

## Summer Youth Program 2013

The Economic Opportunity Commission of Nassau (EOC) County Summer Youth Program 2013 was a great!!!

The group of youths we worked with was part of the TANF program which focused on low-income youths/families in struggling communities. Young people living in these communities face a host of social, emotional, economic, educational, employment barriers. They need support if they are going to succeed, complete high school and move toward postsecondary education. Through HempsteadWorks, EOC was able to provide employment to (26) youths ages 14-17 years old. Positions ranged from counselors, clerical to aides. Duties included preparing daily and weekly reports, and creating daily schedules. Also, assisting and monitoring program activities, ensuring safety, assisting with math and science related activities based on the assigned curriculum for each day, etc. We have our young adults working with younger children ages (6-12) and giving them someone to look up to and being a positive role model for our future.

These young individuals were able to gain the key elements of success in the workforce which provided real-world experiences and community involvement that improves work readiness, while simultaneously cultivating applied skills, such as: financial management, punctuality, public speaking, listening skills, and problem solving, taking initiative and enforcing them. In addition, youth employment provided the opportunity to help their families with outstanding bills, buy school supplies and school clothing for themselves and/or siblings, and help feed their families. Some saved their paychecks and invested in savings accounts.

The EOC agency is a vital component for our youth of today and we must assure the government and the public that funds are being invested wisely to benefit the people and the national economy as a whole.

*Dr. LaVonne Erskine*

*Program Director  
Displaced Homemakers Program/  
Downstate Healthy Start Program/  
Career Paths TANF Employment Services*