

# Our Suwannee • Our Aquifer • Our Future • Our Responsibility

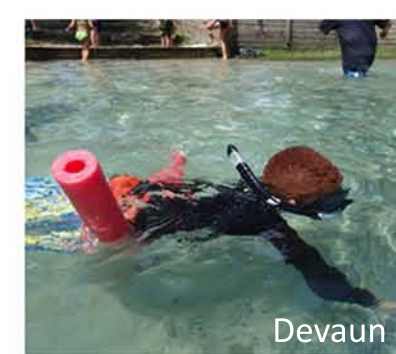
A MESSAGE FROM THE YOUTH OF RURAL NORTH FLORIDA

This 6-week **aquiPROJECT** evolved organically, working with the children in the H.O.P.E. Summer Enrichment Program of White Springs. The goal was to facilitate an understanding of how springs and aquifer health are revealing the consequences of our collective decisions and behaviors.

Hands-on activities and games demonstrated the no-win situation of over-consumption, and how fertilizer and pollutants make their way to our springs and aquifer. The activities were designed to help us *think* about our water use and resources.

These lessons were followed by an **underwater exploration of Gilchrist Blue Spring**. For most, it was their first time in a Florida Spring.

**"We all want to go back!"**



The next day, they visited their own White Sulfur Spring and were asked:



**"What's happening here?"**

**"The river's coming in."**

Then another said quietly,

**"The aquifer stopped."**

**The H.O.P.E. Program Bus was seen as *a vehicle to give voice ...***

**H.O.P.E. Program Participants:** Devaun Rivers, Kimberly Reynolds, Ashley Reynolds, Daniel Bennett, Danielle Bennett, Leondra McCloud, Caitlyn Brown, Foster Bristol, Tevin Brown, Destiny Brown, Kristopher Brown, Demiya Richburg, Ayanna Newsome, Azaria Thompkins, BreUnna Jordan, Kristyana Jordan, Christopher Jordan, Jalon Oliver, Jaylen Brown, Laeandra Brown, Jacob Byrd, McKayla Small, Zeakie Marshall, Tyriq Marshall, Trevon Marshall, Melonie Davis, Nevada Cooks, Hiedi Smith, Zamarion Jones, Joshua Rodriquez, EuNia Rivers, Mickell Jenkins, Melvin Brown, Elora McGuire, Anna McNatt, Miranda McNatt, Cameron Lumpkin, Carson Lumpkin, Deonte' Turner, Keilonnie Carter, Jeffrey Deal, Megan Allen, Zimeria Lewis, Ashton Tucker, James Lane, Serenity Brown, Brea Davis, Shalayah Green. Staff: Yvonne Hutcherson, Debra Davis, John Byrd, David Rivers, Taffany Brown, Ronteisha Owens, H.O.P.E. Program Administrator Anita Rivers, and Mayor Helen Miller.

**The 2013 HOPE Summer Enrichment Program** was sponsored by generous donations from H.B. Calder and Norma Haakonstad, Calder Family Foundation and PotashCorp - White Springs. Additional contributions from High Springs' Blue Springs Park, Extreme Exposure, Dive Rite, Ginnie Springs Outdoors and Gainesville's 13th Street Home Depot and Behr Paints, Judith McClure of White Springs Bed & Breakfast, and Mr. Harold Lumpkin, made the aquiPROJECT aquifer awareness project possible.

To learn more about the project please visit:  
[www.aquiPROJECT.com](http://www.aquiPROJECT.com) . [www.SpringsEternalProject.org](http://www.SpringsEternalProject.org) . [www.whitesprings.org](http://www.whitesprings.org)

Images by Lesley Gamble, Tracy Wyman and David Rivers

**A vehicle to think with.**

