

# SWP Quarterly Newsletter



Career Ventures Young Adult participant, Pauline G., with mentors Amber W. and Michael P.

Founded in New York in 1997 at the height of welfare reform, StreetWise Partners (SWP) celebrates its tenth anniversary this year!

StreetWise Partners has now served over 700 low-income individuals and almost 2,000 volunteers.

## In this Issue:

- SWP Celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a Banner Year
- Gallup CEO Jim Clifton speaks at SWP graduation

## SWP Programs Expand and Improve

In the past six months StreetWise Partners has gone through tremendous programmatic growth, while simultaneously strengthening its core competencies.

Opening three new programs – a Saturday Adult Program hosted at Lehman Brothers; a partnership with the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) CAPITAL program; and an entirely new branch in Washington D.C. – StreetWise Partners' growth is both numeric and geographic. As SWP spreads across not just New York City, but the U.S., there is a dynamic increase in the number of companies, clients and volunteers served.

Not only has the number of individuals enriched by our mission gone up, but the quality of the program those

individuals experience has also improved. In the fall of 2006, two large committees were created to revamp the existing curriculum. The result of these committees' work, in consultation with HR managers, job-training specialists, and youth specialists, was two distinct curriculums – tailored for our adult and young adult population, with service guides, as well as individual assessment tests so that the curriculum meets each participant where they are, and takes them to the next level.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of StreetWise Partners is being celebrated this April, and the tremendous growth over the past six months compliments the powerful way in which the organization has progressed forward through the last decade.

***"The key to peace and happiness in the world lies not in politics or religion, but in helping people find fulfilling and sustainable employment."***  
***~Jim Clifton, Gallup CEO at SWP Graduation***



Founded:	1997
New branch in Washington D.C.:	2006
Total graduates since 1997:	777
Total graduates YTD:	41
Graduates who felt SWP gave them the skills they needed to get a job:	98%
Current Core Program Participants- Saturday Adult Program:	67
Current Participants- Washington D.C. Program:	23
Current Participants - Career Ventures Young Adult Program:	10
Participants in One-Day Programming (YTD):	421
New or improved employment, 3 months after graduation:	71%
Total volunteers since 1997:	2,355
Total volunteers YTD:	240
Volunteers who had a good or excellent experience with SWP:	98%

## SWP Staff Honored Around the World:

### Education in Civic Engagement

This February, 10 years after founding LEAPS (Learning through Experience, Action, Partnership, and Service), SWP Director of Programs and Operations, Glenn Gutterman, returned to his alma mater, Duke University, as a key speaker for the student-run organization. The talk, titled, *What IS Knowledge in the Service of Society?*, was held as part of the 10th Anniversary Celebration of Service Learning at the school.

### Cultures Meld in Morocco

Business Development Manager, Tori Anderson, was asked to chair an Arab Youth Leadership Conference held in Morocco from March 16<sup>th</sup> to March 20<sup>th</sup>. Hosted by AIESEC, the world's largest youth development organization.

The conference brought together 270 youth from over 20 countries to discuss global issues, strategize on local plans and network with leading individuals who aim to make a positive impact on their society.



SWP's Business Development Manager, Tori Anderson (center), with four Middle Eastern delegates.

***“Meeting 270 Youth Leaders from the Arab and Western world was truly inspiring, and reminded me how similar our struggles are.”***  
~Tori Anderson

***“Believe in yourself. Family and friends are hidden treasures. Seek them and enjoy their riches. Give more than you planned to give. Take control of your own destiny. Nothing can replace StreetWise Partners. Hang onto your dreams. Keep on trying. No matter how hard it seems, it will get easier. Make it happen.”***

~Poem by Graduate, Dominique Smith, read at Spring 2007 Graduation.

If you would like to learn more about StreetWise Partners, or your company would like to get involved in advancing our mission, please check out our website:

[www.streetwisepartners.org](http://www.streetwisepartners.org).

### Partnering with NYC's CAPITAL Summer Youth Internship Program

We are extremely pleased to report a new partnership with CAPITAL, an initiative of the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). CAPITAL unites community-based organizations with corporations to give promising young New Yorkers real-life private workplace experience for the summer. Given our similar missions to break down barriers to the corporate world faced by so many individuals, CAPITAL is a perfect match for StreetWise Partners. SWP volunteers ran the opening workshops on workplace etiquette, job search, and professional communication skills over two weekends in March—serving almost 250 young adults! The presentations targeted the young adult audience, all of whom are seeking to launch their careers.

Youth described the workshop as “eye-opening, inspiring and memorable”

and stated that they learned about inner-workings of the private sector that no one else had told them. Deputy Commissioner of DYCD, Suzanne Lynn, thanked SWP for connecting CAPITAL with StreetWise volunteers:

“Thanks to your incredible assistance, nineteen presenters referred by your organization spoke to over two hundred youth. ... Their presentations had a tremendous impact on the young people in attendance and will continue to influence them as they begin their successful careers. ... As we continue to develop and enhance the CAPITAL program we welcome your expertise and look forward to a continued partnership.”

**STREETWise**  
PARTNERS

Skills for Work. Confidence for Life.



## Gallup CEO Speaks at D.C. Graduation



StreetWise Partners Washington, D.C.

On January 20<sup>th</sup>, 39 volunteers gathered in the Great Hall of the Gallup Organization's International headquarters to celebrate the graduation of seven more StreetWise Partners participants. The company's headquarters is a beautiful historic building, which once was a Masonic Temple. Gallup CEO, Jim Clifton, gave the commencement address, and speaking to the graduates, said the Great Hall was "a place of honor... and I can think of no better group to use it than you."

Clifton, citing results from the Gallup World Poll, asserted that "the key to peace and happiness in the world lies not in politics or religion, but in helping people find fulfilling and sustainable employment." Indeed, he did not end there, as he looked out over SWP's motivated, low-income participants, he told them

that each of them, through their efforts at StreetWise Partners, were making the world a better place.

Following Clifton's inspiring remarks, the graduates heard from Ellis Hodges, Director of the BEST Job Development Program, and Marcia Hoexter, Director of Training and Employment from the Economic Empowerment program at the Perry School.

All the speakers lauded SWP's volunteers and participants as being part of a revolutionary program, and for taking a tremendous step towards personally closing the income gap through obtaining skills and supporting a non-profit with an inspiring and obtainable vision.

The new graduates joined an alumni network that has flourished over 10 years.

## Success Struttin' for StreetWise

On a cool spring night, SWP showed its swanky and stylish side. Over 250 donors filed past the velvet-rope line, and straight into one of Manhattan's hottest nightclubs. Tenjune was the spot chosen for SWP's first spring fundraiser, Struttin' for StreetWise!, a fashion show and live auction. The open bar, Imperia vodka and Cabana girls only added to the mood of the evening. Professional models wore clothes by Michael Kors, Chloe, and Vanessa Bruno (to mention a few) as well as displayed the items up for auction, while strutting their stuff on the green runway. It truly felt like spring with the new season's fashion in bloom, the room buzzing with talk of StreetWise Partners, and even a few romances budding! The event raised over \$20,000 for SWP, as well as a few eyebrows and many glasses.

### Thanks to our Fashion Show Sponsors:

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## A special message from StreetWise Partners

We invite you to join us to celebrate ten amazing years!

Our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Spring Gala will be held April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at the Hiro Ballroom in the Maritime Hotel, New York City, NY.

For more information on the talent, speaker and how to secure your place at this event, please go to

[www.streetwisepartners.org/tenth\\_anniversary](http://www.streetwisepartners.org/tenth_anniversary).

*StreetWise Partners builds mentoring relationships between motivated low-income individuals and volunteer business professionals to develop workplace skills and employment networks as the bridge to a successful career.*

## Upcoming Alumni Notes!

Alumni of SWP: If you'd like to write on behalf of your graduating class please contact us. Going forward, we will keep a column of Alumni news and announcements. Volunteer as or nominate a cycle correspondent, and learn about what your peers are doing – where they are, the jobs they are in, new births in the family, weddings, and other announcements! Stay tuned to read about your fellow SWP graduates in the next newsletter. If you'd like to author these columns, write into StreetWise Partners now!

