A SMASHING SUCCESS FOR THE CHILDREN OF SUNSET PARK

For the third year in a row, David Tyree and dozens of the NY Giants players hosted a star studded event benefiting Children of the City. The night was buzzing with celebrities and supporters who gathered at the beautiful Lucky Strike in Manhattan to enjoy an evening of food, photos, chatting, and bowling with their favorite Giants players. Among our special guests for the evening were reigning Miss Universe, Iris Mittenaere, and Miss USA, Kára McCullough. Olivier Vernon, our featured player for this year, was an amazing host to our guests, joined by many of his fellow players including Romeo Okwara, Jay Bromley, and Evan Engram. NBC Sports broadcaster Bruce Beck served as emcee, and shared some highlights on the programs of Children of the City designed to alter the destructive cycles of poverty in NYC. “I was overwhelmed at the support of all our guests,” said Founder and Executive Director Joyce Mattera. This annual event helps us ensure that some of the most needy and vulnerable children will not go unnoticed or without help.

WWW.CHILDRENOFTHECITY.ORG
Children of the City hosted our 4th Annual Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway right before the school year began. Volunteers, parents, and children joined us as we supplied backpacks filled with school supplies including pocket folders, composition notebooks, pens, pencils, crayons, erasers, glue sticks, loose leaf paper, rulers, scissors, colored pencils, and pencil cases. Having all the items they need for the upcoming school year allows students to feel confident, encouraged, and prepared, which makes a huge difference in their attitude, helping to put them on track for success in the classroom and their studies. This was all made possible with the support of our partners: CRU, who supplied backpacks, and C3 Brooklyn, who donated supplies and gathered volunteers to help with preparation and distribution.

KACE

“I have braces now, so I don’t like smiling,” Kace admits. The loquacious 17-year-old is hoping to get them off in time for senior prom next year. She beams when she talks about her volunteer work at the Afterschool Program and Super Saturday. “I want to help because Children of the City was my whole childhood.” She and her older sister Rosa were rescued from a devastating home situation and placed in our Guardianship Program when Kace was only three years old.

She refuses to dwell on her past, but speculates that “I’d probably be out on street or dead without Children of the City. I want to help kids that are similar to my past…or worse. I like to let people know what is happening in the community, and help prevent my story from happening again. Knowing that I was safe here was so important.”

One of her favorite duties is to read through the Winter Wishes, and Santa letters that the kids write in late fall. “For some of these kids it’s the first present that they ever get in their lives. It’s so nice to see them get something that they really want.”

Acknowledging that so many of the children ask for clothes and warm coats throughout the year, Kace has developed a special tradition. She sits with them and talks about their future as they try on something new. “Clothes are about change. You can become a new person. Every day is a new day. What you wore yesterday does not define you. Today is a brand new day. You can start over.”

Kace is applying to several colleges and intends to major in social work. “Maybe I’ll end up here, working for Children of the City.”
HELPING HOMELESS FAMILIES FROM OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS

This past year, in addition to the 500 families that Children of the City serves annually in Brooklyn, we have taken on the challenge of an additional 10% of clients from the homeless shelters in Sunset Park.

Children of the City is the first of the local agencies to step up to the plate and offer consistent and continuous help for the local shelter families. Our monthly “Super Saturday” program has provided an easy access outreach where parents can come for workshops, practical advice, and the bare necessities of diapers and emergency food.

“This is a wonderful organization that is really involved in the community,” commented Thomas Colella, a Guidance Counselor at PS 24. “They are present in the community and listen to the needs of the people who live here. They are tirelessly looking for ways to get people connected. They are passionate and resourceful. They are giving these kids the chance to experience being a kid. It gives them hope.”

HOLIDAY OUTREACH

Thanksgiving and Christmas are right around the corner. Here at Children of the City we love to bring together partners and families to make this time special, and provide some Holiday cheer for those that are struggling. Help us brighten the Holidays for hundreds of bright-eyed young ones and ensure their families receive much-needed assistance.

A donation of $25 provides a Thanksgiving turkey for a family, or a Christmas gift for a child. Visit our website at: http://www.childrenofthecity.org/donate-now/ to make a donation, or you can send a check in the mail to Children of the City. You can also volunteer for one of our Holiday events. Check out our website at www.childrenofthecity.org for opportunities to distribute Turkey dinners, wrap Christmas presents, or come and help out at our annual Winter Wishes event.

Our goal each year is to make the holiday special for our participants and their families despite the financial instability in their households. Feel free to contact our offices at 718-436-0242 x118, or email office@childrenofthecity.org for more information.
CHILDREN OF THE CITY BOARD MEMBERS

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