



Happy Holidays! from South Shore Drill Team & Performing Arts Ensemble



Dear Friends,

This past year, the team served 302 youth and performed at 129 events in seven states. It has been a year filled with many special moments and celebrations. I'd like to share just a few with you:

- ❖ In April, our young men won the Winter Guard International World Championship. The photo at right shows their opening sequence.
- ❖ Over 200 members performed at our 31st anniversary show in June.
- ❖ Our younger members performed on the National Mall in DC for the World Children's Festival.
- ❖ The team did 16 suburban parades 4th of July weekend.
- ❖ We marched 220 youth & parent volunteers in the Bud Billiken Parade.
- ❖ Our teens participated in a national conference in DC in October.



The story behind our members winning the WGI championship is an exciting one, and our website contains both a video of the final performance and an article in the *New York Times* about their victory. These young men and their instructors dedicated themselves to a single goal last winter, and their efforts were rewarded, not just in the win, but in the impact it had on our members. Now we are preparing for 2012 competition, and once again we will be entering two groups to keep members engaged and fit over the winter and elevate their level of performance.

Our younger members traveled to Washington, DC in June where they performed on the National Mall for the World Children's Festival. They met children from other countries, visited the museums, toured the U.S. Capitol, and posed in front of the White House.



Competition taught me to work hard, stay positive, and stay focused.

Shaquille Campbell, 18
South Shore Drill Team member since 2003



Washington, DC was spectacular. Everywhere I looked, I saw a piece of history!

Dinata Herron, 13
South Shore Drill Team member since 2006

South Shore Drill Team is blessed with many volunteers, and we're grateful for the ways they benefit our youth and programs. Our parents help with costumes, events, transportation, and feeding the children. The Taproot Foundation put together a volunteer team whose members are helping rebuild our website. Graduate students assisted with various projects from improving our information system to mentoring our young ladies. In September, law students from the University of Chicago spent a day working on member

records, organizing uniforms, and cleaning storage spaces.

The team's older members went to DC in October for a conference sponsored by the Department of Justice's Office of



Touring the U.S. Capitol Building in June ▶



Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. While there, team member Rodney Nelson and Assistant Director Michael Borum spoke in a panel discussion, and five members took part in a listening session with high-level federal officials. Team members also performed twice at the conference and took a tour of the Nation's Capitol. They had their photo taken with U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder (left) and Chicago Area Project which sponsored the trip.

South Shore Drill Team made me a better and more self-disciplined person. They helped build my character and convinced me to appreciate life & other people. They always pushed me & made sure I kept going. I've traveled and built relationships with fellow team members and had the experience of a lifetime.

Rodney Nelson, 18
South Shore Drill Team Member since 2005

This year's Bud Billiken Parade was one of the best ever for our members, and their performance was highlighted for ten minutes on two local television channels and broadcast around the world.

Below, members pose before the Bud Billiken Parade in August.



The Drill Team opened my eyes to broader opportunities in establishing my goals & choosing a college that is perfect for me. The organization instilled discipline and responsibility in me, and it has shown me how to be a leader.

Ariel Hollis, 18
South Shore Drill Team member since 2006

Our second Flags & Flips Fundraiser under the Tiffany Dome at the spectacular Chicago Cultural Center in October showcased our youth and brought in much needed support. The event was organized by Jacinda Njike and her fantastic volunteers, and we appreciate their commitment to our young people.

Our members returned to the Cultural Center a month later to pay their last respects to Maggie Daley whose After School Matters program focused on helping Chicago's teens.



As always, we invite you to celebrate the season with our **Holiday Show on Saturday, December 17 at 7 pm at Gary Comer Youth Center: Home of the South Shore Drill Team.** We're very proud of these young people, and we appreciate your support which allows us to serve them. Blessings on you and yours, and thank you from all of us!

Arthur Robertson, Director

◀ The girls shine at the 2010 Holiday Show. (Photo: Jasmin Shah/GCYC)

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