

For the past three summers, I have been a Peer Counselor during HADB Summer camp SYEP program. The summer job has impacted me a lot. I experienced new things every day. This job was a lot fun and we did things I never done before. The summer camp job has helped me come out my shell because I'm a house person and I don't really get a chance to hang around others. I built a relationship with all my co-workers and even the kids. The kids actually love me but summer camp has helped me a lot especially so I won't be in the streets or just laying around the house.

The community center has taken me to a lot of places. I went to Bowling Green, KY. We stayed at West Kentucky University and stayed in the dorm for the weekend. They had a teen leadership conference and I was chosen to go. I was so excited. I am looking forward to visiting more colleges because now I want to go..!!!”

Stacey Lacey
Elyton Resident

- “Elyton Village Community Center staff and we, the community leaders, now move forward towards being one. We have had the opportunity to collaborate and discuss what is basically better for the residents and the community. As Resident Council President, I feel more part of the community center and the operations of the community center programming through the staff. Not only the big things, but the small things that go on matter and being part of all processes means a lot to me. Even if the programming is not relevant to resident council, it is still important for me to know what goes on in the community center. When a resident asks a question, it feels good being able to answer the question.

Being on one page is important to me. For example, when we (Resident Council) had to have packages delivered to the center because the resident council office was unavailable to receive them, you allowed the packages to be delivered to the center and made a place for them until I was able to pick them up. In the future, we look forward to being able to have a secondary place in case we can't take deliveries. The community center gives me comfort in knowing our items will be stored safely until resident council can retrieve them. I see us working together more, there's a song that says “Make us one” and we need to have one purpose in mind and that is to serve the residents.

As far as the transportation availability to the neighborhood meetings. I was impressed on how we were able to collaborate on that a was able to make that happen. Since we now see that when it comes to the City of Birmingham; we are no longer not considered as part of the community. We are now considered as one and able to collaborate with the City in partnerships and programming. Therefore, having HADB transportation to these neighborhood meetings as well as Elyton Community meetings is vital to the residents of Elyton. In the past, residents of public housing have felt as though they didn't count when it came to the city.

In closing, I am very positive as President of the community and with the relationship with the community center. It's been a positive transition because it has taught us a lot about where we need to be versus where we were as a community center and the relationship with resident council for the future. We now know what we need to do and what we don't need to do when dealing with the relationship.”

Willine Body
Elyton Resident Council President