



A ministry of Emerald Youth Foundation

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
May 6, 2009

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JUSTLEAD BREAKFAST CELEBRATES KNOXVILLE'S URBAN YOUTH

On Friday, May 1, more than 1,000 youth and adults gathered at the Knoxville Expo Center for the 16th Annual JustLead Fundraising Breakfast. JustLead is the flagship program of Emerald Youth Foundation and serves Knoxville's urban young people through a network of 19 churches and community-based organizations.

The breakfast, sponsored by Mercy Health Partners and Graham Corporation, included five testimonies from JustLead alumni, inspiring worship music by the 100-youth JustLead breakfast choir, a poignant video presentation courtesy of Rivr Media, and a "first" for the breakfast—a mime performance by JustLead youth from Clinton Chapel AME Zion Church.

Emcees for the morning were Dontaisia Dailey, a fifth grade student at Sarah Moore Greene, and Matt Hinkin from WATE 6 News. Dailey participates in JustLead at Mount Zion Baptist Church and Hinkin serves on JustLead's board of advisors.

"I am always impacted by the breakfast, and I know our guests are, too," said Steve Diggs, JustLead executive director. "Of particular note this year, the personal testimonies really touched everyone in the audience. To hear from those five young adults and how they're lives were changed by JustLead...that meant a lot."

Guests also enjoyed prelude music by pianist Kris Tucker, a JustLead youth from Greater Warner Tabernacle AME Zion. “There are so many talented youth in our urban neighborhoods, and I’m glad we can showcase them at the breakfast. Most importantly, though, it’s a blessing to see how God is working in and changing their lives,” said Marsha Robbins, a long-time JustLead volunteer. “I’m honored to be part of such a great ministry.”

JustLead works with churches, schools and families in Knoxville to help young people have the best opportunity to grow up loving Jesus Christ, succeed in school, be safe and healthy, and become leaders in their communities. To learn more about JustLead or how to become a volunteer, visit www.justlead.org or call (865) 637-3227.

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