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# Teens' essays to fight crime



Winners of an annual essay contest for high school seniors, sponsored by the Indian Community Fund for Greater Memphis, were recently honored at the National Civil Rights Museum. Pictured are teacher Tiffany Gant, D'Mario Mitchell, Barbara Check, Tameka Lewis, Thomas Dapp, Brittany Howell, Billy Pullen and Michael Phillips.

## *Indian Community Fund celebrates winners at museum*

**BY SHAILA KARKERA**  
*Special to My Life*

The winners of an annual essay contest for high school seniors, sponsored by the Indian Community Fund for Greater Memphis, were recently honored at the National Civil Rights Museum.

The contest was open to all schools — city, county and private. There were a total of 113 entries.

The senior winners, who each received \$500, included:

■ Michael Phillips, a senior at Germantown High; teacher, Billy Pullen.

■ D'Mario Mitchell, a senior at Raleigh Egypt High; teacher, Mrs. B. Check.

The junior winners:

■ First place, \$250: Thomas Dapp of Millington, a sophomore at Central High School, teacher, Mrs. Grant.

■ Second place, \$150: Tameka Lewis, a junior at Raleigh Egypt High School; teacher, Mrs. B. Check.

■ Third place, \$100: Brittany Howell, a junior at Germantown High; teacher, Billy Pullen.

The Indian Community Fund for Greater Memphis is a local charity working to support community service programs and promote philanthropy.

The Indian Community Fund collaborated with the National Civil Rights Museum for its third annual countywide essay contest. The subject was "Violence in society is becoming an endemic problem and it has to be curtailed. How do you propose reducing the youth violence in your school and community?"

The Indian Community Fund for Greater Memphis is led by the immigrant community from India. The organization's mission is to support community programs in the Greater Memphis area.

Among other programs, in 2002 the group brought a permanent exhibit of Mahatma Gandhi to the National Civil Rights Museum to collaborate with the museum and support its mission.

*Shaila Karkera is the chairman of the Indian Community Fund for Greater Memphis.*