



Community Technical Assistance, Inc.

CTA'S Corner

Our High School Graduates: East Orange Campus High School!



Jevonna Morrison

Jevonna Morrison started the TDC program her 10th grade year of high school as a Streetscape Revitalization Student Intern. She then went on to become an Urban Planning Student Intern during her 11th grade year of high school. Because of her great skills and growth from sophomore year of high school she was then promoted to Project Manager Assistant her senior year. 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. In her sophomore year of college, she plans to attend the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning & Public Policy.



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 increasing his professional skills.



Lasheema Edwards

Lasheema Edwards became an Urban Planning Student Intern at CTA in her junior year of high school. Lasheema has received a full scholarship to the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, where she is enrolled in the Planning & Public Policy program.



Jessica Constant

Jessica Constant became a Public Health Student Intern at CTA in her junior year of high school. Jessica has received a full scholarship to the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, where she is enrolled in the Public Health program.



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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. Our objective is to empower young citizens to create their own environments, improve their quality of life, and become leaders in their community.

To achieve our objective, CTA has established four (4) technical assistance sections.

- Community and Economic Development
- Public Health
- Housing and Neighborhood Stabilization
- Technical Assistance

TDC Summer Program Begins!



The Transforming Distressed Communities summer program has begun!

This summer, there are 14 student interns. These students are split into two groups: Public Health and Urban Planning, and will be working from 9 am to 5 pm to complete a community project. Prior to the beginning of the applied learning program, the students have completed a considerable amount of technical training, which is necessary to complete their projects. Technical training sessions included: finding and compiling raw data from US Census Bureau, preparing PowerPoint presentations, geographic location and political boundaries, and learning technical terms relating to the respective field. Project Managers, Ngozi Obi and Jasmine Doughty have assisted these ambitious student interns to complete their projects by preparing work plans for each week, creating project schedules and timelines, and gathering background information on the projects.



Overall, these student interns are learning not only how to work in a professional work environment and valuable technical skills, but most importantly how to take what they have learned and make a difference in their communities.

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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

Ngozi Obi, Project
Manager



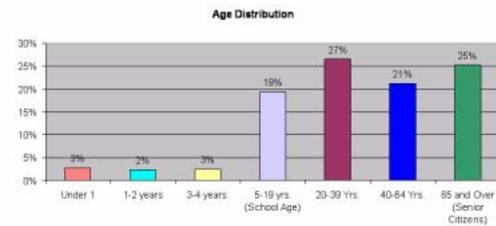
Project Highlight 2007: Urban Planning

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In the summer of 2007, in collaboration with the City of East Orange's Mayor- Robert L. Bowser, Department of Policy Planning and Development- Comprehensive Planning, 777 Steppers and Tenant Association, the Urban Planning Student Interns of TDC tackled a project which addressed mobility and accessibility of disabled and non-disabled senior citizens within the right-of-way of their project site. The project site's location is within the intersection of North Park Street and Springdale Avenue in the northwest portion of East Orange, NJ. The site is immediately adjacent to Soveral Park, several businesses and two senior citizen and disabled residential buildings. Overall, the Urban Planners' goal was to improve the quality of life for disabled and non-disabled senior residents by increasing their access and mobility via a congested vehicular street crossing to a neighborhood park and local businesses.



Aerial View of Project Site



2000 Age Distribution Chart: Census 2000

1) The first step to achieving their goal was to identify the users within the right-of-way, which meant gathering population characteristics from the US Census Bureau to see who their study area was composed of. They found that 25% of the study area consisted of persons 65 years and over (Senior Citizens). They also found that 41% of persons 65 years and over were physically disabled.



2) The UP interns conducted an area assessment, where the student interns searched the area for problems in the sidewalk, parkway, and roadway (right-of-way) and documented them by taking pictures of the area. During the assessment, the students found cracks in the sidewalks, an intricate crosswalk pattern that put pedestrians at risk, not enough bus shelters, and that's only to name a few.

3) The UP interns identified issues and set goals for their project. This step identified problems in the sidewalk, parkway, and roadway in application to Smart Growth Principles and ADA guidelines. To make sure that their findings were in accordance with the Senior Citizens and Disabled Senior Citizens' issues, the Urban Planning interns took part in a Roundtable Discussion. (To see more on the Roundtable Discussion look on Page 3.

4) Finally, to achieve their goal, the interns had to conduct Qualitative Research. The interns found five case studies (national and state levels) which dealt with similar issues as their project. They used these case studies to show how areas that prevent access and mobility can be improved.



Project Highlight 2007: Urban Planning

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Roundtable Discussion with Senior Citizens



Brookside Apartments, 777 Springdale Avenue

With two senior citizen and disabled residential buildings within the focus area, it was very important to hear what the senior citizens had to say. The Urban Planning Student Interns participated in a Roundtable Discussion, held at the Brookside Apartments (777 Springdale Avenue) with residents from the Coppergate House (780 Springdale Avenue) and East Orange Senior Citizen/Brookside Apartments.



Coppergate House
780 Springdale Avenue



Senior Citizens, Executive Director- Roland Whiteley, Jr., and student interns engaging in discussion.

At the discussion, the Urban Planning Student Interns handed out surveys regarding the existing conditions in the right-of-way. The interns found a disturbing fact- 79% of senior citizens surveyed said they found it difficult walking on the sidewalks and 82% of those individuals said the cracks in the sidewalks was the problem.

The senior citizens were not shy when it came to saying how they felt and what needed to be improved to better their quality of life. Some comments focused on the difficulty of getting across the street, the need of more bus shelter and lighting in the area, and the poor condition of the sidewalks.



Student Interns, Jevonna Morrison and Raymond Giddings engaging in dialogue with a Senior Citizen

One senior citizen said she would sit at the 34 Newark S. Street bus shelter while waiting for the 34 Montclair, and when it came she would move quickly into the street and give the bus order to stop so they can get on. Comments like this gave the interns a chance to see how the problems in the area prevented the senior citizens from having the greatest amount of mobility and accessibility, which helped the interns identify the issues and set goals for this project.



Cracked Sidewalk within Project Site: a common problem the senior citizens face



Councilwoman Joyce C. Goore of Ward 1 showed her support by attending the discussion and contributing to the conversations about what needed to be changed.