



STAMFORD MAYOR
MICHAEL A. PAVIA

As we approach the end of the City's fiscal year I wanted to take a moment to recognize the collective accomplishments of Stamford's citizens, businesses, non-profits and government workers who together have taken the steps to help position our City to not simply survive, but thrive in (the worst economy since the great depression) a challenging local, state, national and international economy.

Our citizens have dealt with dual specters of the lack of financial and job security.

Our businesses have had to adapt to a changed global business paradigm forcing many of them to cut jobs and reduce expenses.

Due to the economy, our local non-profit organizations have endured decreased financial support and have tirelessly worked to "do more with less" as many of them have stepped up their efforts to help the least fortunate members of our City.

Government workers have continued to deliver City services despite reductions in staff and a citywide effort to control the runaway costs of healthcare and retirement related expenses.

The success of our City, as evidenced by our continued growth, surge of new construction, our commitments to sustainability, and investment in essential infrastructure projects, is testament to our resilience and resolve.

While I am proud of our accomplishments over the past year, I know we can and must do more to ensure the best possible future for our City.

To paraphrase the late Henry John Cardinal Newman "If we are intended for great ends, we are called to great challenges". I, for one, believe our City can do great things. My administration, working in partnership with civic, community and business leaders is taking the necessary steps to ensure that Stamford not simply survives, but thrives in the future.

To achieve these goals, I challenge each of us to think creatively about how we can better manage our homes, our businesses and our lives and identify ways that highlight a renewed sense of personal, financial and environmental responsibility.

One such initiative is to make certain that our students have not only the academic credentials but also the real world experience to make them better prepared for the workforce of the future.

Last year I launched the Mayor's Youth Employment Program which thanks to the contributions of local businesses provided paid summer internships to 30 local 16-18 year olds. This program provided each of the students with hands-on "real world" business experience that will increase their awareness of how businesses work and ideally make them more attractive for future employers.

The results of last year's program were so encouraging that I have doubled the size of it for 2012. This summer, with the support of local businesses, we will be expanding the program to provide paid internships for 60 students. And this is just the beginning.

Encouraging new construction, attracting new companies to our City like Chelsea Piers, Fairway, and Exhale Spa, and helping to train the workforce of the future through programs like the Mayor's Youth Employment Program will continue to help strengthen our local businesses which, in turn, will help improve our city.

I thank each of you for the sacrifices you've made to weather this economic storm. If we redouble our efforts to remain competitive in the new global economy, then together we will keep Stamford as a great place to work and live."

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Pavia". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Michael A. Pavia
Mayor of Stamford



What is the Mayor's Youth Employment Program?

The Mayor's Youth Employment Program (MYEP) was a great success in 2011 and placed 30 students in 27 public, private and nonprofit companies.

This year our goal is to double the number students in the program to 60.

I need your support to make this a reality. A contribution of \$2,300 will pay for one student to work for a local business during the summer.

Students benefit by:

- sharpening their job readiness skills;
- working for five weeks at 28 hours a week in a real job;
- participating in a 4 week leadership class;
- getting mentoring from the MYEP staff, and
- designing solutions to community issues in Stamford.

Companies benefit by:

- investing in the city's future workforce
- gaining access to bright workers and consumers and
- generating positive PR for their civic engagement.

To find out how your company can make a positive difference in the life of a student contact:

Michelle Lappas,
MYEP Program Coordinator
203-977-0830
mlappas@ci.stamford.ct.us

Pictured on page: TOP: Teens, enrolled in the Mayor's Youth Employment Program, hard at work. BELOW: Participants in the 2011 Mayor's Youth Employment Program on graduation day at the City of Stamford pose for a group photo with Mayor Pavia.

Here is what some of our business leaders who participated in the program in 2011 said about it:

“The internship program is much more than a simple summer jobs program”

*Melissa Mulrooney,
Director of the Stamford
Museum & Nature Center*

“This program is one-of-a-kind. Each student is carefully interviewed, selected, matched with a company based on its specific needs and then mentored and evaluated throughout the summer. Companies get to see talented local young people and students get real world work experience.”

*Lee Rizzuto Jr., Senior Vice
President of Conair*

“As a participant in the Mayor's Youth Employment Program, I gained valuable work experience that will provide me with a foundation for my professional life.”

*Hiram Holloway,
Summer Intern 2011*

