

CHILDREN of the city

fall issue 2008

The Results Are In

2008 SUMMER PROGRAM RESULTS SHOW MARKED STUDENT IMPROVEMENT

The 2008 “Create Success” Summer Program Results are in, and are absolutely spectacular.

Students completed the July-August 2008 Summer Program at Children of the City and were carefully

1ST GRADE: 89% INCREASED
BY AT LEAST ONE DRA LEVEL

2ND GRADE: 85% INCREASED
BY AT LEAST ONE DRA LEVEL

3RD GRADE: 80% INCREASED
BY AT LEAST ONE DRA LEVEL

4-5TH GRADE: 73% INCREASED
BY AT LEAST ONE DRA LEVEL

6-7TH GRADE: 100% INCREASED
IN STRATEGIC KNOWLEDGE

assessed using NYS Board of Education recognized standardized tests. The results showed that

83% of students increased in DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment) levels during the course of the summer program alone.

94% of students reported feeling positive about the upcoming school year. This is especially

significant given the widespread discouragement felt by many students that contributes to the neighborhood’s high dropout rate. Exit interviews suggested our program has a positive effect on deterring young people from harmful behaviors. Students said that as a result of their involvement in the program, they were less likely to be involved in gangs, drugs, or violent behavior.

Create Success is the only academically driven program in the community that continues year-round, keeping children’s academic abilities active and sharp while improving their reading abilities and their math and writing skills. Special thanks to **TD Charitable Foundation**, **Barclays Nets Community Alliance**, **The Charles Hayden Foundation**, and **Senator Martin J. Golden** for their support of Children of the City’s “Create Success” program.

Reaching inner city children and youth with hope, guidance, and resources to positively affect their lives and communities, breaking the cycles of poverty and its effects.



Board members Rocco Basile and Julia Masi



THANKSGIVING BOXES OF LOVE DINNERS FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

Children of the City will be distributing a 25-lb box of food and turkey to many of the needy families we serve on Sunday November 23rd. Most of the families we will give a Box to would not have a Thanksgiving meal to celebrate were it not for our gift to them. Please make a donation to make Thanksgiving special for someone on **Sunday, November 23rd, 2008.**

Friends and Legislators tackle the Issues

Thursday October 30, 2008 marked a delightful evening as business leaders, Legislators, and friends of Children of the City gathered at a cocktail hosted by **TD Bank (formerly Commerce Bank)**. Children of the City was able to present the success of our programs and create greater awareness of the work we are doing. "Connecting with legislators and leaders is a key part of our strategy as we continue to build alliances to serve the children and families of our neighborhoods" said Joyce Mattera, Founder and Executive Director.



Senator Martin J. Golden and
Exec. Director Joyce Mattera

An essential part of our strategy is building stronger community partnerships; funders at this cocktail were privy to hear some of the real life stories of Children of the City recipients and the impact that COC is making in our community and beyond. Deeper relationships were forged with elected officials as we strategized together on we can make a greater difference in our neighborhoods.

Issues we are collaborating on include high drop-out rates, the effects of poverty on children, the academic skills gap, and social challenges that hinder children from focusing on their education.

TD Bank (formerly Commerce Bank) has a reputation for building communities and has supported Children of the City even before they were situated in Sunset Park. Our dear friends John Corallo, Eileen Holmes, and Yvonne Riley-Tepie graciously hosted this event at their charming Sunset Park branch on the same night of orchestrating the changing of all their bank signs - what dedication to their community. **Senator Martin J. Golden** was in attendance as was **Councilman David I. Weprin** who praised the visionary work that Children of the City has been doing since 1981.



Council Member David I. Weprin

Presented in
partnership with:



Christmas

For The JOY of the Season!

2008 HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED!



On December 20th over 500 children will gather together at a special event that Children of the City hosts. Each child in attendance will receive a brand new age-appropriate gift wrapped by volunteers prior to this special event; you are welcome to join us for one of these evenings (Dec. 16-18) of gift wrapping toys.

Please make a special donation for us to purchase gifts for children, many whom would not be able to receive any gift this year were it not for Children of the City.



Special thanks to Council Members Sara M. Gonzalez and Domenic M. Recchia, Jr. for their ongoing support of Children of the City and the families we serve.

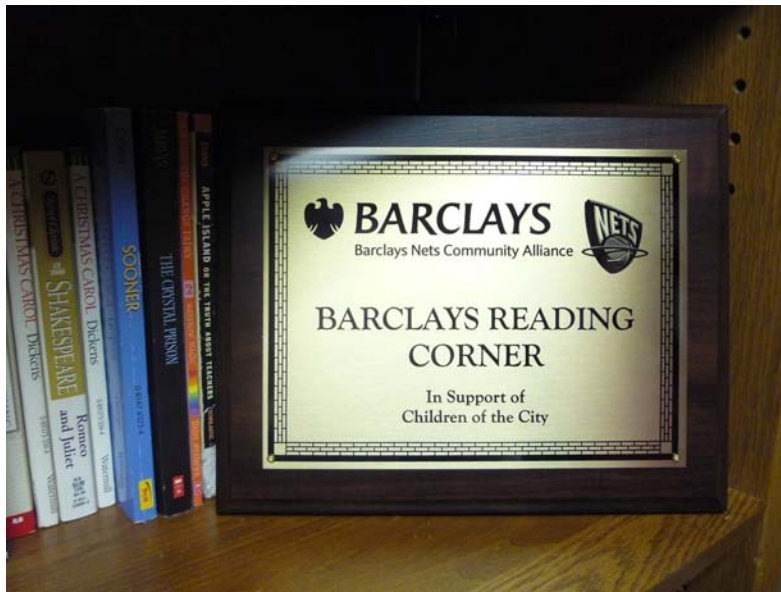
MAKE YOUR YEAR-END TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFT COUNT

As 2008 comes to a close, won't you consider making a **year-end tax-deductible financial gift** to Children of the City?

Your support allows us to continue to build on our strong academic programs; provide outreach to families in our community; combat the cycle of poverty; and expand the number of people we reach. This time of year presents a wonderful opportunity to support such a worthy cause and receive a tax-deduction for your gift. During this season of giving, I hope you will consider being as generous as possible.

The "Children of the City" depend on you!

2008
Year-End
tax-deductible gift



Students of the Create Success program gather at the Barclays Reading Corner. Students have access to quality fiction to develop and sustain the habit and enjoyment of reading for pleasure and to enrich their continued intellectual, aesthetic, cultural and emotional growth.



Strengthening Community Partnerships

A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Children of the City is proud to work closely with its partners in providing services for the disadvantaged children and families of Brooklyn.

Recently, linkage agreements between **Lutheran Hospital**, **Maimonades Medical Center**, **Turning Point**, **Brooklyn Women's Services**, Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow, and **several local schools** are combining efforts to address the concerns of education, medical services, and establishing a more formal network of service providers to refer families to those who can best provide assistance to them.

Children of the City recognizes the need to

connect, coordinate, and leverage resources from a variety of sources to support and continue our work and draw from a broad range of perspectives and expertise—from inside education, health, and other services as well as from other organizations and individuals within the community.

“We are making progress on understanding how synergies among donors and development organizations can be reinforced,” said **Joyce Mattera**, Founder and Executive Director of Children of the City. “All our activities are aimed at one result: bringing real improvement to peoples’ lives through opening more and more choices for them. Our approach to human development is practical — through empowerment of the families we reach every single day.”

We welcome your donation either by mail or the web:

Children of the City
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