

FYI GIRLS CIRCLE & BOYS COUNCIL CELEBRATES JOINT GRADUATION

The Franklin Youth Initiative Girls Circle and Boys Council held its first joint after school graduation on June 22, at the Franklin Middle School. The graduation was well attended with School Officials, FYI members and Parents in attendance. Here are the names of the following graduates: Shaliya Bagwell, Charisma Cephas, Shevon Frett, Jamilex Martinez, Grisely Ramirez, Tyra Sirmans, Brianna Young, Blannelys Otero, Islam Abdelwahaib, Milton Watson, Byran Menjivar, James Maldonado, Donte Dowdell, Shaun Howard, Ben Young, Jihad Bibbs, Chris Williams and Terran Jihad McCall.

I've been to graduations of the Boys Council, and one leaves me with the same sense of pride and joy. The last graduation had an added dimension in that there is now a Girls Circle and also graduated on the same day.

This wonderful program works with the students providing support and direction and a strong sense that people care about them and about their ability to succeed. And succeed they do! Students who had behavioral or academic issues have excelled far beyond even their expectations.

Much of the credit for getting this started belongs to Bruce Medley of the Township Recreation Department and Dennis Lue, as well as the administrative staff of the Franklin Middle School. Now we have Rachel Baker –Blackwell and Adriane Tyer- Stavropoulos who have started the new Girls Circle.

Franklin is very lucky to have such caring and dedicated people willing to help. Kudos to them and to the Girls and Boys who made the commitment to participate in this potentially life altering program, stated Councilwoman Rozalyn Sherman.

Program sessions will be offered seasonally in the fall, winter, spring and summer at the Franklin Middle School. For more information call Bruce Medley in the Franklin Township Recreation Dept. at (732) 873-1991.