CAMBA’s Workforce Development and Refugee Services, explains, “While CAMBA already offers a broad range of job preparation and placement services, this new funding will help CAMBA focus on job seekers who reside in Flatbush and surrounding Central Brooklyn communities.”

CAMBA’s Workforce Development programs are open to low-income individuals who are legally authorized to work in the U.S. The programs offer training leading to private security, human services and customer service jobs with good pay and benefits.

Orientation for interested job seekers takes place every Monday at 9 a.m. at 2211 Church Avenue, Room 305. Please call Denise Harris or Carmen Medina at 718.282.0108 for an appointment or more information.

CAMBA now has a colorful garden oasis behind three of its Winthrop Street sites, thanks to WellPoint, Inc., the nation’s largest health benefits commercial membership company. WellPoint provided thirty employee volunteers on April 26. They made flower and vegetable beds, spruced up sheds and painted a community room. The centerpiece of the day-long project was a garden-themed mural designed by

CAMBA YOUTH MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN ALBANY

Thirteen young people from CAMBA’s Liberation Diploma Plus H.S. and CAMBA’s Beacon Community Center at P.S. 269 travelled to Albany on January 23 to discuss with state legislators reasons to fund the Summer Youth Employment Programs (SYEP). They were among a 400-strong delegation participating in Youth Action Day to request an increase in annual SYEP funding from $45 million to
KING COLLEGE STUDENTS AID CAMBA’S ANNUAL DRIVE

Thirty enthusiastic students from King College in Bristol, Tennessee travelled to New York in chilly March to support CAMBA’s Annual Drive. From March 1 to March 8, the student volunteers helped with community building projects and donation drives, drawing the generosity of community members and many Church Avenue merchants, including Bobby’s Department Store, United Commercial Bank, Children’s Corner, Modell’s, Church Bargain Center, HJ Edwards Accounting, Thrift Pharmacy and Miracles Can Happen.

In all, the students made 97 pickups to collect toys, books, canned food and clothing from drop-off sites at six CAMBA offices. They also helped spruce up CAMBA’s 19 Winthrop Street facility and the new food pantry at 2241 Church Avenue. They painted, removed debris, cleaned bathrooms, mopped floors and removed stained carpeting. The students also provided clerical and marketing support. A few took photographs, snapping more than a thousand photos to document work at thirty different CAMBA locations; others helped with foodservice at the Park Slope and Atlantic House Shelters and The Gathering Place Homeless Drop-in Center.

The students worked closely with CAMBA’s Home-Base, which operates the homelessness prevention program to stabilize families and individuals at risk of homelessness in Brooklyn. Special thanks to CAMBA’s Home-Base Program Director Melissa Mowery, her alma mater King College and the great student volunteers who made these accomplishments possible. We also thank community members and local merchants for their generous donations to CAMBA’s Annual Drive.

CAMBA RECEIVES FEINSTEIN FOUNDATION GRANT TO FIGHT HUNGER

CAMBA has operated its Beyond Hunger Emergency Food Pantry for more than a decade, providing a three-day supply of nutritional food to CAMBA clients who are hungry and in dire need. The food pantry is stocked through monetary and food donations collected year round. However, March is especially important as it kicks off World Hunger Month. For the second consecutive year, March also began a two-month matching grant from The Feinstein Foundation for every canned food item CAMBA collected from March 1 to April 30.

Founded in 1991 by philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein, the foundation is dedicated to alleviating hunger and to promoting the importance of community service in education and the values of caring, compassion and brotherhood.

Dawn Woods, a CAMBA Program Manager responsible for homelessness intervention, says, “We appreciate the Feinstein Foundation’s generous support. Through its matching grant program, CAMBA’s food pantry is able to help even more people in our community.”

CAMBA’s Beyond Hunger Emergency Food Pantry also offers help obtaining public benefits, provides money-management and nutrition education, and offers referrals to social services programs and health care providers. To learn more, call 718.940.6311, extension 230.

CAMBA is a non-profit agency that provides services which connect people with opportunities to enhance their quality of life.
Geneva Musgrave, CAMBA’s Anti-Stigma Program Supervisor, appeared on Stigma: The Silent Killer, a Black Entertainment Television (BET) special to commemorate National HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. Aired on February 7 and February 10, the program examined how HIV-related stigma has contributed to the HIV epidemic, especially among people of color.

Known as the “Anti-Stigma Squad,” CAMBA’s Anti-Stigma program uses a theater troupe, a speakers bureau and a community leaders initiative to educate people about HIV/AIDS. Outreach presentations, says Musgrave, “offer, foster and initiate conversations about HIV stigma.”

New York City continues to rank first amongst metropolitan areas in the number of people living with HIV/AIDS according to the Centers for Disease Control. Based on data reported through 2006, New York City has 98,861 people living with HIV/AIDS and 24.8% of those individuals live in Brooklyn. The borough also has the city’s largest number of women living with HIV/AIDS—9,250 as of December 2006, according to the New York City Department of Mental Health HIV Epidemiology and Field Services Program.

CAMBA is one of six community-based organizations funded through the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene’s Anti-Stigma and Discrimination Initiative and the only agency funded to promote the public health campaign in Brooklyn.

For information on CAMBA’s AIDS/HIV programs, call 718.462.8654.

Summer Sale & Exhibition of Shona Sculptures from Zimbabwe, taking place at the CAMBA Gallery (19 Winthrop Street, near Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn). Sculptures can also be viewed online at www.shonasculptures.com. Select from hundreds of quality sculptures created by Zimbabwe’s best established and emerging Shona artists. For more information, call 718.284.9064 or 718.287.2600, or visit the website.
CAMBA’S BLOOMING

artist Dawnmarie Benevento and painted by the WellPoint volunteers. WellPoint provided supplies and food for the volunteers.

The project was conceived at the suggestion of Shirley Gayle, CAMBA’s Program Director for Women’s Supportive Services, when United Way (the volunteer program’s funder) contacted her about implementing a project at CAMBA. She suggested a gardening project so our clients would have a pleasant space to relax. United Way, in turn, pitched this healthy living idea to its corporate sponsors. WellPoint agreed to take on the project—one of more than 150 it sponsored nationwide on April 26.

CAMBA thanks United Way’s new president Gordon Campbell, who visited CAMBA’s Women’s Supportive Services Program in October 2007, his United Way staff, and WellPoint and its volunteers, who did a great job. Special thanks to CAMBA’s Shirley Gayle, HIV/AIDS & Health-related Services Deputy Executive Director Sharon Browne, Assistant Deputy Director Michael Erhard, Program Director Peter Natal, Program Manager Carlos Guevara, Facilities Manager Dany Cunningham and our maintenance staff for facilitating the project. ☺

YOU CAN HELP CAMBA MAKE AN IMPACT.

Please consider making a contribution tax deductible contribution of: $50 $100 $250 $500 Other: $_______

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THANK YOU!

We salute the following for their generous support.

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