



## Tuskegee youth program gets \$108K grant

City select from among 20 nationwide

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**"This is the kind of investment that yields an important return to our communities and our nation in the growth of our economy and human potential."** Eisenhower Foundation CEO Alan Curtis

A \$108,000 grant from the Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation will allow the Tuskegee Youth Safe Haven—Police Mini Station to continue its programs, serving approximately 100 Tuskegee-area youth.

The city of Tuskegee was among 20 cities nationwide to be selected to receive funds from the Eisenhower Foundation, said Leila McDowell, NAACP vice president for communications and Eisenhower Foundation director of communications.

The Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation is the international, nonprofit continuation of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders. The Eisenhower Foundation goal is to identify, fund, evaluate and build the capacities of and replicate multiple solution ventures for the inner city, the truly disadvantaged, children, youth and families.

The Tuskegee Youth Safe Haven—Police Mini Station, which serves children 6 to 16 years old, will have its grand opening this week at the Tuskegee Housing Authority's Melvin Tatum Auditorium. Tuskegee Mayor Omar Neal, Macon County Sheriff David Warren and Eddie Banks of the Eisenhower foundation will be among the special guests at the event.

Project director Guy Trammell says the main objectives of the program are to improve academic performance of youth in school as well as keep youth out of the corrections system.

Youth participants in the program administered by Tuskegee police are tracked for improvement in academics as well as behavior.

The experience is one that Trammell says not only provides a structured environment but also allows officers to interact with members of the community on different terms.

“This allows officers to get involved with members of the community on a level other than strictly enforcement,” Trammell said.

The Tuskegee Youth Safe Haven—Police Mini Station has already begun receiving the \$108,000 grant and will continue to receive it in monthly installments through fall 2011, Trammell said.

Eisenhower Foundation CEO Alan Curtis’ believes the program’s potential to improve young lives is priceless.

“This is the kind of investment that yields an important return to our communities and our nation in the growth of our economy and human potential,” Curtis said. “We know what works to bring communities out of poverty and ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to realize America’s promise. What is needed is simply the political will to make it happen.”