

## Odds 'n Ends

Seventeen participants received Wal-Mart gift card last semester. The YouthStop™ provided incentives for participants who scored silver or higher on WorkKeys assessment, earned a secondary diploma, completed work readiness and/or earned a measureable skill gain.

Workshops were held throughout the month and included topics such as "Understanding Credit" and "Working for a Living." In addition, soft skills workshops and work readiness sessions have continued. Attendance at staff-led workshops has been excellent.

Participants joined in a canned food drive benefiting food banks throughout the Upstate.

## Participant Spotlight



*Zah'koreya Jones, a 2018 graduate of Dorman High School and participant at The YouthStop™, is currently enrolled in cosmetology courses at Kenneth Shuler. Her courses are covered through financial aid assistance. Previously, Zah'koreya had dropped out of high school, but was able to re-enroll and earn courses toward her diploma in The YouthStop™ recovery program. She also completed work readiness, career exploration, counseling, and a paid work experience through the program.*

## Staff Development & Outreach

Kathy E. Bell and Michelle W. Hawkins participated in the grantee meeting held at the Workforce Board office on January 14. The group discussed statewide and local issues. Updates were given on performance, instruction letters, and training.

Michelle W. Hawkins attended the SCWorks Spartanburg partner meeting on January 25.

Kathy E. Bell and Michelle W. Hawkins attended the Upstate Workforce Board meeting on January 28 at the Spartanburg YMCA. YouthStop graduate and WIOA board member, Evander Thomas also spoke to the group regarding his experiences as a youth.

The YouthStop™ participated in a Community Outreach session at the Thornton Activity Center in Spartanburg on January 29. Over 20 community members attended and heard information regarding youth and adult WIOA services. Michelle W. Hawkins represented The YouthStop™.

Sam Etheredge gave a presentation to Spartanburg Adult Education students on "The Shark Mindset." The workshop, held on January 29, included discussion on constantly moving forward and allowing minimal distractions in the achievement of a goal.