

## Community Asset Mapping Project for Camden City

### Challenges and Opportunities

Production of the Hopeworks Camden City map has had an equal amount of opportunities as challenges for our youth and the organization. Challenges began with the need to raise \$30,000 through the support of donors to Hopeworks to fund the employment of the team of youth surveyors for the summer. To insure the funding of the program, we offered raffles and prizes as incentives for contributors to donate. Even with those incentives, it took a few months before we could accumulate enough money to begin the mapping project. Selling advertisement space to local business also has its challenges for our youth. The youth created persuasive proposals for Camden's business owners, a skill they had to learn and develop along the way. Another challenge was the physical toll of having the youth and their supervisor travel through the nine square mile City of Camden on foot in the summer heat. The largest challenge in the production was the fact that we are creating the first street level map of Camden, meaning there were no prior images or information to aid in the creation of the map.

The opportunities are endless for the youth and our organization. This program and map gave youth steady summer employment and the chance of giving back to their community by developing such a major community resource. It turned out to be a great education tool for the youth themselves to learn first-hand about their community and environment. The map is free to the public and is distributed to all the school and municipal buildings in the City as well as local business and other organizations. More information on Hopeworks 'N Camden can be found at their website: <http://www.hopeworks.org>