

TeenPage

News for teens, about teens and by teens

Made 2B More offers safe place for girls to learn, have fun

By McKenzie Jackson

About two years ago Rhonda Mincey saw something that troubled her in the community – a lack of organized activities for girls.

“On Saturdays I would see young girls just walking the streets doing who knows what and going who knows where,” said Mincey, who lives in Conyers. “This really sat in my heart.”

A year later, Mincey, who has a 14-year-old daughter, Kristian, decided to give young girls a place “where they could be productive, safe and have fun.”

With the help of the Boys & Girls Club of Conyers, she started Made 2B More, a nonprofit group that serves girls ages 8-14 with a place to be safe, learn and have fun on the weekends.

To get the word out about her group, Mincey enlisted the help of her friend Larry Young, who was a manager at Praise 1040 AM, a Christian radio station. The group, which started with 10 girls in March, now has 15 to 18 girls who get together for four hours on the first, second and third Saturdays monthly.

Girls like 8-year-old Ivory Hughes come from across metro-Atlanta area.

“I think the program is great and very educational,” said Ivory, who lives in Forrest Park.



The participants of Made 2B More practiced team-building activities at their first group retreat at Camp Westminster in Conyers.

Mincey, a computer client representative, says the girls learn a lot in the program.

“We have self-esteem discussions, a leadership program, tea sessions, etiquette classes, and once or twice a year we will have a weekend retreat,” she said. “Last April we went to Camp Westminster in Conyers.”

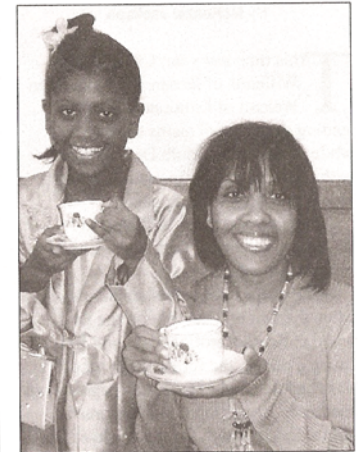
To help teach the girls, the group often has guest speakers. One recent speaker

was Dionna Wheeler, a caterer whose daughters London, 10, and Sidney, 7, are in the program.

Wheeler taught them dining etiquette and hosted afternoon tea for the girls.

Mincey said the group is in need of four volunteers who can serve consistently.

“I hope the volunteers have a desire to work with youth and experience with youth, hopefully young girls,” she said.



Sidney Mahomes and her mother Andrea practice their manners and tea etiquette.

The group also wants to expand into DeKalb County because of a potential partnership it could forge with the DeKalb County Solicitor General’s office to help fight truancy. Mincey says she wants to extend the program to troubled girls.

The Boys & Girls Club is at 1015 O’Kelley St. in Conyers. For more information or to volunteer, call 678-472-4740 or visit www.made2bmore.org.