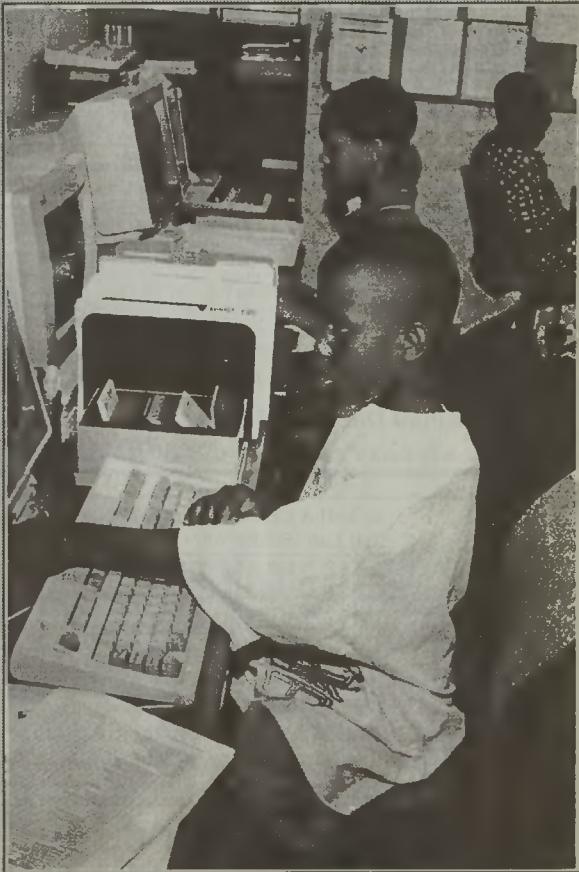


Zawadi is Swahili for gifts given to children at the end of Kwanzaa. Children are our gifts.

Urban League introduces computers



Shawn Bennert, 12, in foreground, and Robert Harris, 12, work on computer skills at Urban League camp in July. Otis Stroud, 12, is in checkered shirt.

Camp to last all year

The Urban League's summer computer camp trained 28 middle school students in using the internet, general typing and computer skills.

The camp met in two two-week sessions in June and July.

Plans are to continue the camp through the year, two Saturdays per month.

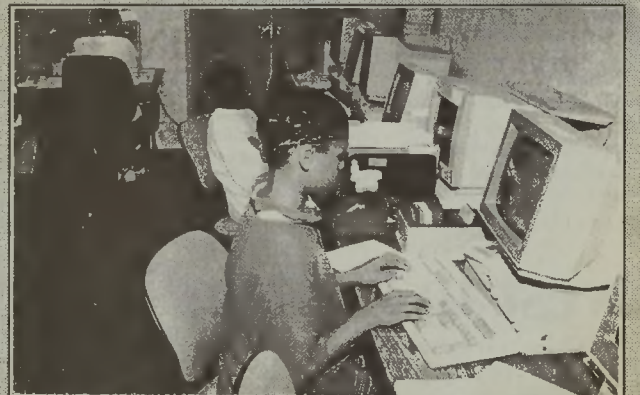
Sessions were held from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays and from 9 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Students were recommended by their middle school guidance counselors, who were asked to send students they thought would most profit from the program.

- John Minter



Basic computer skills instructor Tanya Lassiter shows Erica Johnson, 11, how to use the internet. Erica was among 28 students who attended two Urban League computer camps this summer.



Urban League camps gave middle school students a chance to learn basic computer skills, including keyboarding and surfing the internet.

Photos/Calvin Ferguson

Anita Stroud youth program summer fun

By Herbert L. White
THE CHARLOTTE POST

For some Charlotte children, the Anita Stroud Summer Youth Enrichment Program was an educational - and cultural - experience.

The six-week program serves children from Double Oaks, Fairview Homes and Greenville. six-week program caters to K-7 and features arts and crafts, music, dance ("not that shake your booty stuff," director Ethel Guest says) and recreational sports. In two years, the Stroud program has grown from a handful of youngsters to 41.

"At first they kind of trickled in," Guest said. "Then they started telling their buddies about it."

Field trips were a part of the summer experience, with visits to Tweetsie Railroad in Blowing Rock, N.C. Zoo in Asheboro and mining parks in Hiddenite.

The goal is to expose children to social and educational experiences beyond the classroom session.

"These kids had never done that," said Ola Mae Brown, one of the summer tutors. "It was a blessing. It was a joy just to be there to help."

"What we've tried to do is give children the fruits of life," Guest said. "They enjoy it. When it was time to go home, they didn't want to go. We had to shoo them out."

Nine teachers were on staff to help students with academics and social skills. Although they were volunteers, the teachers often went beyond the call of duty to help children learn more or lend a sympathetic ear.

"They were all super," Guest said.

Local businesses donated services to the program, which ended Monday with closing ceremonies for children and volun-



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Kids and teachers busy at work on project during Anita Stroud Summer Youth Enrichment Program, which include field trips and other activities.

teers. From food to transportation, someone always managed to supply the program with whatever was needed.

"We have been blessed," Guest said.

"Our success has been to the Almighty. The program has been most successful."

"This has been a summer of satisfaction," Brown said. "God graced it."

Back to School



PHOTO/SUE ANN JOHNSON

These kids modeled for The Post's Back-to-School special in this week's Style section. They are, clockwise from left, Jie Brandon Johnson, 8, Stephanie Minter, 5, Chambria Burton, 5, Shatavia Barnett, 11, Tina Minter, 9, and Thomara Hamilton, 7. For more kid pix see page 16A.