

Ensemble performance

As 'Showcase' nears, college students step up as mentors

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Children huddled together in corners, slamming poetry; college and middle-school students debated the purpose of arithmetic in another area, while off to the side a 17-year-old black man wailed to the stratosphere on his golden saxophone.

Those images are not just found in the nooks and crannies of Greenwich Village or on the historic streets of Memphis and New Orleans — they are here, in Williamsport, found among local youths and along city streets.

On any given Saturday for the last four months, a group of area youths have gathered at Cochran Elementary School to rehearse for the annual talent Showcase sponsored by the Community Alliance for Progressive Positive Action, more commonly known as CAPPA.

In a community recently ravaged by gun-related violence, CAPPA is heeding the call for a

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MARK NANCE/Sun-Gazette
Loni Gamble, left, executive director of the Community Alliance for Progressive Positive Action, leads a group of aspiring singers through a recent rehearsal at Cochran Elementary School for CAPPA's upcoming Showcase.