

HAMPTON VA

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Hampton Clean City Commission launches CHANGE initiative on Earth Day

April 22, 2015 - Hampton's Clean City Commission has won a \$10,000 Waste Management Think Green grant from Keep America Beautiful that will provide scholarships for high school and college students who engage in a new anti-litter program.

The initiative will also encourage people of all ages to participate in cleanup and beautification projects. It is called CHANGE (Community Helps All New Growth Emerge) and officially launched on Wednesday, Earth Day.

The goal is to encourage high school and college students to engage in litter cleanup projects across Hampton, becoming eligible to win \$500 scholarships. Students can participate as individuals or as groups.

Edward Sean Robinson, a student at Hampton University and a member of the Clean City Commission, said he came up with the idea for CHANGE as a way of getting young people more involved in their community. Robinson said a live band would perform at some cleanup sites to encourage volunteers and provide a different atmosphere during the cleanup.

Debbie Blanton, executive coordinator of the Commission, said they hope the program raises awareness about individual and community stewardship among all Hampton residents, but especially among young people.

In addition to the scholarships, the money from Keep America Beautiful will be used to pay for some equipment and advertising.

Hampton's Clean City Commission works to improve the city's physical environment using beautification, waste management education and other tools. It is an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful.

For more information on CHANGE, email hccc@hampton.gov or contact Blanton at 757-727-1199.

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