

**SUMMER YOUTH
PROGRAM**

**HIGHLIGHTED
WORKSITES**

- United Way of
Greenville and Alma
- Habitat for Humanity
of Isabella County
- Gratiot and Isabella
county parks
- Isabella County
4-H Camp

Michigan Works! is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Funding provided by the State of Michigan and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Summer Youth Employment Program in full swing

On Tuesday July 1st, 2009, 5 youths from 3 counties piled in a van. They are part of the Michigan Works Media Crew. Their purpose is to go from worksite to worksite and report on the progress of not only the projects being worked on, but on the progress of the workers. Have they learned new skills? Have they learned to work in a team? Do they now have experiences that can benefit them in the future? It is up to this crew of 5 to find the answers and in a way monitor progress.

The media crew includes a student news editor, a Youtube video sensation, a student majoring in journalism, and two young girls who have recently graduated high school who are still exploring their possibilities. With 1 digital camera, 1 HD video recorder, and a couple of notepads, the crew set out to find a story.

Their first destination was Hubschner Park where a group of participants and their crew leader were clearing the banks around a pond. They were not only there to help beautify the park, but they are also clearing paths for a trails to be built later. This trail will help to ensure the safety of people who will enjoy the park and create a better experience.

The summer program not only helps the community but it also helps its participants. Alexander Lopez, 14, said that the Summer Youth Program helped him out in more than one way.

"They got me working. I'm doing something good, too," said Lopez.

Alex's crew mate Gabi Ramirez, 15,



A sign outside the United Way in Alma.

agreed.

"Yeah, it's a resume builder. [It] teaches me how to work with people and be in a team," Ramirez said.

The Hubscher Park crew's work is not done, but in a couple of weeks the citizens of Ithaca will have amazing trails to enjoy with their families and these guys are glad to help.

Next, the media crew headed to Alma to catch up with a crew working with the United Way. A nursing home donated by Dave Roslund is being converted into offices for the United Way and other non-profit agencies. It will provide a great service for the people in the community as a central place to get to these agencies. While there, the media crew went on a tour with crew members Brad Schoen, 20, and Travis Richardson, 18, through the outside grounds. The participants were hard at work restoring the old, historic building to its glory days, inside and out.



(Left) Youth are cleaning at Greenville Public Schools.



(Right) Youth raking at Hubscher Park in Gratiot County.