



**MVYLI Youth Serve as Junior Members
of the Martha's Vineyard Chapter of the NAACP**

Martha's Vineyard youth are new Junior Members of the NAACP Chapter of Martha's Vineyard. Amoy Anderson, Shavanae Anderson and Shawna Brown joined at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dinner at the Harborview Hotel.

"We felt lionized (a word they had just learned in school)," said Amoy. "We were excited to honor Dr. King. We are proud to be members of the NAACP."

They enjoyed speaking with Trudy Carls about the colleges they had visited, especially Simmons College and Northeastern University. "Never in my life did I think I would meet so many amazing people in one evening," said Shavanae.

They were touched when Ms. Jacquelyn Hunt presented the awards and spoke of how wonderful it was to work with her mother at the NAACP. Ms. Hunt said how refreshing it was to have young people at the NAACP dinner. Fellow students Randall Jette and Delmont Araujo accepted an award on behalf of their teacher, Leo Frame.

Marie Allen sponsored Shawna Brown in the name of her recently deceased friend Geraldine Medford. "The NAACP dinner was a great opportunity for me to come out of my comfort zone, to be away from my peers, and to meet so many wonderfully educated people," said Shawna. "Being a junior member of the NAACP is such an honor," Shawna says. "This gift will last a lifetime."

At the dinner, the youth met Barbara Morgan, the nurse manager of the Martha's Vineyard Hospital Operating Room. "The NAACP is trying to have a younger mindset and exposure to new ideas," Barbara said.

Later that month, Ms. Morgan was invited to host the three "future doctors" at the MV Hospital as part of MVYLI's Job Shadow Day. "It was one of the best experiences of my life!" says Amoy. "What I really liked the most was that she sat down and spent time talking about her own experience in the medical field. It meant a lot to me that she shared some of her experiences as a trauma nurse because I want to become a doctor. I learned a lot on MVYLI's Job Shadow Day while enjoying my time with Ms. Morgan and the doctors. It was just so amazing!"

They are grateful to all those who sponsored them to attend the event. A special thank you to Carrie Tankard for her warm welcome; to Colleen Morris for her assistance and to Dr. Betty Rawlins for her ongoing support.

Mrs. Vera Shorter invited them for an afternoon "tea" to meet members and learn more about the NAACP. "As a young leader myself, I now feel even more empowered to work in my community," said Amoy.

Martha's Vineyard Youth Leadership Initiative

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