



The Gem Project and Several Organizations Band Together to Support West Ward Collective's West Fest

Newark, NJ August 28, 2010 The West Ward Collective held their second annual festival, West Fest. It was a joyous event that brought unity, pride, and honor to Valisburg Park, in Newark's West Ward. The theme, family reunion, was very appropriate for the occasion. It brought out several organizations throughout Newark, to unite for one cause. It was a time to celebrate life, happiness, and the achievements of the West Ward. Many local residents reunited with old friends, family, and acquaintances.

It reinforced their organization's slogan, "One Ward, One Family." The park was filled with individuals participating in games, face-painting, dancing to music, and listening to live performers for their own entertainment- while getting a bite to eat.

Several organizations and entertainers showed their support, which included the Residential President of Georgia King Village, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America, Youth Out Cry, AlTariq BEST, *KnewEra*, Brown 70 Films, The Gem Project, and several more.

ABOUT THE WEST WARD COLLECTIVE:

The West Ward Collective's mission is to provide harmony within their community by nurturing neighborhood development, growth, and advancement among the residents of Newark's West Ward. It was founded by Councilman Ronald C. Rice. The West Ward Collective has several work groups which include the following: Arts and Culture, Ethnic Diversity, Quality of Life, Faith Based Institutions, Block Association Development, Recreation, Homeowners, Housing, Community Based Organizations, Disability Issues, Small Business Development/Job Creation, Youth, Elder, along with Crime and Public Safety groups. More information about the West Ward can be found [\(here\)](#).

ABOUT THE GEM PROJECT:

The Gem Project is a not-for-profit organization that educates the youth of our nation, of various issues which affects them and their communities, through the use of innovative programs and enriching activities. It was founded on March 25, 2006 in Newark, NJ and incorporated the following year. The Gem Project programs have consisted of college campus walks, awareness showcase displays, awareness luncheons, benefits, social entrepreneurial contests, c/o founded ongoing Autism Quilt program, and other educational enrichment programs.

Select Photos:



The West Fest event took place from 11 AM - 4:00 PM



At age 12, Savion brings forth a lot of passion and energy with his many performances



Tiffany Nicole, an event planner for [Love'sTouch Designs](#) and [The Gem Project](#), prepares a display table for TGP (The Gem Project).



Amanda Ebokosia, Founder of [The Gem Project](#) and [A.E. Empire: Women's Empowerment Groups & News Site](#), is seen talking to young high school girls about the many upcoming programs geared for them.

More photos can be seen : ([here](#))

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