

Festival proceeds help students prepare for future

BY SUSAN B. TAUBER
SPECIAL WRITER

When you make a purchase at Meadow Brook Music Festival, you are encouraging students like Estrellita Haydent and Cyteria Canty, 10th graders at Henry Ford High, to succeed in school.

Like many students, Estrellita and Cyteria have certain subjects they perform better in than others. But with the help of proceeds from the Meadow Brook festival, these two students, and many others, are receiving one-on-one tutoring to help raise their grades.

Volunteers from AT&T provide tutoring through Detroit Compact, a collaborative effort to improve the educational goals of Detroit public school students. Implemented by the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce, the project is funded by the Detroit Renaissance and the State of Michigan. Private individuals and corporations also donate funds.

Estrellita and Cyteria are Detroit Compact members through their high school. If they and 22,000 other Compact students each meet the requirements of the contract they signed, they will receive tuition assistance if they attend any of the 12 Michigan colleges or will receive help in their job search upon graduation of high school.

Compact students must graduate from high school with 11th grade reading and math skills and a grade average of C or better. The students, who are encouraged to share a sense of team work and leadership, also must attend school 95 percent of the time and have no major disciplinary violations.

Last year, Oakland University's Meadow Brook Music Festival (managed by Olympia Arenas, Inc. (OAI)), helped raise \$25,000 for Detroit Compact through the support of AT&T, a major sponsor of the festival. A portion of OAI's Meadow Brook profits were donated to Detroit Compact's College Fund.

"We're going to do the same thing this year," said Mark Trierweiler, AT&T division manager and a member of Detroit Compact's Business Education Alliance, an affiliate of the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce. "We're doing this because we think the eco-



Cyteria Canty (left), a 10th grader at Henry Ford High and Detroit Compact member, works on her studies with tutor Debra Sommerville, an AT&T employee.

PHOTO BY BRANDA PASCIA

nomie vitality of this region depends on our ability to deliver workers with skills needed by future employers. Detroit Compact is the best way we see to make this happen."

AT&T's contributions through Meadow Brook are part of the Van Dusen Compact College Fund, established by the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce, to create a permanent college assistance endowment for Detroit Compact students.

To receive the college scholarship, a student must have a B average or better and a median or better score on the American College Test (ACT), said Anne Sherwood, vice president of community quality programs for the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce.

Estrellita and Cyteria are on their way to meeting those criteria, thanks to their personalized tutoring this school year.

"The tutoring has really helped me a lot. I was having trouble with my math teacher at the beginning of the year. I was getting C's and D's," Estrellita said. "My tutor gave me the encouragement to do something about it. I now have a new teacher and I just got a B on my last quiz."

Estrellita is confident she will continue to improve her abilities in math class.

Cyteria was getting a "shaky C," she said, before she began working with her tutor after school.

"I'm getting a three-point this marking," she said in April. "I don't think I could have done this well if it weren't for my tutor. I'm really

glad for her and the time she takes to help me.

"Before, I had a D in geometry," she said. "Now I have a B-plus, which is excellent for me."

Lanice Collins, assistant manager of public relations at AT&T, coordinates the tutoring program. She

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