



1300 Teens Attend Mayor's Youth Summit

Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino today joined over 1300 Boston youths from every neighborhood of the city to kick off the eighth annual Mayor's Youth Summit at Northeastern University.

"Boston has so much to offer you" Mayor Menino told the young people. "The Summit is a great day and the perfect opportunity for you to interact with each other, learn from the skits and speakers and take advantage of the information available at the resource tables. It's up to you to take what you learn and make good, healthy choices but as you'll see today, there are plenty of great people and agencies in Boston just waiting to help you."

The Summit began on a patriotic note with color guards from the Boston Police, Fire and EMS and the East Boston High School ROTC coming together on stage as Terry Kelly from South Boston sang God Bless America followed by the whole audience singing the National Anthem.

The theme of this year's Summit was "Coming Together for Your Future." The Summit program focused on how teens can access the people, agencies and resources available to them to prepare for their future and highlighted all the positive things that Boston teens are doing and the services that are available to them. Skits covered topics such as parent and teen communication, mental health, "date rape", teens and the law and HIV/AIDS. As always, the day was planned by teens and the only adult speaker was Mayor Menino. 12 musical performances rounded out the day. The two keynote speakers included Nathan Landers, the author of "A Walking Peace," a self-published autobiography of a short and often terrifying life in Boston and Nancy Redd, a student at Harvard University, who spoke about the positive choices she has made in her life. There were over 75 resource tables manned by agencies that provide services to young people. As in previous years, the Summit participants received free lunch and a Summit t-shirt, thanks to the Hard Rock Café and Reebok. The Youth Summit was free, due to the generous sponsorship of the City of Boston, Verizon, Fleet Financial Foundation, Mellon Trust New England and the Boston Police Activities League.

Source: South Boston Online, April 2002

http://64.226.34.179/churches_schools/1300teens43002.htm