

THE ASPIRANTE

Official Newsletter of ASPIRA of Florida, Inc.

July-September, 2005



The 2005 National Youth Summit



On July 28-30, 2005, in Washington DC, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, sponsored the 2005 National Youth Summit, "Youth in Action - Making a Difference." The Summit kicked off with a Youth Orientation, presented by the 2005 Summit Youth Council. First Lady **Laura Bush served as the Honorary Chairperson of the 2005 National Youth Summit.** There was an Art Project led by internationally known, "Bigscape" artist Nobel Schuler to create the "look" of the Summit. The Adult Orientation included Harry Wilson, Associate Commissioner, Family and Youth Services Bureau and The Honorable Wade F. Horn, Ph.D., Assistant Secretary for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Featured guests were Youth Motivational Speaker Kenny Long, "Choose Your Vision, Follow Your Vision" and The Showcase Singers Association, country music's rising young stars who had them dancing in the aisles. Workshops covered topics in mentoring, working effectively with diverse youth, using research to promote positive youth development, and creating programs that spark the entrepreneurial spirit of youth.



This is how ASPIRA Works:

- (1) Networking
- (2) Communication
- (3) Leadership
- (4) Friendship
- (5) Creativity
- (6) Team Work
- (7) Role models



ASPIRANTES, with Mr. Harry Wilson, Associate Commissioner for the Administration of Children, Youth and Families

ASPIRANTES with the Youth & Sports Minister of Iraq

ASPIRANTES in Washington DC

ASPIRANTES were very excited to be in Washington DC. They interacted with young people from urban, suburban and rural America and learned how these were making positive impacts in their communities. They participated in, skill-building sessions, networking, and idea sharing activities. ASPIRA of Florida, Inc. was recognized by the leadership, communication, networking, and teamwork skills, in addition to the friendship, creativity, and enthusiasm demonstrated by its students and staff. This was truly, ASPIRANTES making a difference. These students were so motivated that they carried a theme song, "I Love You", and every time a person was feeling tired or down they sang and got others involved. These youngsters epitomized the concept of youth role models. ASPIRA of Florida, Inc. Had an excellent student representation in Washington DC and we are proud of our youth. **Great Job ASPIRANTES!**

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Mrs. Laura Welch Bush, served as the Honorary Chairperson of the 2005 National Youth Summit



Mrs. Laura Bush



The ASPIRA Process of Leadership Development

Develops the leadership capacity of its youth by engaging them in weekly leadership club meetings guided by a curriculum designed to develop cultural and self awareness, as well as critical thinking and social skills. This is known as the **ASPIRA Process of Leadership Development**. ASPIRA of Florida, Inc. provides youth with a variety of leadership development opportunities by hiring young professionals who can relate to the needs of our youth, and provide educational services in a culturally competent and youth-focused manner.

Mrs. Laura Welch Bush, Born: November 4, 1946 in Midland, TX. Career: teacher at Longfellow Elementary School in the Dallas Independent School District 1968-1969; teacher at John F. Kennedy Elementary School in the Houston Independent School District until 1972; librarian at Houston Public Library, Kashmere Gardens Branch 1972-1974; librarian at Dawson Elementary School until 1977. Education: BS in Education, Southern Methodist University, 1968; Master of Science, University of Texas at Austin, 1973. Family: two children, twins Jenna and Barbara (22) Hometown: Austin, TX Religion: Methodist Met her husband at the home of mutual friends. The First Lady coupled her own initiative, "Helping America's Youth", with her concept of turning youthful idealism into practical ideas, to deliver powerful examples of the Administration's strong commitment to America's youth. These were the most inspiring young people in our nation, that participated in this Summit at Washington DC to learn from, challenge and guide one another. With the wonderful addition of Mrs. Bush as Honorary Chairperson, the Summit was memorable for the 900 American youth in the audience.



A Message from the President and CEO of ASPIRA of Florida, Inc.

Un saludo Cordial!

ASPIRA of Florida, Inc. soon will be engaged in celebrating its 25th Anniversary on March 2, 2006. During these past years ASPIRA has provided services through its youth leadership development programs and now most recently through its Charter Schools. This issue of **The ASPIRANTE** is being produced by Elizabeth Quiles, from our ASPIRA program operations located in South Miami-Dade County. Hopefully we can continue to provide **The ASPIRANTE** on a regular basis with highlights of all our youth programs and their activities from Homestead to Palm Beach.