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GAINS IN SOCIAL CAPITAL

- Pre-survey Results: 38
- Post-survey Results: 71

Social capital measures youths’ positive bonds with people and institutions, and is a key skill for building a support network and sense of belonging.

Low-income children typically experience a steep decline in learning over the summer — often as much as two to three months in reading skills — while their middle-income peers typically gain skills.

By fifth grade, summer learning loss can leave disadvantaged students up to as much as three years behind their wealthier peers.

That’s why at CAMBA, summer fun is educational.

Our enriching summer programs introduce young people to a world of new possibilities — whether it’s earning a paycheck, leading community service projects, learning to code, visiting cultural sites that are beyond their family’s economic reach, or gaining a new passion for arts, music or even micro-organisms.

At summer’s end, our young participants were headed back to class with minds sharpened by unique and stimulating summer experiences.

You can read about some of their adventures in the pages of this newsletter:

• Our middle school campers who enrolled in NYU’s CrESt program now have a roadmap to potential careers in the STEM field — including science, technology, engineering and math;

The CAMBA campers, pictured above, spent part of their summer vacation in front of a computer screen. But instead of watching cartoons or playing video games, they learned to build electronic devices and program computers, through the CrESt program at NYU’s Engineering School and partially funded by Con Edison (story on page 3).

They were among 3,800 low-income youth who gained new skills and explored their City in stimulating CAMBA camps and programs, offsetting the “summer slide” in academic skills. Read on to see how CAMBA puts fun and learning into summer.

Summer of Inspiration for CAMBA Kids

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CAMBA Campers Score ‘Significant Gains’ in Life Skills

We know that young people flourish in our summer camps, and this year, CAMBA piloted a youth development tool designed to measure the impact of one summer camp.

Partnering with Youth INC and data analysis company Algorhythm, CAMBA surveyed 63 low-income campers, 11 to 14, at our Beacon 269 summer camp at the start of a five-week session and at its conclusion.

The results of this small sample were impressive: 86% of our campers scored “significant gains” in six core areas: self-management, social skills, positive identity, social capital, contribution (to well-being and the larger community) and academic self-efficacy (motivation and mastery of school performance). Research shows that short-term gains in these areas are linked to long-term future success, including career readiness, high school completion and avoiding risky behaviors. This fall, CAMBA will expand the assessment to additional afterschool programs.

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Thank You! We salute the following donors for your generous support. Donors listed contributed at least $500 from January 1, 2016 to August 31, 2016. For a complete list, visit CAMBA.org.

We thank Penguin Random House supporters for raising more than $44,400 for CAMBA’s literacy programs through their annual Global Walk on June 17, 2016.

Beacon 269 Kids Find Creativity in Engineering, Science and Technology

In July, 45 middle school campers from CAMBA’s Beacon 269 stepped into state-of-the-art-labs and classrooms for a week for a thrilling immersion in science and engineering at NYU’s Tandon School of Engineering.

Known as CrEST (Creativity in Engineering, Science and Technology), the program is designed to introduce young people to STEM careers.

Students pictured here were building “breadboard kits” to connect to laptops, which they then programmed to create word games. “Please work,” one middle-school camper pleaded to her breadboard, as she connected its final wires. She lit up with a grin as it turned on. “It works,” this young future engineer squealed in delight.

Later, the campers worked on creating a “smart cane” for visually impaired people that vibrated when approaching obstacles.

While young people around the city head to the pool every summer, many may risk drowning. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an average of 10 people die from drowning every day across the nation — many because they simply never learned to swim.

This summer, CAMBA sought to equip children with swimming skills by providing swimming lessons to students from elementary and middle schools in East New York. Students learned introductory swimming techniques and essential aquatic safety skills — earning their fins while avoiding the summer heat.

Boulevard Cornerstone Youth Earn Their Fins and Learn to Swim

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The CAMBA Boulevard Cornerstone program participated in the Learn to Swim program for its second year. The program began as a pilot offered to a select group of programs last summer in collaboration with the City’s Departments of Youth and Community Development, Education and Parks and Recreation.

Held at Thomas Jefferson High School’s indoor pool in Brownsville, the swimming program included 80 children aged six to 12.

“For many of our participants, this was their first time learning the basics and proper techniques of swimming. Many of our youth spend time at the community pool or beach, but are not able to participate fully because they can’t swim,” said Taisha Parkins, the Cornerstone’s Program Director.

She added: “After mastering this valuable life skill, they can fully and safely enjoy the pool and beach.”

Taisha Parkins, Cornerstone Program Director

Swimming lessons brought new skills to East New York kids.
CAMBA All-Stars Go to the Battery Urban Farm

Canarsie’s CAMBA All-Star campers can say that they got their hands dirty this summer.

The All-Stars hopped on a subway train for their field trip to the Battery Urban Farm, where they learned about sustainable farming and what it means to be a healthy eater.

One of the farm’s educators read the children a story about Zack, “a boy who loved to eat” and who learns about healthy eating.

“What green things do you need to eat to have healthy bones?” the teacher asked the group. “Broccoli,” answered one boy, while another suggested that green beans would be a smart choice.

On this exciting morning in August, campers learned how to plant beets, pick lettuce, identify edible plants and make hummus from scratch. While urban farms aren’t as common a sight in New York City as skyscrapers, these bright young campers were able to learn about ecosystems from their visits to a big city farms.

CAMBA Summer Camps: All in the Family for Natasha Sealy-Dorvelus

“Being a parent, I know that it’s hard when kids are out of school, especially for working single parents. The fact that CAMBA is able to offer summer camps is great,” Natasha Sealy-Dorvelus said.

Ms. Sealy-Dorvelus’s connection to CAMBA’s summer camps program prompted her to give back to the organization, even in the midst of heartbreaking circumstances. Ms. Sealy-Dorvelus said that when her father passed away in June, she wanted to direct donations made in his name towards a local nonprofit.

“I thought, ‘Let me donate to CAMBA and do something great for kids,’” she said.

This generosity was sparked, she said, after she experienced the benefits of enrolling her own children in CAMBA’s summer camps over the years. Ms. Sealy-Dorvelus targeted her donation to the CAMBA camp at PS 249 because her niece worked there recently as a Summer Youth Employment Program participant.

Ms. Sealy-Dorvelus places an importance on giving. “Being an immigrant myself, I like the services that CAMBA offers, as well as the direct community service. Any time I have the opportunity to give to a nonprofit, I give to CAMBA,” she said.

Students Jump into Work with SYEP

Thanks to CAMBA’s Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), for the past two summers, Kadienne has earned money to put towards expenses when she returns college in the fall. The 19-year-old is enrolled in LIU’s forensic science program, and she plans to join the Air Force or the FBI. “I like doing research,” she said with a grin.

Kadienne added that the SYEP program enabled her to meet new people and gave her experience in office work that she was glad to have on her resume.

Kadienne was among 1,011 young New Yorkers who were part of CAMBA’s SYEP this year.

“Studies show that early work experiences have a lasting impact on young people and their future earnings,” says Daniel Manbode, Program Manager of our SYEP program.

And the enrolled students came away with money in their pockets: According to Mr. Manbode, CAMBA youth earned a total of $1.29 million for their summer work.

To help our hardworking SYEP youth learn to manage their money, CAMBA encouraged them to open bank accounts through a unique partnership with Santander Bank and America Saves, a nonprofit campaign that encourages low- to moderate-income people to save money, reduce debt and build wealth.

Kadienne is using her SYEP earnings for college expenses.
Thanks to the generosity of Penguin Random House employees, and their furry companions, our literacy programs can reach more children and touch more lives.
Celebrate CAMBA at Our 2016 CAMBA Casino Night Out

WHEN: Thurs., Nov. 3, 2016, 6-10 PM
WHERE: Tribeca Three-Sixty°, 10 Desbrosses Street, New York, NY 10013

Enjoy cocktails, food, an auction and our ever-favorite casino.

Our gala cocktail reception brings together leaders in business, politics, development, community, arts and service who are committed to empowering low-income New Yorkers through economic development, education and youth development, family support, health, housing and legal services.

Join us in saluting honorees JPMorgan Chase and David Walsh, Senior VP of Community Development Real Estate, and Barry Smith, MD, of the Rogosin Institute.

For tickets and information, go to CAMBA.org/CasinoNight.

Photo Credit: © Anthony Collins.nyc

College-Bound Teens Explore NYC

College-bound teens in CAMBA’s Collegiate Express program spent their summer learning about the rich history of New York City through Discover NYC, a program designed by Collegiate Express staff to help rising 10th graders practice the literacy skills they will need to apply successfully to college.

This year’s group explored the Federal Reserve, the African Burial Ground, Floyd Bennet Field and Socrates Park, among many other sites. Back in class, they wrote and presented reports on their experiences. By the end of the summer, students were that much closer to turning their college dreams into reality. 😊