



PROFILE: THE PERRY COUNTY BLACK MOUNTAIN IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION 1991-1998

The Black Mountain Improvement Association (BMIA) was initially founded by Dr. William H. Turner in Barbourville, Kentucky in 1988. The Perry County Black Mountain Improvement Association was organized in July of 1991.

Mission

The primary mission was to bring people together for community improvement, to motivate high achievement in youth, to improve social responsibility, and to advocate healthy lifestyles. Perry County BMIA was committed to improving the lives of African-Americans in the mountain communities. They built working relationships with local government, schools, local community agencies, organizations, and churches. Activities included workshops on health-related issues, cultural events and programs, and field trips.

Tutorial & Enrichment Program

The Tutorial & Enrichment Program operated during the school year and provided tutorial services for youth of all ages and grades. The tutorial staff consisted of community volunteers and student “peer” tutors. The program met twice a week and held sessions in either local churches, the Perry County Public Library, or the Intergenerational Center. Youth were exposed to enrichment programs and activities.

Home-Grown Computer Literacy Class

This program offered computer training in a home setting (a non-threatening environment) and was designed around the participant’s schedule. A certificate was awarded upon completion of classes.

Micro-City Government Youth Program

The Perry County Micro-City Government Youth Program (MCGYP) officially began in April of 1996; however, planning began in early 1995. This was a youth-run program with three primary goals:

- To educate youth about the local government process
- To provide youth with leadership training
- To encourage involvement in community service activities

The Perry County Micro-City Government Youth Program also provided a recreational outlet. It was designed to encourage pride and responsibility in youth. During the summer, elected youth officials

were paid a small summer stipend. Other program components included career awareness and development and youth entrepreneurial development.

(Compiled from brochure: The Perry County Black Mountain Improvement Association (BMIA))