

# Southwest Boston CDC wins 'green' award from the city

**Ignacio Laguarda**

Staff Reporter

Less than a year after the formation of "The Green Team," the Southwest Boston Community Development Corporation (CDC) has been named a winner of the 2010 Boston Green Business Award.

The award is in recognition of the Green Team, which was formed last year and will be returning this summer. The team last year, which was comprised of 13 youths between 15 and 17 years old, was in charge of beautifying and cleaning areas of Hyde Park.

"It's especially gratifying to be able to receive the award in the first year of eligibility,"

said Mike Feloney, executive director of the CDC. "It's something that we hope to continue to build."

The Green Team is funded through the Boston Youth Fund and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department. Last year's team worked to beautify the business district around both Cleary and Logan Squares by planting and maintaining flowerbeds. They also cleaned and maintained Hyde Park's two "urban wilds," Sherrin Woods and Dell Rock.

"We tried to use it as a chance to really expose Hyde Park youth to some of the particular attributes of Hyde Park that otherwise people might not get to experience every

day," said Feloney.

In order to promote green living, the 13 youth used bicycles to travel between sites and were allowed to keep the bicycles at the end of the program. Furthermore, the students went on field trips to the Boston Nature Center, Wakefield Estates Arboretum, the Charlestown Recycling Center and the Brookwood Community Farms.

This year, Feloney hopes to get 15 students on the team, which was the original goal. But he knows there have been cuts in youth employment so he may be unable to offer that many positions.

Students have to apply through the Boston Youth

Fund for a spot on the Green Team, which is essentially a summer job. Only those who are age eligible and from Hyde Park will be considered. Last year, the students were paid the minimum wage of \$7 an hour for 25 hours a week.

The Green Team starts cleaning up Hyde Park on July 6.

Feloney said that he hopes to expand the Green Team in the future.

"[We'll] try to build on this, try to establish connections with local universities and colleges to see if we can really create links in both aca-

demic opportunities and career exploration," said Feloney. "Maybe even continue it as an after school program in the fall which will really be geared toward participants really interested in pursuing academic and career opportunities in things like environmental or open space management."

Feloney and the CDC will be formally given the green business award by Mayor Thomas M. Menino on April 29 at 11 a.m. in the Belvedere Court of the Shops at Prudential Center.