. The building can also be made ‘Green’ to reflect the site’s natural resources.

### Panelist Comments & Opinions



**Mayor Eldridge Hawkins, Jr.**  
City of Orange Township  
‘Thank you for coming to Orange to do positive things.’



**Michael Taylor, Director**  
Essex County Division of Housing & Community Development  
‘I’m already excited to see the vision, your presentation was great!’



**Valerie Jackson, Director**  
City of Orange Township Dept. of Planning & Economic Development  
‘These students have made a great foundation for a good project.’



**Darrell Holcomb, Deputy Dept. Head**  
City of Orange Township Dept. of Community Services  
‘This presentation shows that the educational systems is working in our communities.’



**Keith Pressey, Recreation Supervisor**  
City of Orange Township Dept. of Community Services  
‘I’m glad that when the students designed the park, they took into consideration what the people [residents] want– a quiet, clean, and safe area. Good Job.’

Visit our website: [www.cta-us.com](http://www.cta-us.com)

Partners: Essex County Division of Housing and Community Development, City of Orange Township, City of Orange Township Recreation Department, City of Orange Township Planning & Development Department, Orange Board of Education, City of East Orange Youth 200 Initiative, City of East Orange Board of Education, Neighborhood Planning and Architectural Design, Inc., Prudential Foundation, YWCA– Essex and West Hudson, Essex County Environmental Center, Frank H Lehr Associates