



Future Doctors at Martha's Vineyard Hospital MVYLI's Job Shadow Day

Vineyard youth had the opportunity of a lifetime when they shadowed doctors and healthcare workers at Martha's Vineyard Hospital. High school students Shawna Brown, Amoy Anderson and Shavanae Anderson want to become doctors. For the last year they have been working with the Martha's Vineyard Youth Leadership Initiative, whose mission is to develop the next generation of leaders.

On February 2, they participated in the Island's first Job Shadow Day. The National Groundhog Job Shadow Day is a joint effort of America's Promise - Alliance for Youth, Junior Achievement, and the U.S. Department of Labor. Nationwide, more than one million students and 100,000 businesses participated, and last year, more than 2,000 restaurants and hotels hosted nearly 20,000 students.

MVYLI is a project of the Stone Soup Leadership Institute, a 501 © 3 organization founded in 1997 on the Vineyard. "I've always wanted to be a doctor, but I didn't know how. At the MVYLI Youth Leadership Summit last summer, I worked with youth leaders from other islands who want to be doctors too. We shared our dreams and created a plan for the next five years."

Nurse Manager of the Operating Room, Barbara Morgan shepherded the three future doctors throughout the hospital. Radiology Department Dr. Debra Hall shared her thoughts with the future doctors. Shawna, who aspires to become a radiologist, had a CAT scan with Technician Mark _____ "It was scary, but so cool," she said. "I'll definitely be doing it myself one day. We all like technology as well as working with and really helping people."

"It was one of the best experiences of my life!" says Amoy. "We felt lionized" (a word they had just learned in school). "What I really liked the most was that Mrs. Morgan spent time talking about her own experiences as a trauma nurse." Last year, Amoy was an intern in the Emergency Room. She also volunteered at Windemere Nursing Rehabilitation Center. Shawna has volunteered every week at Windemere for the last three years.

Shavanae loves children and wants to become a pediatrician. "I appreciated Mrs. Morgan's words of encouragement about how we as black young people are going for what we want without a doubt!"

Mrs. Morgan accompanied the future doctors to a reception held at the Martha's Vineyard Museum where she met other MVYLI youth who were matched with Vineyard businesses: Cape Air, Educomp, Beadniks Inc., Galen Films, Island Alpaca, MVY Radio, Steel Butterfly and The Farm Institute. MVYLI's youth media interns produced a video was premiered at the Rotary Club on March 30.

"The girls were great," said Mrs. Morgan. "They met a lot of people to help encourage them to pursue their dreams." She added, "It really meant a lot to the healthcare workers at the hospital to have these young ladies with us. They showed such an interest in becoming doctors and healthcare workers. That's really important."

The day inspired Shawna and Amoy to work even harder. They recently completed MVYLI's College Prep Program, where they visited six colleges and sent out 29 scholarship applications. "Our goal is to give these young people a positive experience of the world of work, promote a good work ethic, and develop longer-lasting relationships that contribute to the Island's economy," said the Institute's Director Marianne Larned. "It's a good investment in their future and ours. We hope this leads to possible internships, apprenticeships, jobs and careers in creating a more sustainable Vineyard economy."

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