CAMBA’S SUCCESS AND SERVICES SPEAKERS SERIES INSPIRES STUDENTS

Our second season of CAMBA’s Success and Services Speakers Series brought together high schoolers at three CAMBA partner schools and community leaders who have achieved success while giving back to their communities.

Students at The School of Democracy and Leadership, Liberation Diploma Plus H.S. and Brooklyn Academy H.S. heard and exchanged ideas with our speakers, who each offered inspirational and practical messages.

Tonnie Rozier, owner and founder of Tonnie’s Minis specialty cupcake business in Harlem, noted: “We are all by nature blessed with abilities to take us to new heights. The secret is to find your passion, make sure you enjoy it and always do your best.”

Speakers enjoyed the interactive sessions as much as our students. Dr. Billy Ford, Director of Anesthesiology at St. Barnabas Hospital in the Bronx, explained, “I always enjoy the opportunity to speak with young students because oftentimes people don’t have adequate mentors. I had brothers and resources that allowed me to succeed. Because many of those resources no longer exist, it’s even more important to meet young people, to inspire them and to work with them.”

Other speakers included Toni Blackman, activist and hip hop artist; Travis Bristol, international educator; Jeannine Ramirez, NY1 reporter; Anthony Ng, Director of Policy & Advocacy, United Neighborhood Houses; Dr. Rufus Sadler, Medical Director, Comprehensive Community Development Corp.; and Mohammad Razvi, Executive Director, Council of Peoples Organization.

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CAMBA JOINS FIGHT AGAINST DIABETES AND OBESITY

CAMBA now spearheads the Brooklyn Partnership to Drive Down Diabetes (BP3D), a network of agencies that have joined forces to help Brooklynites fight diabetes and obesity.

BP3D is a multifaceted public health intervention targeting the twin health threats of diabetes and obesity in adults in Central Brooklyn and East New York, critical health issues in many low-income communities of color.

Other BP3D members include Greater Brooklyn Health Coalition, Community Healthcare Network and New York City Department of Health’s Brooklyn District Public Health Office.

BP3D provides community-based interventions to simultaneously address individual factors associated with diabetes and obesity, as well as social causes such as access to healthy foods and environments that promote physical activity.

The partnership offers case management services, diabetes self-management classes, fitness and nutrition classes, and obesity and diabetes prevention programs designed to provide residents with effective tools to lead healthier lives.

In addition, CAMBA created and coordinates the BP3D Community Coalition to Reduce Obesity and Diabetes, a group of nearly 50 providers and advocates who advise the project and participate in the activities of three subcommittees: Community Needs Assessment, Provider Needs Assessment and Outreach.

For details of BP3D programs, contact Tatiana Lee-Amaya at 718.282.2500, ext. 63251.

CAMBA’S RESPITE BED PROGRAM GROWS

On May 5, 2011 CAMBA’s Respite Bed Program celebrated its second annual volunteer recognition dinner.

Our Respite Bed Program (RBP) is a network of 21 volunteer-led churches and synagogues throughout Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan that provide dinner and night-time safe havens for homeless adults who are clients of The Gathering Place, CAMBA’s drop-in center.

Each RBP host site was honored, with about 130 volunteers and site coordinators in attendance. These faith-based groups work with us to ensure that our Gathering Place clients can spend nights in small, caring environments rather than on the streets.

Because of volunteer staffing and facility limitations, many RBP partners serve overnight guests only in the colder months. Our staff has worked diligently to open up more sites in other months.

When we first began administering the program in July 2009, only one site was open in July and August. In our first month, CAMBA recruited and trained volunteers to open a site at the Mt. Paran Baptist Church, doubling our summer bed capacity.

In May 2010, St. Bartholomew’s Church reopened its site and became the first CAMBA site to stay open every night of the year. Last August, True Holy Church, City of Refuge opened its doors to six men for the first time.

In July 2010 two more sites will offer summertime beds: Church on the Hill, which for 20 years has been a winter-only site, and Old First Reform Church.

CAMBA’s RBP team looks forward to keeping our guests safe and rested this summer through these new and expanded partnerships.

To learn how to become an RBP site or to suggest a possible site, contact Elizabeth Stephens, RBP Assistant Program Manager, at 347-992-7252 or ElizabethS@camba.org.
CAMBA’S BEACON 269 RETREATS TO RHINEBECK

Twenty young people, ages 11 to 17, and five staff members from CAMBA’s Beacon 269 headed for the hills for two days in April for the program’s fourth annual Ramapo Youth Leadership Retreat, held upstate in Rhinebeck, New York during school spring break.

Chosen for their leadership potential, the youth were selected from the Leaders of Tomorrow group and Youth Council at CAMBA’s Beacon 269 program, based at P.S. 269 in East Flatbush, Brooklyn.

Young people and staff alike were challenged physically and mentally during the April 16-17 retreat. Their days were filled with stimulating outdoor activities, cooperative games and fun group problem-solving tasks.

According to Lindsay Nae- der, Beacon 269’s Assistant Director, “Many of the young people had never spent a night away from their family, let alone had a camping experience. By taking us out of our comfort zone, the retreat bonded us and taught us how to work together as a unified group to achieve set goals.”

The group returned home feeling energized, united and ready to put their leadership skills into action to benefit the more than 1,200 youth, families and community members who participate in CAMBA Beacon 269 after school, evening and weekend programs each year.

PLAY BALL WITH CAMBA!

Join us on July 28, 2011 for a CAMBA benefit baseball game at Municipal Credit Union Park in Coney Island. MCU Park is the home of the Brooklyn Cyclones, a farm team of the New York Mets.

Brooklyn Cyclone games are always family friendly and fun. MCU Park overlooks the fabled boardwalk and the ocean in Coney Island, a great place to spend a summer evening.

Tickets for seats in the CAMBA section are $50—$32 of which is tax deductible—and include a Cyclones baseball cap, a hot dog, soda and a bag of chips.

A limited number of premium tickets for the private suite are available for $150, which includes food, beer and wine.

For tickets, please check camba.org or call Lorelie Lombardo at 718-287-2600, ext. 20228 as soon as possible.

NOVEMBER 17 IS CAMBA’S NIGHT OUT

Mark your calendar! November 17, 2011 is set as CAMBA’s Second Annual Night Out!

Last year’s inaugural CAMBA’s Night Out was a huge, fun-filled, fundraising success that benefitted our diverse programs and services to individuals and families in Brooklyn and beyond. Honoring CAMBA staff and partners, the event also featured live music, aerialists and other cabaret performers.

We’ve been planning all year, and this year’s event will be even more fabulous. Details will be forthcoming, but in the meantime save November 17 for CAMBA. You’ll have a wonderful time while helping us to support those in need.

We’ll have details of our 2011 Night Out event in our next issue and online at camba.org.

DON’T MISS ANY CAMBA NEWS!

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*B-in-kind corporate/individual donations and donations of $500 and above from December 10, 2010 to April 30, 2011.

BECOME A CAMBA MONTHLY SUSTAINER

By becoming a monthly Sustainer, you can support CAMBA at a higher level than you think. For example, a pledge of $10 each month, automatically withdrawn from your credit card, will result in a $120 annual contribution. For details, click on the Donate button at camba.org or call CAMBA’s Development Director at 718.287.2600, ext. 20265.