CAMBA RECEIVES $30,000 EMERGENCY FOOD GRANT

CAMBA was awarded a $30,000 emergency grant to provide food assistance through our Beyond Hunger Emergency Food Pantry. Principally financed by United Neighborhood Houses (UNH) and the New York State Assembly, the grant will allow us to keep our pantry doors open through the end of the year. CAMBA thanks UNH Executive Director Nancy Wackstein and the New York State Assembly for making this grant possible.

Since converting to a choice (or supermarket) model in August 2008, CAMBA’s food pantry has helped low-income consumers choose the foods their families want and need. We have experienced a more than 400% increase in pantry use, while funding has been cut by more than forty percent since last August.

CAMBA HELPS BRING FRESH FOOD TO THE TABLE

Two new partnerships are helping CAMBA improve the Flatbush community’s access to healthy produce. Through the Flatbush Farm Share, a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) project, CAMBA clients, staff and the community can buy fresh, organically grown produce brought directly into our community from a local farm in Hudson, New York. The New York City Coalition Against Hunger, Hunger Action Network for New York State and Just Food developed the idea. For more information, go online to www.flatbushfarmshare.com.

CAMBA was among 100 partnering organizations at The Brooklyn Food Conference, which was designed to expand awareness of the policies and issues impacting our food system. With more than 3,000 conference attendees, CAMBA’s outreach at the event attracted hundreds. CAMBA Special Events Planner Mary-Beth Shine was one of the conference’s principal organizers.

In This Issue
- Another Shona Success!
- Celebration Gala Co-Chairs Announced
- Redefining Lives: CAMBA Art Program Empowers Shelter Residents
- CAMBA Students Become Film Fellows
- CAMBA Celebrates Park Day with 1,100 Youth
CAMBA STUDENTS BECOME FILM FELLOWS

Two students from CAMBA’s Disconnected Youth/Young Adult Literacy Program have been accepted into the fiercely competitive Ghetto Film 2009-10 Fellows Program, with the support of Adult Education Instructor Annie Benjamin and Learning Technology Coordinator Andrea Lawrence.

Nicole Roper and Jacky Sylvestre will take a rigorous eight-week filmmaking course, where they will learn how to use the latest film equipment, develop scripts, attend hands-on workshops with film industry professionals and ultimately film a project.

Founded in 2000, the South Bronx-based Ghetto Film School was named to turn a negative term into something positive.

Launched in June 2008, CAMBA’s Disconnected Youth/Young Adult Literacy Program serves 16-24 year olds who have poor reading skills, are out of school and unemployed. It provides case management services to prepare and connect youth with employment, training, internship and other life-enhancing opportunities.

CAMBA CELEBRATES PARK DAY WITH 1,100 YOUTH

June 4 was Park Day by special proclamation of Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz. Some 1,100 young people, ages 5-15, from CAMBA’s after-school programs in fourteen Brooklyn schools attended CAMBA's 10th Annual Park Day Celebration in Red Hook, Brooklyn.

CAMBA programs represented at Park Day 2009 included the Beacon Club @ P.S. 269 and a host of after-school programs: CAMBA Kids, Creative Kids, Kids Unlimited, Kids Unite, Kids Connection, Kids Express, Kids Succeed, Kids Excel, Renaissance, Young Achievers, Kids World, Students Getting Organized and our Adolescent Literacy Program at the School for Democracy and Leadership. Park Day 2009 included 25 structured activities such as relay races, soccer, CAMBA Roll Call chants and more. The youngsters also had a special surprise: cold treats provided by Uncle Louie G’s Handmade Gourmet Italian Ices and Ice Cream.

More than 200 staffers and volunteers from City Year and AmeriCorps helped to guide the youth through the day’s activities.

ANOTHER SHONA SUCCESS!

Another CAMBA sale of Shona sculptures has ended successfully. We thank all who travelled from across the tri-state area to CAMBA’s Shona Gallery in Brooklyn to purchase pieces by emerging and established Zimbabwean artists. Proceeds from our Annual Benefit Sale of Stone Sculptures from Zimbabwe go to CAMBA programs to help people succeed. They also benefit the artists by providing a viable avenue for selling their work. If you missed this event and can’t wait for our holiday sale in December, visit www.shonasculptures.com to browse our entire Shona collection and learn how to purchase them. You can also call 718.287.2600 for information.
REDEFINING LIVES: CAMBA ART PROGRAM EMPOWERS SHELTER RESIDENTS

The artistic talents of CAMBA shelter residents are showcased in an exhibition at Brooklyn’s Prospect Park YMCA. In Studio Art Redefined: Self Expression Without Boundaries, shelter residents share their life experiences and perspectives through painting, drawing, collage, sculpture, printmaking and literature. The exhibition illuminates the positive force of art and literature in transforming lives and empowering our shelter residents to realize their full potential.

CAMBA’s Special Events Planner Mary-Beth Shine, who coordinated the exhibit, notes, “The dedication and guidance CAMBA’s art therapists and recreation staff provide for shelter residents is invaluable. It helps them achieve the self esteem and readiness skills they so desperately need when transitioning into permanent supportive housing and job situations.”

Exhibition curators include Candace Bowen, Jessica Fox and Marianne Hughes, Creative Arts Therapists and Recreation Coordinators at CAMBA. Special thanks to those who helped make the exhibition possible: Sean Andrews of the Prospect Park YMCA; Rachael Upbin, Ebony Lewis, Siree Chiang and Rose Milord of Community House H.D.F.C., Jerry’s Artarama, Hirsch & Associates, Mobius Fine Art Services, Bark Frameworks LLC and Sentinel Printing. For their contributions to the opening reception CAMBA also thanks Sahadi’s, Union Market and Trader Joe’s.

Studio Art Redefined: Self Expression Without Boundaries is on display until August 11 in the lobby and 7th floor atrium of the Prospect Park YMCA (357 Ninth Street in Park Slope). Admission is free.

CELEBRATION CO-CHAIRS ANNOUNCED

CAMBA has recruited an impressive group of co-chairs for the 2009 Youth, I.N.C. Celebration to Benefit New York Kids. They include CAMBA Board of Directors Chair Katherine O’Neill and Board members Terence Kelleher, Allan F. Kramer II, Charles J. Scibetta, Jr. and Christopher Zarra. James Pallaza, brother of CAMBA Program Director Francine Pallaza, will serve as co-chair for a third year. And we welcome three new CAMBA friends as co-chairs: Richard Lobel, an attorney with Sheldon Lobel, Bernardo Mas of Deloitte Consulting LLP and Michael Ross of Morgan Stanley.

Bonnie Osinski, CAMBA’s Director of Development, says, “We once again have secured the help of strong co-chairs. With such committed supporters, we hope to succeed again in raising new friends and much needed support for CAMBA’s programs.”

We already are receiving gala gifts and commitments. To date, CAMBA’s collaboration with Youth, I.N.C. has netted more than $400,000 for CAMBA programs and services to 35,000 individuals and families.

Watch for full details of the fall Celebration in an upcoming issue.

Save the date!
The 2009 Celebration to Benefit New York Kids will be held on Monday, November 16 at New York’s famed Waldorf Astoria Hotel.
YOU CAN HELP CAMBA MAKE AN IMPACT.

Please consider making a 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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