CAMBA RECEIVES $281,230 IN NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

AMBA was awarded a total of $281,230 in Neighborhood Development Area Grants from the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development to address the needs of low-income clients in underserved communities.

We received two grants for the Adult Literacy program to provide instruction in reading comprehension, language, math, and test-taking skills for 160 students.

AMBA’s Park Slope Women’s Shelter received a grant to help 60 homeless women secure safe and adequate housing.

Two High School-Aged Youth Grants will provide 80 young people with academic enrichment services and either job-readiness skills training or internships.

Finally, AMBA’s Healthy Families Grant will provide case management to 80 families living in Flatbush, Brooklyn.

We thank the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development for its support.

TEAGLE FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT

We received a grant from the Teagle Foundation for a project called Leading to College that will support high school students at the School for Democracy and Leadership (SDL) in preparing for and succeeding in college.

Through a collaboration with Brooklyn College, the project will offer 145 students activities including an induction ceremony and other rituals, courses fostering disciplinary thinking in the arts and sciences, workshops focused on soft skills preparation, and college credit classes on the Brooklyn College campus.

A total of $240,000 will be shared by Brooklyn College and AMBA, which will receive $121,455.

AMBA has been the lead partner at SDL since 2006. The Teagle Foundation provides leadership for liberal education to ensure that today’s students have access to enriching college educations.

CAMBA Helps Drive Away Hunger
CAMBA Clients PowerUp!
CAMBA’s Homeless Prevention Funding Is Restored
Save the Dates for Shona
CAMBA HELPS DRIVE AWAY HUNGER

CAMBA conducted its Annual Food and Book Drive in March and April to coincide with National Hunger Awareness Month. The drive encouraged donations of non-perishable food items for its Beyond Hunger Food Pantry and books for the residents of CAMBA homeless shelters. With the help of student volunteers from King College, the drive resulted in generous donations from community residents, local merchants, schools, churches and CAMBA staffers.

All donations are matched by the Feinstein Foundation, which annually bolsters food drives nationwide through its $1 million Challenge Program. In addition to the Foundation, we offer special thanks to Assemblywoman Rhoda Jacobs, United Way, New York City Human Resources Administration and the King College volunteers.

Donations are especially appreciated this year because today's economic woes have significantly impacted CAMBA's food pantry. Use of the pantry has increased dramatically. Last year, the pantry served some 350 people each month. This year, we are serving 1800-2000 monthly. The poor economy has also limited CAMBA's buying power as food price increases are rapidly outpacing our funding.

According to Janet Miller, CAMBA’s Director of Food Programs, “We are faced with even greater challenges this year as we try to feed the increasing numbers of those in need in our community. We welcome non-perishable food or monetary donations from businesses and individuals year-round.”

To learn how you can help CAMBA's food pantry help our community, please contact Janet Miller at 718.287.0010 ext. 224 or janetm@camba.org.

KING COLLEGE STUDENTS RETURN TO CAMBA

Student volunteers from Tennessee’s King College once again traveled to New York during their spring break to donate their time, energy and talents to CAMBA. From March 7-14, 23 students helped spruce up CAMBA facilities, promoted and collected items for CAMBA’s Annual Food and Book Drive, documented CAMBA’s work through photographs and performed a variety of other duties, ably supervised by Mary-Beth Shine, CAMBA’s Event Planner.

CAMBA’s official King College connection began last year, when Melissa Mowery, CAMBA’s HomeBase Program Director and a King College graduate, invited students from her alma mater. She explains, “We have a win-win partnership with the students of King College. They get to experience life in New York, gaining valuable knowledge that they would not get in a classroom in rural southwestern Virginia or upper east Tennessee, and CAMBA gets help with projects that are not funded in our contracts.”

Mowery adds, “The students were amazing. They’re smart, have great attitudes and are willing to do anything to help CAMBA. The programs they helped with have all been positively impacted.”

Students and CAMBA alike are looking forward to their visit next year.

CAMBA’s 2008 Annual Report is now available. To receive a free copy, please call 718.287.2600. View it online at www.camba.org.
CAMBA TO CELEBRATE AGAIN

Youth, I.N.C. has selected CAMBA to participate in its Celebration to Benefit New York Kids program for the fifth consecutive year. As one of only twenty non-profit groups selected each year, CAMBA will once again co-host a gala Celebration event in the fall to raise visibility and funds for our youth programs.

Bonnie Osinski, CAMBA’s Director of Development, notes, “Each year we have participated in the program has been more successful than the last. Thus far, our collaboration with Youth, I.N.C. has netted $438,450 in support of CAMBA programs that help the youth in our community.”

Founded by corporate executives, Youth, I.N.C. provides assistance and underwriting to enable youth-serving organizations to begin raising funds through special events.

CAMBA CLIENTS POWERUP!

Five CAMBA Small Business Services clients made it to the Brooklyn Business Library’s 5th Annual PowerUP! Business Plan Competition finals. They were among 12 finalists chosen from 481 small business owners for business plan quality and content.

Elissa Olin of Green Home Green Living took 2nd place, winning $5,000 cash and in-kind donations. Green Home Green Living is a retail shop selling earth-friendly products.

Honorable Mentions went to Sheila Collins and Stacy Toussaint of Inside Out Tours, which offers excursions to cultural and historical Brooklyn sites.

Finalists included Tess Gill of Brooklyn Victory Gardens, which will offer organic food and handcrafted goods from local farmers, bakers, craftsmen and other artisans; and Melissa Ricketts of Tahini, LLC, health food providers.

The PowerUP! awards program gives entrepreneurs the opportunity to strengthen business knowledge, learn business trends and gain insights about starting companies.

CAMBA Small Business Services provides small business loans up to $15,000, consulting, training and economic revitalization tailored to Brooklyn entrepreneurs lacking appropriate funding.

CAMBA’S HOMELESS PREVENTION FUNDING IS RESTORED

Thanks to members of the New York State Senate and Assembly, the elimination of CAMBA’s Homelessness Prevention program (HPP) was prevented. Over the past several months CAMBA’s Executive Director Joanne M. Oplustil and other CAMBA staff met with elected officials and others in city and state government about restoring the homelessness prevention cuts. Recent statistics on the number of homeless families living in the NYC shelter system showed a record high of 9,720 at the end of 2008.

CAMBA’s HPP program serves public assistance-eligible families, with minor children, who are acutely at risk of losing their housing. Without this program, the majority of families eligible for FEPS, a New York City entitlement subsidy, would be unable to obtain this relief.

CAMBA thanks our elected officials for their critical support, without which thousands of families would have become unnecessarily homeless.

CAMBA is a non-profit agency that provides services that connect people with opportunities to enhance their quality of life.
YOU CAN HELP CAMBA MAKE AN IMPACT.

Please consider making a tax deductible contribution of:

☐ $50  ☐ $100  ☐ $250  ☐ $500  ☐ Other: $________

☐ Enclosed please find my check

☐ Please charge my credit card: __Mastercard   __Visa   __Amex

#_____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

Name

_______________________________________________________

Company Name (if applicable)

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Address

_____________________________________________________

City/State/Zip

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Email

_____________________________________________________

Phone

_____________________________________________________

Please mail this completed form and your contribution to:

CAMBA
Attention: Director of Development
1720 Church Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11226