Resource Guide

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NY

Harlem Children's Zone

Walk–in Resource · Open

Harlem, NY

Web www.hcz.org
Service Temporary

Programs (from the website, go there to see great videos):

Early Childhood

As researchers confirm that the early–childhood years are key to building a strong foundation for future educational success, HCZ has been bolstering its work with children and families in these critically important first years. Like all of HCZ's programs, our early childhood programs provide their services free to the public, which is possible thanks to the generosity of people like you. Please consider making a donation today.

The Baby College®

The Baby College offers a nine–week parenting workshop to expectant parents and those raising a child up to three years old. Among other lessons, the workshops promote reading to children and verbal discipline over corporal punishment. Over the past two years, more than 870 people graduated from The Baby College.

Elementary School

As children make their way through the critical first years of school, HCZ is there to ensure that they stay on track in several ways. Like all of HCZ's programs, the elementary school programs provide their services free to the public, which is possible thanks to the generosity of people like you. Please consider making a donation today.

Promise Academy Charter Schools:

Since their creation in 2004 and 2005, Promise Academy I and II elementary schools have done well enough to lead Harvard economist Roland Fryer to conclude that the students had actually closed the black–white achievement gap. The schools have a longer school day and year, and feature wide–ranging, enriching after–school programs. In 2009, the third–graders from both schools were 100 percent on or above grade level in the statewide math program. At PA1 the third–graders were 94 percent on or above grade level in English Language Arts, while the third–graders at PAII were at 86 percent.

For the students in the Zone who are not able to get into our charter schools, our AmeriCorps–supported Peacemakers program supports students during the school day and after school.

Harlem Peacemakers

Harlem Peacemakers, funded in part by AmeriCorps, trains young people who are committed to making their neighborhoods safe for children and families. The agency has 86 Peacemakers working as teaching assistants in seven public schools, serving 2,500 students. Part of the afterschool program is a chess program: one team finished second and two other teams came in third in the All Nationals for Girls in 2009.

The Fifth Grade Institute

The Fifth Grade Institute is a Peacemakers program. This free after–school effort was designed to benefit fifth graders in Harlem public schools by helping prepare them for Middle School. The central goals of this innovative program are to improve academic performance and prepare fifth graders for the challenges that lie ahead. The Institute has already helped improve the abilities of its enrolled students, helping to make college a reality for them.

Middle School

Teaching middle–schoolers is widely acknowledged as one of the most difficult challenges in public education. To help these students, HCZ has a dual–track pipeline: we work with children in our Promise Academy charter schools, as well as with students in public schools within the Zone. Like all of HCZ's programs, the middle school programs provide their services free to the public, which is possible thanks to the generosity of people like you. Please consider making a donation today.

Promise Academy Charter Schools

The Promise Academy middle school program began with 100 sixth–graders in 2004, many of whom were far below grade level. Despite some initial struggles (chronicled in the book "Whatever It Takes"), the school has coalesced and the students have been thriving. In 2009, 87.3 percent of the school's eighth–graders were on or above grade level in math on the New York Statewide exam. The middle school has a longer school day and year, and offers students a wide–ranging education as well as many "wrap–around services" such as free medical and dental care, freshly made healthy meals and an enriching afterschool program.

High School

Too often, high school is the last stand for low–income students who have fallen behind. Many drop out– only to find that they are unable to find a job or make a comfortable life for themselves. Some, particularly boys, drift into drugs, gangs and crime. In the past two years, we have increased the number of high school students we support, introducing HCZ's multiple site College Preparatory Program that makes year–round academic improvement possible for over 900 secondary level Harlem youth. HCZ's high school contingent is doing whatever it takes to get Harlem's students into college and, ultimately, the workplace.

Like all of HCZ's programs, our high–school programs provide their services free to the public, which is possible thanks to the generosity of people like you. Please consider making a donation today.

Promise Academy Charter Schools:

Promise Academy began its high school in the fall of 2008 and that initial class of ninth–graders have continued their middle–school progress, with 93 percent passing the Algebra Regents. The 2009–10 school year has seen the tenth grade added to Promise Academy High School. Each subsequent year will see the introduction of a new grade until all high–school levels are represented. In addition, we have created several cross–site initiatives to help our high school students navigate the process of getting into college.

ACADEMIC CASE MANAGEMENT:

Academic Case Management (ACM) is a holistic approach to youth development that each HCZ site serving Middle School (MS), High School (HS) and College Success students employs to strengthen our mission to support the healthy emotional, social, intellectual, physical and professional development of each child throughout his or her lifespan.

As in the middle–school, each of the six high–school sites has Student Advocates, assigned by grades, to work with each young person to create individualized Action Plans that identify concrete strategies to enrich and support the student's academic achievement, college readiness and personal growth. ACM focuses on building collaborations with the parents, teachers and other stakeholders to inform, develop, execute, assess and track student progess, particulary in the critical transitions from middle to high school and then into college.

TRUCE Arts & Media

TRUCE (The Renaissance University for Community Education) does youth development through the arts and media, working with youth in grades 9–12 on academic growth, career readiness as well as fostering media literacy and artistic ability. In 2008–09, TRUCE Arts and Media worked regularly with over 300 high–school students, and 100 percent of its seniors went on to college.

Employment and Technology Center

The Employment and Technology Center (ETC) teaches computer and job–related skills to teens and adults. It serves over 280 students and 90 percent of its 2008–09 high–school seniors were accepted into college. ETC places, at its helm, the necessity to create an environment that compels youth to be active learners and designers of their environment.

With an emphasis on an interdisciplinary approach to arts and technology education, the Tech Program approaches learning with a vigorous focus on expanding technical skills, delving into critical thinking, and expressing creative ingenuity. The teaching artists use New York City as a living classroom and resource for exploration through exposures and technology as a means for the youth to translate their ideas.

Learn to Earn

Learn to Earn is an after–school program that helps high school juniors and seniors improve their academic skills, as well as prepare them for college and the job market. The program is a component of the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) Workforce Investment Act (WIA). Learn to Earn provides job readiness training and summer employment opportunities for high school juniors and seniors. Program participants receive life skill workshops that assist them with job readiness, conflict resolution, social development and financial planning. During the school year, the focus is on improving participants' academic standings and developing life skills, while during the summer months, the focus is on gaining summer employment.

COLLEGE PREPARATORY PROGRAM

The College Preparatory Program provides year–round academic enrichment to approximately 900 high school youth residing in the Harlem area. The program helps them aim for a college education, utilizing the resources available at the Employment and Technology Center (ETC). ETC's twenty–two person education team, comprised of academic advisors, college counselors and tutors, creates an interactive curriculum to motivate and challenge the young people enrolled in the College Preparatory Program. The program's primary goal is to get young people thinking about the pursuit of a college education as early as possible.

College

While the original goal of the HCZ Project was to get students into college, we found that some students – many the first in their families to go to college – were struggling with the new challenges of the college environment.

HCZ responded by creating the College Success Office, which supports students with the entire range of problems they might face – everything from navigating the financial aid process to tutoring, from time management to obtaining internships. Like all of

HCZ's programs, our college and young adults programs provide their services free to the public, which is possible thanks to the generosity of people like you. Please consider making a donation today.

The College Success Office

The College Success Office supports students who have graduated from high school and HCZ programs. It helps them get into the most–appropriate college, then assists them throughout their college years. CSO places students in summer and winter–break internships, as well as organizes community–service projects. HCZ now has about 600 students in college and the 2009–10 freshman class received more than $6.3 million in scholarships.

In the past two years, CSO has strengthened its ability to support out–of–town students with the creation of "campus connectors," upperclassmen who act as mentors and advisors to incoming students. CSO has also piloted the creation of "campus advisors"–college staff who assist HCZ students attending their schools.

Family, Community, and Health

Community Pride

Community Pride organizes tenant and block associations, helping many hundreds of tenants convert their city–owned buildings into tenant–owned co–ops.

Single Stop

Harlem Children Zone's Single Stop program was initiated as a tool to reduce poverty within the zone's 100 blocks. Each week at various sites, Single Stop provides clients with access to a broad assortment of useful services. Free of charge, workers offer advice about securing public benefits, access to legal guidance, financial advice, debt relief counseling and domestic crisis resolution. All of the guidance is provided through confidential, one–on–one sessions.

The HCZ Asthma Initiative

The HCZ Asthma Initiative works closely with asthmatic children and their families so they can learn to manage the disease and lessen its effects.

The Obesity Initiative

The Obesity Initiative is a multi–pronged program designed to help children and their families reverse the alarming trend toward obesity and its corresponding health problems in the community.

HCZ Foster Care Prevention:

THE FAMILY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Family Development Program serves 120 families and specializes in access to mental health professionals who collaborate with caseworkers to support therapeutic
interventions.

THE FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

The Family Support Center serves 90 families, and specializes in providing crisis intervention services, referrals, advocacy, groups on parenting and anger management training.

THE MIDTOWN FAMILY PLACE

The Midtown Family Place has 45 families and is based in Hell's Kitchen. It provides counseling, referrals and advocacy, as well as an after–school and summer program for children 5–12, a literacy program and a food pantry.

PROJECT CLASS

Project CLASS (Clean Living and Staying Sober) serves as many as 50 families. It specializes in providing referrals to drug and alcohol abuse programs, as well as creating, implementing and monitoring drug treatment service plans.It recently added the Babies Initiative, which is offered to 20 families with children ages five and under who are at immediate risk of being put in foster care. This intensive program works to get family members whatever services they need in order to stabilize.

TRUANCY PREVENTION

Truancy Prevention works with 90 families with at–risk children. It conducts workshops on domestic violence and on parenting (the Parenting Journey). The program also has a group for teenagers.

Services offered: Advocacy, Anti–Poverty; Advocacy, * (ANY/ALL Types); Advocacy, Child Advocacy; Advocacy, Economic Justice for Impoverished Populations; Advocacy, Health & Human Rights; Advocacy, Housing, Community, Housing Development; Advocacy, Human Rights; Advocacy, Services, Youth Services; Advocacy, Social Justice; Advocacy, Voters Advocacy; Assistance * (ANY Type of: Referrals or "How to" Assistance); Assistance, How to Find, Emergency Food Assistance; Assistance, Referrals * General Information & Referral; Assistance, Referrals, Job Placement; Assistance, Referrals, Medical Resources Referral; Assistance, Referrals, Youth Services; Community Outreach Programs; Community Service Program; Counseling, Consumer Credit Counseling; Counseling, Financial/Budget Counseling; Counseling, Support Group * (ANY/ALL Types); Counseling, Support Group for Caregivers; Counseling, Support Groups, Parents; Demographic Served: Children; Demographic Served: Families; Demographic Served: Families, w/Young Children; Demographic Served: Low Income Folks;

Demographic Served: Low Income Folks, Women Only; Demographic Served: Social Peers; Demographic Served: Sustainable Communities; Demographic Served: Teens; Demographic Served: Teens, Troubled; Demographic Served: Victims of Economic Injustice, Urban; Demographic Served: Vulnerable & Marginalized Populations; Directories, Directory of Services, City/Town; Directories, Directory of Services, County/Parish; Directories, Directory of Services, Grants Info, Listings, News & Referrals; Directories, Directory of Services, Regional; Directories, Financial Assistance Programs; Directories of Services & Programs * (ANY/ALL Types); Directories, Youth Services & After–School Programs; Disaster Mitigation, Economic, Community; Education, Communication with at–risk teens; Education, for Parents, about teens' risky behaviors; Education, Parenting at–risk teens; Events, Community Meetings; Facility: Community Center; Facility: Library; Facility: Recreation Center; Hotline * (ANY/ALL Types); Hotline, Crime Alerts, Neighborhood; Hotline, Health Information/Resource Hotline; Information Resource, Alternative Schools/Education; Information Resource * (ANY/ALL Types); Information Resource, Demographic Information; Information Resource, Legal, Human Rights; Information Resource, Medicare Information; Information Resource, Neighborhood Network; Information Resource, Resources Available to Disaster Survivors; Information Resource, Situation Reports & Status Reports; Information Resource, Watchdog Site, Social Justice; Information Resource, Watchdog, Transparency & Accountability; Information Resource, Youth Services; Library Services * (ANY/ALL Types) ; Library Services, Book Lending; Library Services, Language Skills Books/CDs; Library Services, Reading Program; Literacy Program; Medical, Education, HIV/AIDS Awareness; Medical, Education, Hygiene Health, Awareness; Medical, Education, Mother and Child Health Awareness; Medical, Education, Prenatal Care; Medical, Education, Reproductive Health, Awareness; Medical, Education, Weight Management Classes; Medical, Services, Preventive; New "Business" Models; New "business" models, Economic; New "Business" Models, Education; New "business" models, Government; New "business" models, Sustainable Societies; School, Adult Education/Adult School; School * (ANY/ALL Types); School, College, Community College; School, Elementary; School, High School; School, Jr High, Middle School; School, Kindergarten; School, Mission School; School, New Educational Concept; School, Pre–K, Pre–School; School, Pre–School; Services *0* (Choose this if You Provide or Need ANY Type of Social Services); Services, Educational Services (See also Category for School); Services, Family, Children * (ANY/ALL Types of Childrens Services); Services, Family, General Family Assistance; Services, Social Services, General Social Services; Services, Youth Services, Crime Prevention Programs; Social Event *(any/all types) see also category "Events"; Social Event, for Teens; Social Event, Networking Group *any/all types; Social Event, Networking Group, Daycare for Children; Social Event, Networking Group, Employment/ Professional Networking; Social Event, Networking Group, Families; Social Event, Networking Group, Families w/Young Children; Social Event, Party, Anniversary Event; Social Event, Post–Holiday Cookie–swap; Social Event, Post–Holiday, Re–gifting Party; Social Event, Recreation, Board Games; Social Event, Recreation, Bridge/Cards; Social Event, Recreation, Geneology Group; Social Event, Recreation, Ping Pong; Social Event, Sewing/Quilting/Kniting/Crochet, Knitting Circle; Social Event, Sewing/Quilting/Knitting/Crochet Circle; Social Events, Party / Festival; Social Event, Writing Group; Sponsoring Organization; Sponsorship Program, Children (Education/Health Care/Food, etc.); Sponsorship Program, Children (Resiliency); Support for "All Local" Disasters; Training, Activism; Training * (ANY/ALL Types of Instruction) ; Training Classes, Business Skills; Training Classes, Caregiver Training; Training Classes, Child Development (learning to teach kids); Training Classes, Communication Skills; Training Classes, Computer Lab; Training Classes, Computers Skills; Training Classes, Education, 1st Time Home Buyer Education; Training Classes, Education, Nutrition Education Classes; Training Classes, Education, Parenting; Training Classes, Exercise, Health Classes; Training Classes, Financial Literacy; Training Classes, Financial, Money Management; Training Classes, GED Preparation; Training Classes, Life Skills, Misc.; Training Classes, Life Skills, Youth; Training Classes, Literacy Training; Training Classes, Trade Skills, Training; Training Classes, Vocational; Training, Education, Health, Sanitation / Hygiene; Training, Employment, Job Skills, Youth; Training Government, Training on How it Works; Training, Job Training; Training, Medical, Education *(ANY/ALL Types); Training, Medical, Education, Diabetes Education; Training, Medical, Education, General Health; Training, Medical, Education, Health Education for Survivors * (ANY/ALL Types); Training, Medical, Education, HIV/AIDS, Coping With HIV/AIDS; Training, Medical, Education, Hypertension Education; Training, Medical, Education, Life Skills, Asthma; Training, Medical, Education, Obesity Education; Trainin, Social Awareness; Youth, After–School, Afterschool Program; Youth, Leadership Development; Youth, Mentor Program; Youth Outreach; Youth Program
Campaigns: Alternative Societies; AmeriCorps; Boy Scouts of America; Boy's & Girl's Club; Ending Extreme Poverty; New "Business" Models
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