



**ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY
COMMISSION**
OF NASSAU COUNTY, INC

Eric Poulson
Chief Executive Officer
Brian G. Staley, Sr.
Chairperson



**REIMAGINING
OUR FUTURE
ADVANCING
EQUITY
SUSTAINING
INNOVATION**

2023

www.eoc-nassau.org

**SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM
REPORT**

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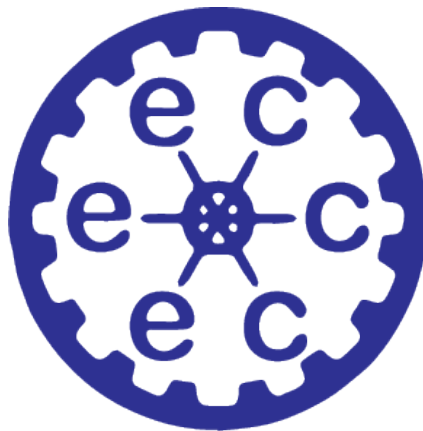
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Mission Statement

The Economic Opportunity Commission of Nassau County, Inc., a Community Action Agency, through collaboration and partnership, empowers income-eligible families to gain the knowledge, skills, and resources, to improve the quality of their lives.

In pursuit of this mission, EOC will:

- Advocate on clients' behalf, to provide more opportunities and fewer barriers.
- Provide educational and economic resources, to increase client self-sufficiency.
- Help reduce the causes and effects of poverty.
- Foster citizen participation, in order to initiate programs and improve existing services, based upon local community needs.



Director of CAP Services

Dear Children, Teenagers, and Families,

I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings to all of you, as we prepare to conclude an exciting summer filled with growth, exploration, and endless opportunities. As the director of our esteemed summer youth programs, I am honored to be leading a team of dedicated individuals, who are committed to providing you with a remarkable experience throughout the County of Nassau.

Our five summer youth programs have been meticulously designed, to offer a diverse range of recreational, cultural, and educational activities, ensuring that there is something for everyone. From thrilling sports adventures to enriching cultural experiences, we have strived to curate a comprehensive program, that caters to all interests and fosters personal development.

Throughout the months of July and August, we created an inclusive and welcoming environment where participants can not only have fun, but also learn and grow. Our dedicated staff members have undergone rigorous training to ensure your safety and well-being at all times, and they are excited to have embarked on this journey with all of you.

In our recreational programs, you have participated in a wide array of activities that has got your heart pumping and your spirits soaring. Whether it is team sports, outdoor adventures, or creative arts, we have carefully crafted a schedule that has ignited your passion and kept you engaged all summer long.

Our cultural programs are designed to broaden your horizons and expose you to the rich diversity of our community. Through workshops, performances, and immersive experiences, you have had the opportunity to explore different cultures, traditions, and artistic expressions. We believe that by embracing diversity, we foster empathy, understanding, and a sense of global citizenship.

Education is at the core of our mission, and our educational programs aim to empower you with knowledge and skills that will shape your future. From STEM activities to language classes, we offer stimulating opportunities to enhance your academic abilities and ignite your curiosity. We believe that learning should be a lifelong endeavor, and our summer programs provide a stepping stone towards continuous growth.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the families who have entrusted us with the

privilege of shaping their children's summer experiences. We understand the importance of providing a safe and nurturing environment, and we were committed to making this summer memorable for each and every participant.

Lastly, I encourage all of you to approach next summer with an open mind, a spirit of adventure, and a willingness to embrace new experiences. Our summer youth programs are designed to create lasting memories, lifelong friendships, and transformative moments that will stay with you for years to come.

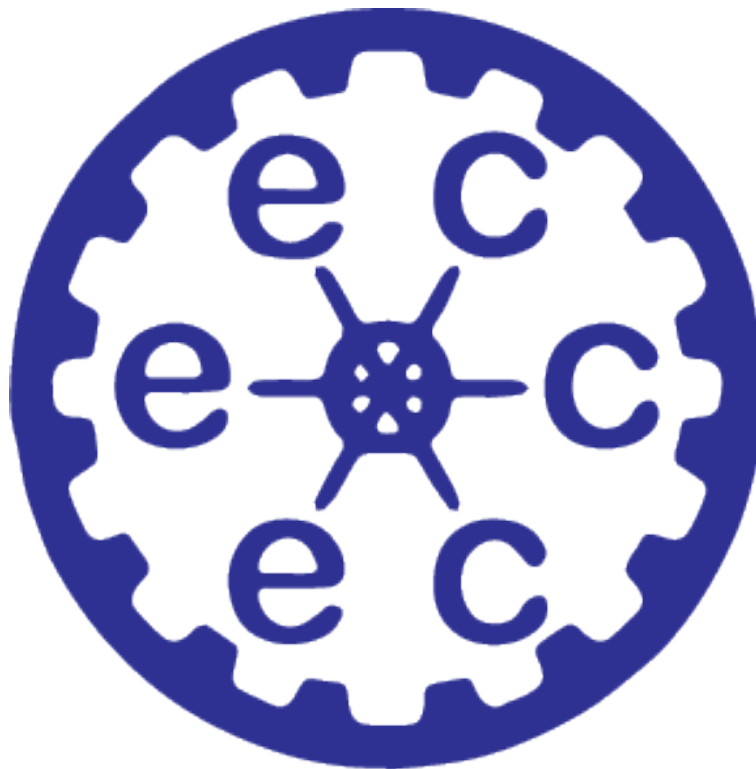
Thank you for being a part of our summer youth programs. I look forward to an incredible summer next year filled with laughter, learning, and boundless joy.

Warm regards,

Sylvester Sal Bush

Director of CAP Services

On the Case.



Community Action Programs

GLEN COVE EOC

Program Director : Irma Jeanty | (516) 801-2672

140 Glen Cove Avenue, Glen Cove, NY 11542

ROOSEVELT/FREEPORT EOC

Program Director: George Hurst | (516) 546-6121

281 Babylon Turnpike, Roosevelt, NY 11575

HEMPSTEAD EOC

Program Director: Mateo Flores | (516) 486-2800

134 Jackson Street, Hempstead, NY 11550

ROCKVILLE CENTRE/LAKEVIEW EOC

Program Director: Mario Mency | (516) 764-4500

140 No. Centre Avenue, Rockville Centre, NY 11570

PORT WASHINGTON CAC

Program Director: Mario Martinez | (516) 883-3201

382 Main Street, Port Washington, NY 11050

Head Start Development Programs

EASTERN NASSAU HS

1309 Wantagh Avenue
Wantagh, NY 11793
(516) 221-0871

Program Director: Fastine Skinner

FIVE TOWNS HS

270 Lawrence Avenue
Lawrence, NY 11559
(516) 239-6244

Program Director: Gina Dimatos

FREEPORT HS

74 N. Main Street
Freeport, NY 11520
(516) 546-8251

Program Director: Tiffani Frazier

HEMPSTEAD HS

65 Dartmouth Street
Hempstead, NY 11550
(516) 538-8292

Program Director: Genell Graham

LONG BEACH HS

1 E. Pine Street
Long Beach, NY 11561
(516) 544-4051

Program Director: Cagney Wilson

ROCKVILLE CENTRE HS

1309 Wantagh Avenue
Wantagh, NY 11793
(516) 221-0871

Program Director: Michele Boykin-Blackshear

ROOSEVELT HS

281 Babylon Turnpike
Roosevelt, NY 11575
(516) 378-5961

Program Director: Marie Davis

WESTBURY HS

163 Hopper Street
Westbury, NY 11590
(516) 334-3839

Program Director: Novella Dortch-Smith

Rockville Centre Lakeview EOC



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The objective of the 2023 Rockville Centre/Lakeview Summer Youth Program was to create a fun environment for the participants to learn how to grow into adulthood. Participants received the tools to develop life skills and learn how to have good mental health.

One of the most significant issues in schools is that they do not adequately prepare youths for adulthood. Chief Executive Officer, Eric Poulson, emphasized that our goal was to give the participants the necessary skills to prepare them for the future. We did this by providing them with several different workshops and activities. Coordinators and workshop leaders devised various educational and entertaining activities to engage all participants, aged six through twelve.



Mario Mercy
Program Director

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

The 2023 Rockville Centre Summer Youth Program was very successful. The children expressed delight in the recreational activities and the educational workshops experienced this summer. The EOC, once again, provided the participants with a safe environment, that allowed them to make new friends and extend their knowledge in certain areas of life. As a parent and an employee, I was very proud to participate in the process!

This summer consisted of many new parents and children. Initially, the children feared the unknown, however participants expressed their happiness within days. The children said they were glad their parents let them participate in the program.

An excellent team of consultants and counselors provided the time, patience, and knowledge, to ensure every participant left the program with a desire to return. The children learned about space travel, the ocean, marine life, various cultures, and the importance of health and wellness. The curriculum for the summer was a well-balanced mixture of education and entertainment. I am looking forward to another productive year and summer for the children, to experience all the EOC of Nassau offers.

ACADEMICS

Academic involvement at the Economic Opportunity Commission of Nassau County, Inc. can bring knowledge, resources, and expertise to the organization and its participants, ultimately contributing to its mission of alleviating poverty, promoting economic opportunity, and improving the overall well-being of individuals and families in Nassau County. Collaborations with academic institutions can lead to more effective programs, better client outcomes, and a stronger impact on the community. The EOC of Nassau County, Inc.'s various academic subjects and themes prepare our youngsters for the fast-paced world we reside in.

- Introduction Week
- Cinema Week
- Historical week
- Science Week
- Engineering Week
- Nutrition Week
- Multicultural Representation Weekday

WORKSHOPS

GIRL SCOUTS OF NASSAU COUNTY

The Girl Scouts of Nassau County strive to make the world a better place. They explore their strengths, take on new challenges, and can always be themselves, regardless of background, or ability. The Girl Scouts presented 3 workshops. The workshops included the participants learning to recite the Girl Scout promise and emphasized the importance of being friendly, caring, and kind. The participants explored the positive impact art has on a person, when coping with stress and anxiety.

SIBS Place (Survivorship in Brother and Sister)

SIBS is led by mental health staff, using expressive arts and verbal activities, that were created to enhance self-awareness, self-expression, and emotional vocabulary. These exercises validate feelings and behaviors, to help participants develop and practice coping skills. SIBS Place held one workshop, that introduced healthy coping mechanisms to manage stress. Participants practiced mindfulness and learned how physical activities, such as yoga and exercise, can be used as an outlet to relieve stress.

Dr. Gerald

Dr. Gerald is a motivational speaker, who oversaw 5 workshops during the Summer Youth Program. The workshops consisted of Mindfulness, How Sound Works, Self-Regulation, and Multiple Intelligence. Mr. Gerald expressed the science of sound, and how certain sound waves can be used to help people relax. The participants also learned the ability to understand and manage their own behaviors, and reactions with one another and independently. They grasped the theory of the different ways students learn and acquire information, ranging from numbers, pictures, and music, to the importance of social interactions.

Long Island Panthers Basketball (Coach Lorenzo Jenkins)

Lorenzo Jenkins, the Long Island Panthers basketball coach, taught workshops at Malverne Middle School. The participants learned basketball drills such as “Walking the dog” which targeted consistency, and played a game called “Trot” that targeted precision. The participants won trophies at the end of the workshop. With the skills taught by coach Jenkins, the participants learned to improve their strength and ability.

FIELD TRIPS



Splish Splash

The participants went to Splish Splash, located at 2549 Splish Splash Dr., Calverton, NY 11933. The participants were able to go on several different water rides and pools. Coordinators formed groups based on what rides the children liked and disliked. The ones who enjoyed going on every ride were in one group, and the participants who did not like going on many rides were in another group. We did this to ensure that no one was under any pressure to do anything they did not want to. All the participants had an enjoyable day.



Fire Fighter Museum

The Participants went to the Fire Fighter Museum, located at Charles Lindbergh Blvd, Uniondale, NY 11553. The participants learned about fire safety in the home, and the history of fire trucks and attire. The participants enjoyed the interactive museum and lessons.



CSTL (Centre for Science, Teaching and Learning)

The organization is dedicated to science literacy. The participants experienced educational programs, such as the dinosaur museum, animal exhibits, and nature walk, They learned about the history of dinosaurs and the natural habitats of animals, surrounding our communities.



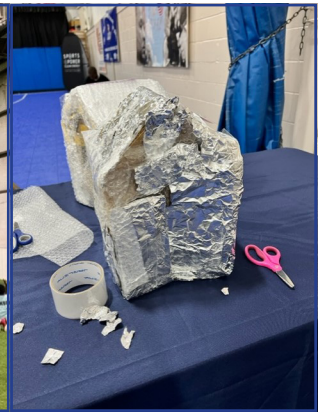
Long Island Aquarium

The Long Island Aquarium is located at 431 East Main, Street, Riverhead, NY 11901. The participants experienced the Amazon Rain Forest habitat showcase, butterflies, shark habitat, and many more. The participants saw many different species of animals; they were able to touch the sting rays displayed in the lagoon, and they enjoyed doing that the most.



Hempstead Lake State Park

The participants joined the staff and children of four EOC C.A.P.s. The children enjoyed being outdoors, playing volleyball, kickball, whiffle ball, and a host of other fun games. The entire company feasted on food from at the EOC B.B.Q. The participants said they enjoyed the day and wished for another.



Martin Luther King Centre (Long Beach)

Participants enjoyed playing sports, while also learning the importance of renewable resources. Participants took part in workshops, that helped them understand the importance of renewable resources and how they work. They learned about windmills, solar panels, and insulation in homes.



Jones Beach Nature and Energy Center

The participants were taught the history of Long Island, photosynthesis, and how to save power. They received information about various marine life in Jones Beach and the ocean, such as humpback whales. Participants caught and released fish and crabs. The children enjoyed lunch and discussed the information learned.



Cradle of Aviation Museum

The children viewed all kinds of exhibits, ranging from early airplanes to planes during World War I, and the golden age of airplanes. They used a flight simulation program to fly planes. They also learned about space exploration and astronauts in the Planetarium Dome Theatre. The participants bought souvenirs at the gift shop, before returning to the EOC.

STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

NAME	AGE	SCHOOL	POSITION
DUAA IMRAN	19	Mercy College	Coordinator
Chasman Khan	19	Mercy College	Senior Counselor
Abigail Severino	16	Oceanside High School	Senior Counselor
Jordan Pettus	16	Southside High School	Junior Counselor Aide
Inara Coles	16	Valley Stream High School	Junior Counselor Aide



The Rockville Centre/Lakeview Summer Youth Program was a success. Parents and participants expressed their happiness. The children stated they could not wait until next year, so that they could do it again. The fourteen girls and eleven boys we registered had fun and learned valuable life lessons, simultaneously. I was incredibly proud of how the program touched the lives of everyone involved.

Port Washington CAC



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

If you have ever been to a summer program, then you are not surprised to hear about the benefits of one. Experiencing life at a summer program yourself, as a child, makes you aware of the profound, positive effects that still matter to you as an adult, and you know that you want the same for your own children.

However, if you did not attend a summer program, you may not realize how beneficial the experience is for children. You may not know why so many parents are committed to sending their kids to a summer program. The CAC program staff is concerned about our youth, and hopes to provide role models, utilizing the summer staff. CAC activities include: educational projects, arts and crafts, athletic activities, field trips, cultural projects, professional workshops, and various recreational games for the children to enjoy.

The CAC SYP as a short-term goal (6.3a-e – Child and Family Development) began on July 5, 2023, with the enrollment of 35 children, ages 6-12 years of age. The program operated from the Salem Elementary School in the Port Washington district. Fourteen youths and young adults, between the ages of fourteen (14) and twenty-one (21), were employed through the Summer Youth Program, as counselors. Youth participants at the Work-Force-Partnership Program were provided on the job training, as summer program counselors.

Here is a list of the most important reasons to send a child to a summer program:

- Children spend their day being physically active. As children spend so much time these days indoors, and mostly sitting down, CAC Summer Program provides a wonderful opportunity for moving, running, jumping, and dancing! CAC is Action!
- Experience success and become more confident – CAC SYP helps children build self confidence and self-esteem, by removing the kind of academic, athletic, and social competition that shapes their lives at school. With its non-competitive activities and diverse opportunities to succeed, life at CAC Summer Program is a real boost for young people. Successes are attained on a daily basis. The CAC Summer Program teaches children that they can make it.
- Gain resiliency – The encouragement and nurture kids receive at the CAC Summer Program makes it a great environment to endure setbacks, try new things (INNOVATION), and see that improvement comes when you give something another try. The CAC Summer Program helps conquer fear.
- Unplug from technology – When children take a break from TV, cell phones, and the internet, they rediscover their creative powers and engage the real world – real people, real activities, and real emotions. They realize that there is always plenty to do. CAC SYP is real.
- Grow more independent – CAC SYP is the perfect place for children to practice making decisions for themselves, without parents and teachers guiding every move. Managing their daily choices in the safe, caring environment of CAC SYP, children welcome this as freedom to blossom in new directions. CAC SYP helps children develop who they are.
- Have free time for unstructured play – Free from the overly-structured and scheduled routines of home and school, life at CAC SYP gives children much needed free time, to just play. CAC SYP is a slice of carefree living, where children can relax, laugh, and be silly all day long. At CAC SYP we play.
- Learn social skills – Coming to CAC SYP means joining a close-knit community, where everyone must agree to cooperate and respect each other. When one attends a SYP with others, kids share activities, resolve disagreements, and see first-hand the importance of sincere communication. CAC SYP builds teamwork.
- Reconnect with nature – CAC SYP is a wonderful antidote to the narrow experience of modern indoor life. Outdoor experience enriches one’s perception of the world and supports healthy child development. CAC SYP get children back outside. (Field-Trips)



Mario Martinez
Program Director

DIRECTOR’S CORNER

The CAC Summer Youth Program 2023 was a successful program, in that the participants enjoyed a safe and fun environment, full of different activities, including:

Morning jams, academics, recreational activities, arts & crafts, cultural projects, workshops, and going on field trips.

This program was possible due to teamwork, financial resources, and community support. Many thanks to the partnerships with companies, such as Green Tree Foundation, the Dejana-Foundation for providing partial funding to the program, the Town of Oyster Bay Employment & Training Program for providing funding for youth employment, Island Harvest for providing breakfast, snacks, lunches, and nutritional workshops, the Port Washington School District for providing the use of Salem Elementary School as a site, community partners for donating drinking cups/souvenirs, and the EOC of Nassau County, Inc. for making this safe summer possible.

“It takes a Village to Raise a Child”

WORKSHOPS

Workshops held throughout the summer program are very important, useful and full of knowledge for the counselors, and the participants. Workshops held were:



- **Nutrition Workshop**--provided by Island Harvest; taught everyone how to make healthy choices when purchasing or cooking food, as well as how to read nutrition bars.



- **Safety and Youth Violence Workshop**-- participants had the opportunity to see a police officer and his vehicle, in person, and learn what to do in case of violence at school. These workshops demonstrated that all actions have consequences, and how to make smart choices. This workshop was **provided by Sergeant Griffith**, Police Community Liaison.



- **Fire safety is the set of practices intended to reduce the destruction caused by fire.** Fire safety measures included those that are intended to prevent the ignition of an uncontrolled fire, and those that are used to limit the development and effects of a fire, after it starts. This workshop was provided by the Fire Dept.



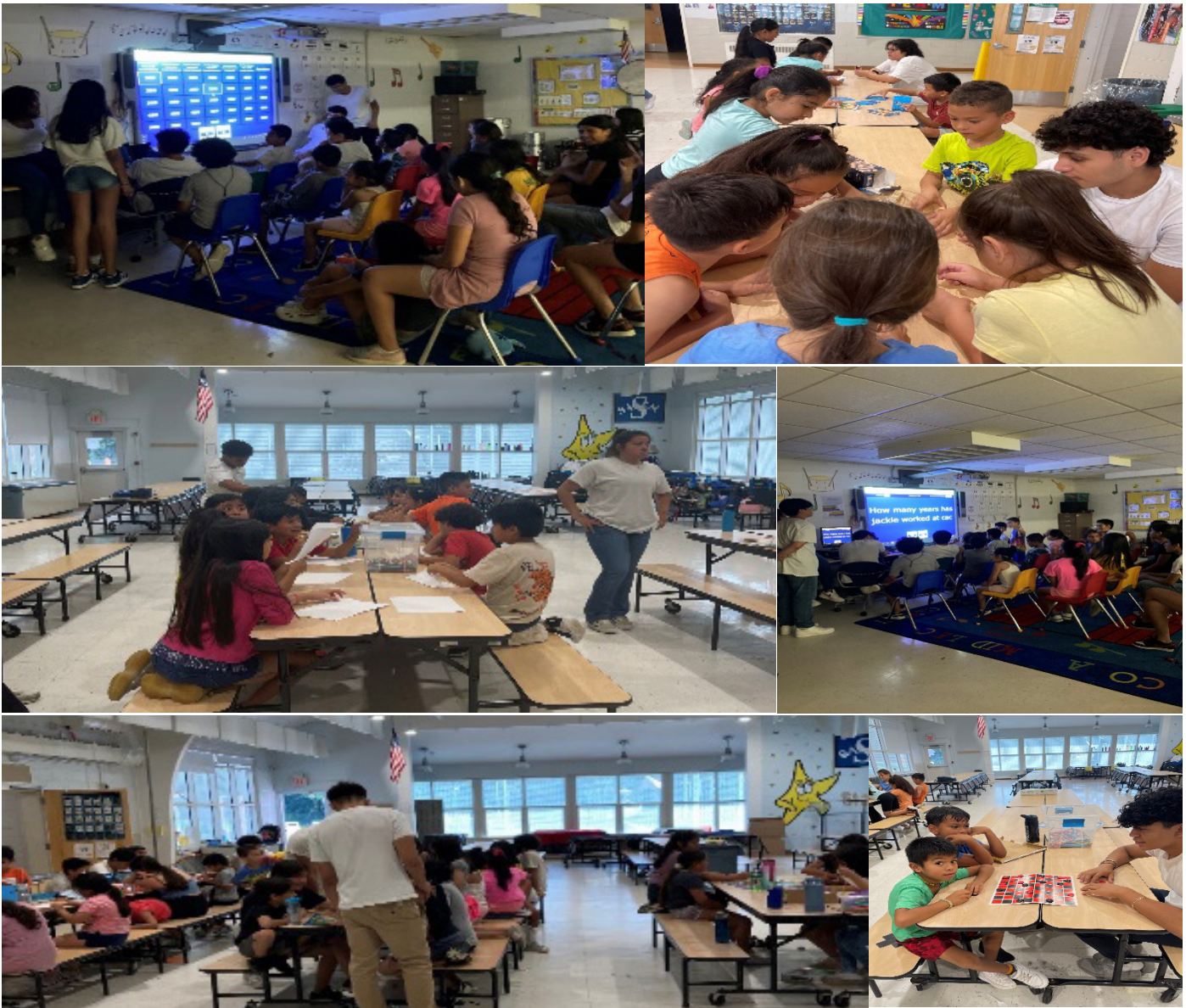
- **Nutrition Workshop**-- provided by Lady's C&C; the participants learned **HOW TO MAKE COOKIES** from scratch, in a healthy way.



- **Youth Programming for Wellness Workshop** -- the participants learned self-regulation, mindfulness and self-control, etiquette/manners, self-respect, mathematics, and the essential aspects of personal growth and development.



- **Arts and Crafts Workshop**-- provided by Zoe Essentials; the participants learned scrapbooking, and made family tree picture frames.
- **Science Workshop**--the participants drew, cut, and put together an artificial hand.
- **CAC SYP had a fire drill, which lasted 18 minutes.** The participants learned to familiarize themselves with emergency procedures and the location of the exits, within the site. The fire drill is a tool that is used to ensure that occupants react properly in the event of an actual emergency, within a facility.
- **Bus Evacuation Drill**--the participants were shown how to evacuate a bus, in case of an accident; presented by the EOC Transportation Department.



ACADEMICS

The participants wanted to enjoy the summer; with that in mind, the C.A.C. staff decided to make the academics program fun!

The following academic activities took place:

- Educational trivia and jeopardy games, to keep all the wonderful minds refreshed throughout the summer
- Interactive math worksheets to practice their skills and vocabulary bingo.
- A Great Wind Blows-Ice Breaker, Who's the Leader, Spud, Human Knot
- 4th of July Activity, Knock Out, Toilet Tag, Telephone, Duck Duck Goose,
- Quack Dily Oso, Red Light, green Light, Steal the Bacon, Hot Potato, Spiders and Flies

ATHLETICS

Throughout the summer, we had many recreational activities. Our goal was to keep up with the participants and their endless energy. Therefore, the participants played many sports that not only kept them entertained, but taught them about teamwork and how to behave if they dislike something, during the game. Sports also teaches participants to socialize and treat each other with respect.

The following sports were played during this month:

- Soccer, basketball, kickball, dodgeball, steal the bacon, color wars



MORNING JAMS

Every morning, during the summer program began the same way. Morning jams was designed for participants and counselors to stretch and do various exercises. The purpose of these exercises was to prepare the participants for the day's activities. Many activities required them to move around and play different sports; the stretching and exercises prevent any muscle injury, or strain. Morning jams also set the mood for the day's events, by incorporating music and dancing.



FIELD TRIPS

Port Washington Summer Youth Program’s goal was to create a fun, safe summer for the participating children. We strived to make our field trips entertaining, yet educational, and for the participants to remember their experience for years to come.



VANDERBILT MUSEUM AND PLANETARIUM

On July 11, 2023, CAC Summer Youth Program participants, including counselors and supervisors, went on a field trip to the Vanderbilt Museum. The museum complex, operated by Suffolk County, includes the mansion with furnishings and fine art, a marine museum with marine and natural history specimens (butterflies, birds, shells, mammals and fish), a curator’s cottage, a seaplane hangar, a boathouse, gardens, and a collection of ethnographic objects (ship models, and European, Asian, and African objects). The museum was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, on September 26, 1985.



LONG ISLAND AQUARIUM

On July 15, 2023, the CAC SYP23 attended the Long Island Aquarium, in Riverhead, NY.



FIELD DAY

This year, all the EOC Summer Youth Programs got together to celebrate the accomplishments, during their summer programs. They gathered at Hempstead Lake State Park for sports, food, and fun. Employees dined, as well.



SPLISH SPLASH

On August 4, 2023, the CAC Summer Youth Program participants and counselors went to Splish-Splash, for a day full of entertainment.



STATUE OF LIBERTY

On August 11, 2023, the CAC Summer Youth Program participants went on a field trip to the Statue of Liberty, where they enjoyed a boat trip and a tour around the statue.



ADVENTURELAND

On August 17, 2023, the CAC SYP23 attended Adventureland, in Farmingdale, NY.

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROGRAM

Island Harvest is the provider of the breakfast and lunch this year, at the Summer Lunch Program 2023



SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

The CAC Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) this year gave youth, ages fourteen (14) through twenty-one (21), the opportunity to be employed and receive training for career exploration. While the youth were employed, they took part in a week-long intensive training session, where their responsibilities were detailed.

After the end of the youth summer program, the staff that had worked temporarily (summer employment) had a world of valuable employment skills, needed for future employment.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

During the period of employment, each youth hired had received over thirty (30) hours of employment training. The workshops consisted of:

- Health and Safety
- Resume Writing
- Interview Techniques
- Job Readiness
- Job Search
- Sexual Harassment on the Job
- Employment Skills
- Personnel Codes i.e. dress code and Attendance

Throughout this training, the youth are taught intangible skills, that can be used for any job that they may seek in the future.

The CAC Employment Program gives youths a chance to develop the skills and abilities needed to be successful in the world of work **(i.e. being on time, having a good attitude, dressing properly, and having good communication skills)**. Basically, being ready, willing, and able to work.

As employees in this program, teens had the opportunity to help their communities, they learned about the kind of behavior expected on a job, made new friends, and earned money. Most of all, they gained work experience learned about responsibilities and employment, in the “Adult World”.

Young People Increased their:

- Basic Skills – reading, writing, arithmetic and mathematics, speaking and listening;
- Thinking Skills – thinking creatively, making decisions, solving problems, seeing things in the mind’s eye and ability to learn and reason;
- Interpersonal Skills – the ability to work with others
- Technological Skills – working with a variety of technologies (computers, photo copy machines, digital/video cameras)
- Personal qualities – individual responsibility, good self-esteem, sociability, self-management and integrity.

YOUTH SERVICE PLAN

EMPLOYABILITY WORKSHOPS

Job Searching and Successful Applications This session explores different methods of job search and helps individuals to develop a strategy to make their job search effective. It also looks at how to analyze job adverts, gives tips on how to successfully complete application forms, and gives advice on how to deal with gaps in work history. Also included, is an introduction to the local labor market, growth areas, and types of jobs.

Writing a Winning CV This session will cover, when to use a CV, what to include in it, how to highlight and evidence key skills, and how to use a CV to create a good impression. Practical help will be given to create or adapt a CV, and how to maximize its effectiveness. This interactive session will also focus on how and when to produce cover letters.

Interview Techniques This workshop looks at how to prepare for an interview, what to expect at an interview, what employers are looking for, first impressions, self-promotion, preparing for and dealing with questions, and questions to ask at the interview.

Dealing with Barriers Session This session helps people identify any barriers they are currently facing and explores potential solutions. Information and advice will also be given about how to access further support, to improve employability. It will also cover how to boost motivation when job hunting, the importance of networking, and how to build networks for job hunting.

Confidence Building and Self Promotion Session It is essential to be confident when looking for a job, and these sessions help people understand the importance of self-promotion, including where and how to sell themselves. At the end of the session, they will also be able to identify their transferable skills from previous employment, hobbies, home life and voluntary work, and to be aware of any unique selling points they have.

Career Planning Session This session explores the concept of career management and decision-making methods. It helps people identify realistic career options and how to access them. It also covers exploring personal skills, aims, values, requirements, and how to match these to current opportunities.

FINANCIAL LITERACY

Throughout this seminar, students learn how to manage personal spending to meet financial goals. They also learn about strategies to minimize the impact of financial obstacles.



STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

NAME	AGE	SCHOOL	POSITION
Herson Barrera	17	P.W. Schreiber H.S.	SYP23 Counselor
Jasmine Rosa	17	P.W. Schreiber H.S.	SYP23 Counselor
Osmín Rosa	18	P.W. Schreiber H.S.	SYP23 Volunteer Counselor
Daniel Moran	17	P.W. Schreiber H.S.	SYP23 Volunteer Counselor
Isabel Ortega	15	P.W. Schreiber H.S.	SYP23 Volunteer Counselor
Lesly Alvarez	14	P.W. Schreiber H.S.	SYP23 Volunteer Counselor
Jake Saltos	14	P.W. Schreiber H.S.	SYP23 Volunteer Counselor
Steven Leiva	14	P.W. Schreiber H.S.	SYP23 Volunteer Counselor
Andy Carias	19	Farmingdale State College	SYP23 Volunteer Counselor
Damary Lopez	16	P.W. Schreiber H.S.	SYP23 Volunteer Counselor



Jasmine Rosa



Herson Barrera



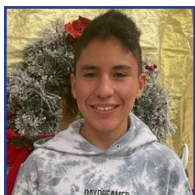
Osmín Rosa



Isabel Ortega



Daniel Moran



Jake Saltos



Andy Carias



Lesly Alvarez



Steven Leiva



Damary Lopez

The CAC Summer Youth Program 2023 was a successful program in where the participants enjoyed a safe and fun environment, full of different activities.

This program was possible due to teamwork, financial resources, and community support. Many thanks to the partnerships with companies, such as Green Tree Foundation, the Dejana-Foundation for providing partial funding to the program, the Town of Oyster Bay Employment & Training Program for providing funding for youth employment, Island Harvest for providing breakfast, snacks, lunches, and nutritional workshops, the Port Washington School District for providing the use of Salem Elementary School as a site, community partners for donating drinking cups/souvenirs, and the EOC of Nassau County, Inc. for making this safe summer possible.

Roosevelt Freeport EOC



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The primary objective of the Roosevelt/Freeport Summer Youth Program was to establish a secure and enjoyable educational setting for the participants, during the summer. This year, the program registered forty participants. The program, organized by the Roosevelt/Freeport EOC, took place at the Roosevelt/Freeport EOC facility, located at 281 Babylon Turnpike in Roosevelt, New York. A range of exercises were incorporated into our program to illustrate this concept. The program spanned a duration of eight weeks, commencing on July 5, 2023, and concluding on August 25, 2023. The participants were involved in recreational activities, workshops, and projects related to nutrition. Over the course of the eight-week period, participants acquired a substantial amount of knowledge, by engaging in a diverse range of workshops and activities.

The differentiation among academics can vary, based on the specific environmental context in which individuals reside. We integrated many academic subjects, including mathematics, spelling, physics, and history, into engaging methods that served to enhance the learning process. The diverse age groups engaged in collaborative

efforts to investigate and experiment with various artistic forms. The summer youth participants were also provided with a variety of programs, pertaining to social and emotional well-being, nutrition, and physical fitness. The seminars facilitated the exchange of diverse ideas among participants, which were influenced by the values established in their respective households. The sessions, facilitated by the consultants, provided participants with a diverse range of strategies for managing their emotions, as well as imparting essential life skills necessary for maintaining a satisfactory standard of living.



George Hurst
Program Director

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Another summer season is in the books, and the transition back to school is about to begin. What a wonderful summer – being immersed in nature, exploring new places, making new friends and trying new things. We always end each summer season with an eye toward the future, awaiting the excitement that lies ahead, but I think it is also important to take a moment to consider the specific joys and struggles of the past 8 weeks. As I pause to reflect on it all, my heart is full of gratitude for our staff, for our participants, and particularly, for the parents of our summer youth, who have entrusted their children to us. To my dynamic staff, who worked tirelessly all summer long to provide our children with an incredible summer experience – thank you! These counselors gave their best to their jobs, as each day brought new challenges and new successes. They were energized, they were exhausted, they were inspiring, they were inspired. They were interested in our youth, invested in them, committed to knowing what made each one tick, and how to connect in meaningful ways. To our participants who showed up every morning with a zest for life, and who are the reason we do what we do – thank you! These kids were engaged and engaging, open to trying new things and ready to get down and dirty, appreciating the many gifts that nature has to offer. Because of their days spent at our summer program, they have acquired an increase in confidence, a deeper connection with their peers, and a greater sense of their own independence. And to our program parents, who trusted, supported, and encouraged us along the way – thank you! We absolutely could not do this without you. We are grateful that you shared your greatest treasures with us this summer. We appreciate the ways that you supported your children's growth, by encouraging them, asking them meaningful questions, and allowing them to lean into their newfound sense of independence. We care about our participants' families, and we are so grateful to count each of you as a part of our larger EOC family. Thank you for being an important part of it. We cannot wait to have you back again, next year.

ATHLETICS

Participation in athletics imparts valuable lessons to children, including the development of structure, discipline, and collaboration skills. This activity emphasizes the significance of collaborative efforts in achieving a shared objective. Throughout the summer, the athletic aspect of our schedules has significantly influenced the actions of the participants. The sports that were included in the selection were basketball, soccer, running, and flag football. Throughout these activities, the participants acquired knowledge and understanding of essential values such as integrity, perseverance, maintaining a good attitude, and demonstrating respect for their peers. The provision of diverse leisure activities has contributed to the promotion of a healthy lifestyle and the lowering of obesity rates among “people of color”.



ACADEMICS

Throughout the summer, our academic schedule covered all areas of the program. The primary focus of attention has been the subject matter in a range of artistic and creative pursuits, physical activity, and instructional sessions. Our primary aim has been to address the varied requirements of learners, by integrating visual and physical learning approaches. The successful integration of science projects, mathematical games, and reading exercises was achieved.

Over the summer, individuals actively engaged in cognitive activities by playing intellectually stimulating games such as Chess, Guess Who?, Tic-Tac-Toe, Uno, Sorry, and Legos. During the summer, the participants had the chance to express their individuality through various forms of expression, while we simultaneously taught them better coping and problem-solving techniques. In order to cultivate academic involvement during the summer, participants took part in a variety of activities aimed at enhancing reading, writing, math, and scientific observation skills. The activities included engaging in script reading, doing math worksheets that incorporated visual elements, and watching appropriate historical documentaries. The purpose of including academic components in the program is to support a seamless transition for the participants involved, as they transition into the following academic year.

ARTS AND CRAFTS

In order to foster the development of positive expression, creative thinking, and individual expression, the Roosevelt/Freeport EOC Summer Youth Program integrated arts and crafts activities into its curriculum, throughout the months of July and August. The assortment of crafts covered many artistic activities, such as drawing, painting, assembling structures with Legos, and building, painting, and decorating popsicle stick houses. Partaking in arts and crafts activities facilitates self-expression and fosters the development of creativity among children. The younger generation exhibited a strong inclination towards visual stimuli, in their perception and interpretation of the surrounding events. Engaging in arts and crafts activities provided the participants with a valuable opportunity to tap into their creative faculties and transform their ideas into tangible and purposeful creations.



WORKSHOPS



Managing Emotions & Teamwork:

The Managing Emotions and Teamwork workshop, presented by Dr. Gerald Raul on July 12th, 2023, focused on working together to create hand puppets and build houses. The participants also worked on their listening skills and expressed themselves in a healthy and respectful way.

Girl Scout Recruitment Project:

The Girl Scouts of Nassau County conducted three visits to the Roosevelt/Freeport EOC throughout the summer program, specifically on August 1st, August 2nd, and August 3rd. The purpose of these visits was to impart information about the Girl Scout organization to the female participants. During these visits, the children actively participated in artistic and creative activities, while acquiring knowledge about the Girl Scouts organization and its comprehensive range of programs and opportunities for young girls. They learned to recite the Girl Scout Law and discussed how they could apply it to their daily lives. The participants were also instructed on the significance of recycling and environmental stewardship through their involvement in creative projects, including the creation of wind-chimes using re-purposed paper cups, constructing miniature representations of an idealized clean beach, and fashioning eco-friendly necklaces. These outings had the goal of enticing young girls to join the Girl Scouts and facilitating their participation in the organization's extensive experience.



What Makes You Unique?

This workshop, led by Dr. Gerald Raul on August 15th, focused on celebrating the participants differences, by making self portraits and writing about what they thought made them unique, as well as what they admired about themselves. Participants also worked on following instructions, by watching videos on YouTube and creating marionettes, as well as robotic hands. This workshop provided participants with an opportunity to express themselves while also learning about who they are, and embracing and celebrating their differences.

SPIRIT WEEK

From July 24, 2023, to July 27, 2023, the Roosevelt/Freeport EOC Summer Youth Program participants engaged in spirit week, in which participants are encouraged to dress according to a daily theme, to demonstrate unity and spirit. This is exemplified by “pajama day,” when students and staff wore pajamas to the program. During this week, participants participated in Crazy Hair & Socks Day, Twin Day, and Old People Day, among others. The participants thoroughly appreciated this portion of the program, and spoke enthusiastically about the excitement they felt wearing themed attire everyday.



FIELD TRIPS

Adventureland (July 21, 2023)

The Roosevelt EOC Summer Youth Program visited Adventureland, on July 21st, 2023. Adventureland is located in Farmingdale, New York, at 2245 Broad Hollow Road. The participants had a wonderful time riding on each and every ride, and simply spending time with their friends from the summer youth program. When asked which ride was their favorite, all of the participants responded by saying the swings or the pirate ship, as well as the bumper cars and getting to have ice cream with their friends.

Hempstead Lake State Park (July 28, 2023)

The Roosevelt EOC Summer Youth Program had Field Day at Hempstead Lake State Park, on July 28, 2023. The park is located in West Hempstead, New York. This day was jam-packed with delicious food, lively music, and exciting games. Participants were able to socialize and engage in recreational activities with participants, from all EOC locations. The participants faced off against those from other locations in competitions, such as three-legged runs, soccer, and flag football. The participants got to enjoy many snacks, including ice popsicles, burgers, and hot dogs.

Splish Splash (August 4, 2023)

The Roosevelt EOC Summer Youth Program visited Splish Splash, at 2549 Splish Splash Drive, Calverton, New York, on August 4, 2023. Participants had a fantastic time at the water park. Splish Splash was voted one of the country's finest water parks. Alien Invasion, The Lazy River, Barrier Reef, and Dinosaur Falls were among the participants' favorite rides.

Rye Playland (August 11, 2023)

The Roosevelt EOC Summer Youth Program took a field trip to Rye Playland, on August 11, 2023. Rye Playland is located on Playland Parkway in Rye, New York. The participants cherished the time they were able to spend with each other, getting on as many rides as they could. They participated in all of the park's reward competitions and rode each ride available to them. Participants really enjoyed the rollercoasters, The Double Shot, Bumper Cars, Gondola Wheel, Zombie Castle, and the Old Rye Motorbike Factory.

AMC Roosevelt Field (August 18, 2023)

The Roosevelt EOC Summer Youth Program saw Blue Beetle at the Roosevelt Field AMC Theatre, on August 18, 2023. This film follows Jaime Reyes, a recent college graduate, as he searches for his life's purpose while attempting to save the world as the superhero Blue Beetle, after an extraterrestrial biotechnology relic, the Scarab, chooses him as its host.

FIELD TRIPS



MULTI-CULTURAL CELEBRATION

End of the Summer Multi-Cultural Talent Show & Luncheon

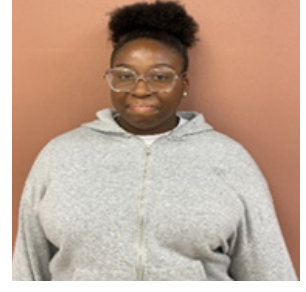
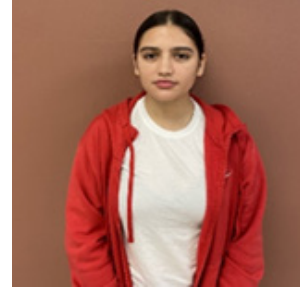
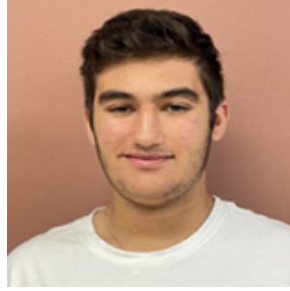
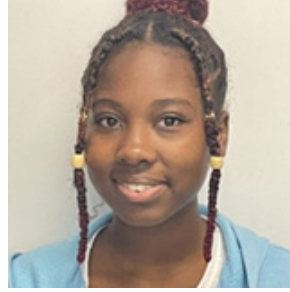
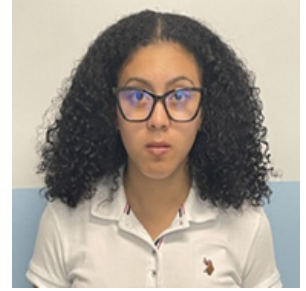
On the 17th of August, 2023, the Roosevelt/Freeport EOC concluded the summer program by hosting a talent show and lunch, as a way to exhibit and celebrate the participants' abilities and goals. In addition to the participants, staff members and the participants' families also attended the event. During the event, participants performed a cover of "A Million Dreams", from the soundtrack to "The Greatest Showman." The participants also took part in a fashion show, in which they were required to dress as the person they would like to become. A musical performance on the violin was given by another participant. Following the performances, lunch was provided, and a slideshow of photographs taken throughout the course of the summer was played for everyone to enjoy.



STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

NAME	AGE	SCHOOL	POSITION
Zhanae Boyd	15	Freeport High School	Junior Counselor
Daniel Decker	16	Wellington C. Mepham High School	Junior Counselor
Angie Portillo	18	Freeport High School	Junior Counselor
Myah Roberts	17	Roosevelt High School	Junior Counselor
Phillip Mctootle	16	South Side High School	Junior Counselor
Jhane Sullivan	16	Uniondale High School	Junior Counselor
Immanuel Fann	19	Hempstead Works	Junior Counselor
Robert Fekete	15	Wellington C. Mepham High School	Junior Counselor
David Hutcherson	15	Wellington C. Mepham High School	Junior Counselor
Meyah Roberts	17	Roosevelt High School	Junior Counselor
Jocelyn Alvarado	16	Uniondale High School	Junior Counselor
Beunissah Bermingham	17	Freeport High School	Junior Counselor
Eulyannah Bermingham	16	Freeport High School	Junior Counselor
Stirlyn Lopez	14	Academy Charter School	Junior Counselor
Angel Gomez	15	Academy Charter School	Junior Counselor





Glen Cove EOC



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Glen Cove EOC Summer Youth Program 2023 was a full-day, six (6) week program, operating from July 5th through August 18th. The program ran Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, providing breakfast, snacks, and lunch daily, through our partnership with Long Island Cares, Inc.

During the process of registration, which began in May, through the distribution of flyers (see next pages) and word of mouth within the community, we quickly enrolled 37 participants into the program, leaving over ten others on the waiting list. This served as proof that working families who needed a safe place for their children during the summer months, were excited to learn about the Glen Cove Summer Youth Program.

Through an established relationship with the Salem Baptist Church, we were able to graciously utilize their facility to conduct our six (6) weeks program. During that time, we were given access to a large, air-conditioned room, a full kitchen, and their lavatories.

The Glen Cove Public Housing Authority provided our summer program access to the outdoor playground, basketball court, and open field, which provided daily outdoor activities, including soccer and exercise scheduled for the participants.

With the Glen Cove EOC office van, we were able to provide safe transportation daily to the program site, in the morning and afternoon, to participants. Parents were able to drop-off and pick up their children, without

the stress of worrying about the added commute.

The Summer Youth Program staff, counselors, volunteers and participants all received two (2) T-shirts, one tropical blue and one mint green, which were used on the days of scheduled fields trips, library days, workshops at Morgan Park, and the End of Summer Celebration.



Irma Jeanty
Program Director

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

The Glen Cove EOC reestablished its Summer Youth Program this year, allowing 35 participants and 11 members of the Youth Council the opportunity, yet again, for employment.

Throughout the program, participants benefited from social, academic, physical, cultural, mindful activities. The participants ranged in age from 5 to 13 years of age. They participated in daily activities, scheduled by the SYP coordinator, senior counselor, junior counselor, and aides, who met weekly to review age-appropriate activities.

On scheduled days, independent contractors came to provide an array of workshops, that included building social skills, dealing with emotions, and life events. Our weekly field trips provided fun, safe, memorable, and educational experiences for the participants, throughout the weeks of the program.

We also incorporated community service activities throughout the program, which allowed both participants and counselors alike to understand the importance of community and giving back.

I am grateful to my office staff, the energetic teamwork of the counselors, the selfless spirit of the volunteers, the confidence from the parents, the resources from our sponsors, and the support of our Glen Cove community. The 2023 Glen Cove EOC Summer Youth Program was indeed, again, an **EXTRAVAGANZA!**

STAFFING AND TRAINING

The Summer Youth Program officially started on Monday, July 5th. Five (5) youths were hired through the Town of Oyster Bay Summer Employment Youth program, as lead staff and counselors, and one (1) program coordinator was hired, under the CDA grants. In addition, seven (7) of the Glen Cove Youth Council members, served as volunteers.

The Summer Program coordinator organized meetings with SYP staff, to create daily and weekly schedules, implemented activities, ensured all proper protocols were followed, communicated with parents, when necessary, reviewed daily reports, and prepared weekly reports.

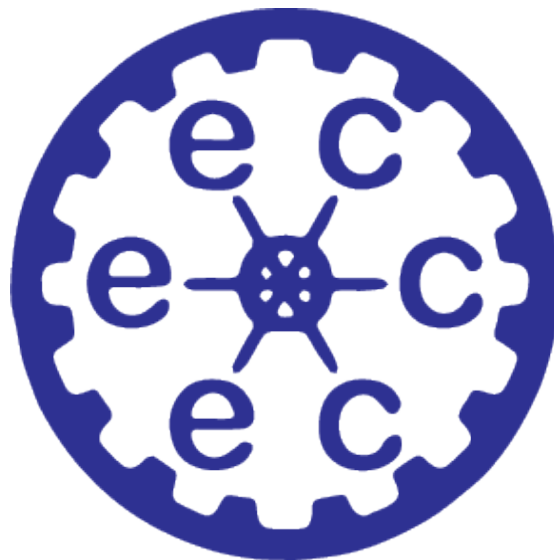
The Summer Program senior counselor supervised junior counselors and aides, assisted with the implementation of the daily schedule and monitored field trip protocols.

The junior counselor and junior counselor aides assisted with the supervision of the program participants, prepared daily and weekly reports, wrote and reported incidents to coordinator and senior counselor by utilizing EOC protocol, coordinated daily AM and PM transportation, and assisted with arrival and dismissal of participants.

The counselors and volunteers worked closely together to create, and help develop and implement, daily schedules of program activities. They supervised participants during breakfast and lunch meals, provided by Long Island Cares, Inc., recognized and implemented safety protocols, demonstrated cleanliness, punctuality, sportsmanship, and set a good example for all participants.

Prior to the start of program, during the week of June 26, 2023, the counselor volunteers, and EOC staff attended orientation and training, which included Safety Procedures, a motivational workshop hosted by Bob Wolf, first aid, & CPR training. Additionally, they were informed about the EOC rules, regulations, and policies that govern the Summer Youth Program.

Long Island Cares, Inc. also provided a mandatory Summer Food Service Program Training, that provided review of the food safety and storage, proper handling, deliveries, menus, and necessary paperwork to be submitted.



ACTIVITIES

Arts/Crafts

The participants took part in a tie-dye T-shirt activity, “Make your Print on the World” fingerprint session; landscape and abstract canvas painting activity; “Masked Emotions” activity; Marvel group name coloring activity, and hand painting.

Academics

Twice a week, participants utilized flash cards, blocks for math learning skills, reading books to continue enhancing academic skills, and tutoring.



Meditation

Participants joined in on a morning, or mid-afternoon, meditation to help calm and enhance their days.

MEALS

Our partnership with Long Island Cares, Inc. allowed us to serve meals, which included breakfast and lunch, during the program. The meals provided the participants with their daily intake of dairy, fruits, and vegetables.

We also provided snacks, beverages, and the occasional treat of popsicles and pizza.



FIELD TRIPS



Rye Playland- July 14th, 2023

The participants enjoyed their first trip on July 14th, 2023, to Rye Playland. They went on many rides, including the Dragon and Double Shot.



Adventureland- July 21st, 2023

On Friday July 21st, 2023, the participants went to Adventureland, in which they got to go on all the rides they were allowed and wanted to go on.



Hempstead Lake State Park- July 28th, 2023

On Friday July 28th, 2023, the participants enjoyed competitive and team sports games at Hempstead Lake State Park.



Splish Splash- August 4th, 2023

On their trip to Splish Splash on August 4th, the participants enjoyed going on various rides.

LIBRARY DAYS

Every Wednesday, the participants met with Ms. Carol, at the Glen Cove Public Library, where she read a book each week, and provided fun-filled activities, according to the theme of the book.



WORKSHOPS

Workshops: Hosted by Charles Evans Center



The participants attended a workshop pertaining to alcohol and drugs.

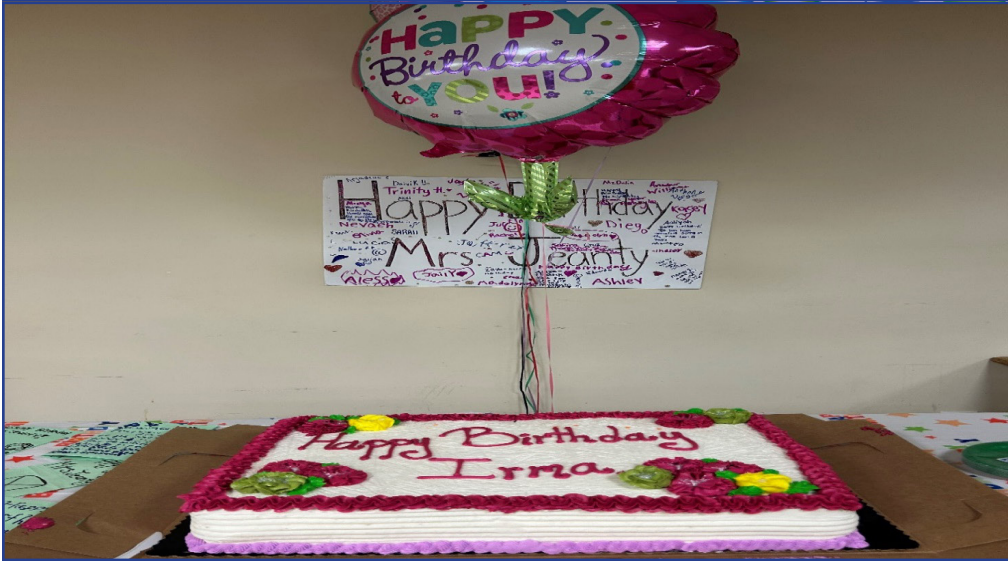


Doctor/Professor Theodore Williams came all the way from Tennessee, to conduct a NASA/STEM workshop for Glen Cove EOC summer youth participants. They learned **Aerodynamic and Propulsion**, and explored why the space shuttle is shaped the way that it is, and how the propulsion gets the shuttle into space.



Workshops at Morgan Park: VOICE, SPEECH, AND FUN WITH SHAKESPEARE

Every Tuesday, the participants aged 7 to 13 years old, met with Mr. Gaitley Stevenson Matthews, a Glen Cove EOC Advisory Council member, for the weekly workshop, “Voice, Speech, and Fun with Shakespeare”. The tools learned will be used to discover just how much fun it can be to uncover the meaning of Shakespeare’s words, his phrases, and his insight into human nature. The youth gave a performance for their parents, on the last day of the program, during the End of the Summer Celebration.



The program director celebrated her birthday, along with the participants born in the month of July.



END OF SUMMER CELEBRATION

August 18, 2023

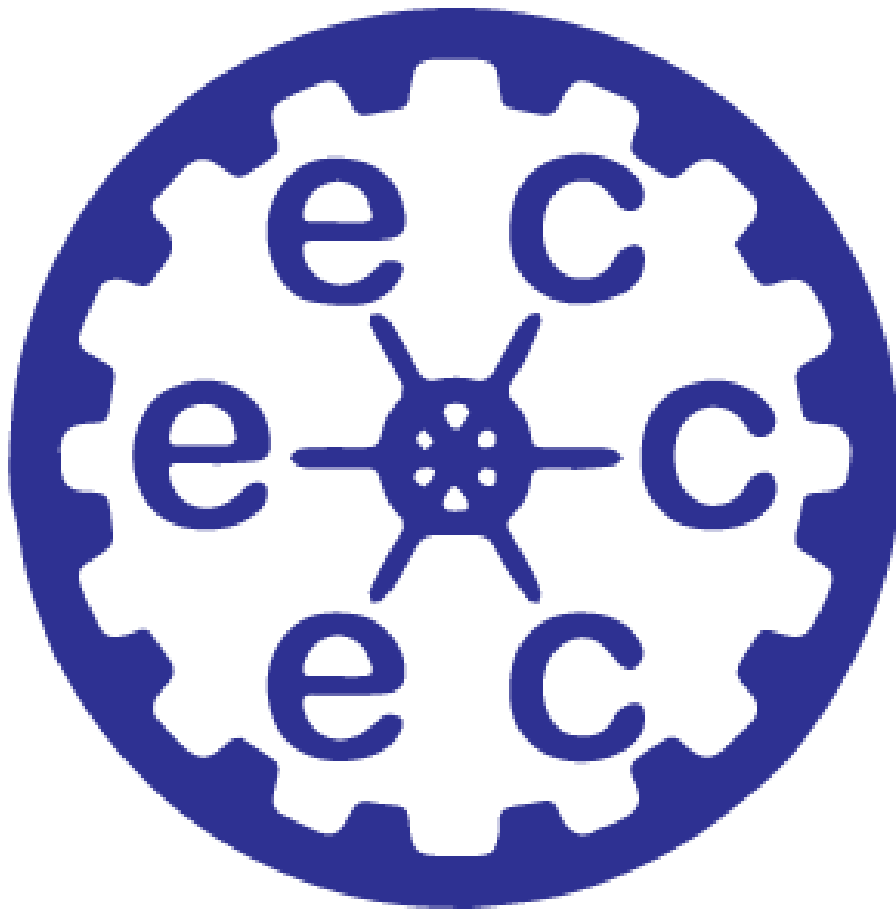
Glen Cove EOC hosted a multicultural End of the Summer Celebration, on August 18th; a celebration of the cultural uniqueness of all our participants, counselors, volunteers and staff. It was a colorful afternoon of flags, food, music, and fun. Tables were decorated with colors and flags representing the diverse heritage of our participants and staff (i.e. Honduras, Haiti, Jamaica, USA, etc..). Parents of participants volunteered to bring dishes. The participants presented a short play for their families. The participants were able to eat food with their families, as well as get awards for their accomplishments during the program.

BACK TO SCHOOL GIVEAWAY



STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

NAME	AGE	SCHOOL	POSITION
Sara Ayiku	15	Glen Cove High School	Senior Counselor
Cameren Staley	16	Glen Cove High School	Senior Counselor
Safira Cruz	16	Glen Cove High School	Senior Counselor
Nevaeh Dubios	16	Glen Cove High School	Junior Counselor
ZyaAire Mejia	15	Glen Cove High School	Junior Counselor
Rachel Ayiki	17	Glen Cove High School	Volunteer
Alicya Quail	16	Glen Cove High School	Volunteer
Jacqueline Cabrera	16	Glen Cove High School	Volunteer
Maykala Chesnut	15	Glen Cove High School	Volunteer
Ariana Canizales	15	Glen Cove High School	Volunteer
Trinity Hudson	20	Molloy University	Coordinator





GLEN COVE HERALD - August 24, 2023

Photos courtesy Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews

Some of those who participated in the EOC's summer workshops took a Shakespeare workshop and were able to perform select scenes for one another.

EOC youth summer of learning and adventure

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

Summer signals freedom for children and gives them a break from the structure dictated by the school day. It's a time for more play, making new friends, days at the pool and taking trips with family and friends. But many families struggle to keep their children healthy and occupied during the summer break because of financial limitations.

To help ease the lives of children and parents on the North Shore, the Economic Opportunity Coalition has stepped in to provide families with an eight-week program filled with engaging workshops that include trips to Splish Splash and a chance to work on experiments with scientists from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to name a few. Thirty-seven youth, aged 5 to 13 experienced a fun summer their caretakers couldn't normally afford.

For over 50 years, the Economic Opportunity Commission of Nassau County has provided programs and services to low-income residents. The coalition was born out of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, which was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on Aug. 20, 1964, a signature legislation of Johnson's Act, "War on Poverty."

During the past year, approximately 14,000 low-income children, youth, individuals, and families accessed EOC programs and services.

Families, who qualify for EOC programs such as utility and rental assistance programs, must fall 200 percent



Youth with the city's EOC summer program enjoyed snacking on popcorn while they waited for the next fun workshop of the day.

below the state's poverty income threshold. For a family of five, that means the maximum income earned cannot exceed \$61,000, according to Irma Jeanty, director of Glen Cove's EOC program. Single parents are most likely to use the EOC's programs.

The 2023 national poverty level for a family of four is \$30,000, and the federal poverty rate is roughly 6 percent on Long Island. It's estimated that one out of five Long Island residents live below the poverty line.

"Without this summer program, a lot of the parents wouldn't know, what they would do with the kids because all the parents are working," Jeanty said. "So having a program like that helps the cli-

ent to have a community, to have a safe place, a safe environment for the kid for the summer and year-round."

One of the many engaging and educational experiences youth enjoyed was studying the works of William Shakespeare, an English playwright, poet and actor who wrote at least 37 plays between 1590 and 1613. The experience was led by Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews, a professional performer with over 20 years of experience in stage plays, musical theatre, opera, and other forms of lyric theatre including stage productions of Shakespeare and Shakespeare's contemporaries.

"Voice, speech, and fun with Shakespeare is intended as an experimental



Eight-year-old Kevin Mojica preformed Richmond's speech to his troops from Shakespeare's Richard III.

journey, learning more about voice and speech and how it relates to imagery, emotion, and thought," Stevenson-Mathews said. "The tools learned will be used to joyfully discover just how much fun it can be to uncover the meaning of Shakespeare's words, his phrases, and his insight into human nature."

HEMPSTEAD CAP



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The EOC of Nassau County, Inc. established the Hempstead CAP Academic Summer Youth Program; it was designed for the youth of the community to have a summer camp, that provides them with new friends of all backgrounds and incredible memories to last a lifetime. The Hempstead CAP Academic Summer Youth Program is offered to students ages 6 through 12 years old. This program is free, unless participants exceed the 200% poverty guidelines from NY State, in which participants would need to pay a \$650.00 fee. The participants are also responsible for the price of their camp t-shirts and the entrance to all field trips.

The participants of the program had the opportunity to enjoy a variety of field trips, in order to gain new experiences in their surrounding communities. The Hempstead CAP Academic Summer Youth Program encourages participants to learn and progress during the summer months, in order to minimize the amount of relearning students normally require after summer break, and at the beginning of the school year.

The objective of the Hempstead CAP Academic Summer Youth Program is to enrich the children of Hempstead,

NY with the academic tools to have a safe and enjoyable summer. In doing so, participants were instilled with good character from the consistent and attentive nature of the counselors and the program's complete and challenging curriculum. Although the participants were on summer vacation, we offered academic classes that taught participants basic to intermediate math, reading, and writing skills and weekly nutrition workshops about developing healthy habits. Several math and spelling bee's served as a good indicator for the participants' level in academics. In addition, the participants had the opportunity to explore Long Island as we went on various field trips, such as Long Island Aquarium, Broadway Mall Cinema, Adventureland, and Splish Splash. To conclude the program, we invited the families to Cultural Diversity Day/Awards Ceremony at the Jackson Annex Elementary School. The Tamborcito Factory provided the entertainment. Cultural food was prepared by local small businesses and the contributions of the parents for all to enjoy after the awards ceremony. This celebration was the perfect way to provide recognition to the participants for their efforts and improvement throughout the program. Each participant received a certificate of recognition and a medal.

As the program concluded, it was clear that the participants had maintained, and even improved upon, the academic level they entered the camp with. The participants who were initially shy about making friends and participating developed a strong voice and several close friends. The EOC of Nassau County takes great pride in the partnerships that we are creating within the communities to provide impactful opportunities for the youth.



Mateo Flores
Program Director

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

The Hempstead CAP Academic Summer Youth Program has a diversified staff and clientele, whom we service on a daily basis. We focus on serving individuals, children, youth, and families. We provide advocacy, emergency food and shelter, rental/utility assistance, on-site emergency food pantry, immigration services, unemployment benefits assistance (through the NYS Department of Labor), aid to the foreign born, senior programs, youth council programs, and summer youth programs.

We encounter and embrace cultural diversity everyday, by treating everyone as one community. As an agency, our main focus is empowering youth and families, through the services and resources we provide.

The Hempstead CAP Program strives to enrich the children of Hempstead, NY, with various workshops, trips, and mental and physical play, in order to provide our participants with an engaging and safe place to enjoy the summer. Through our curriculum, we successfully imparted values and discipline, as well as fun and joy throughout the summer.

My goal is to embrace every youth and their family with respect and dignity. I, as a parent, want to provide the same quality time to my community as I give my family. From an organizational perspective, my vision is to empower and uplift the future generations, by embracing cultural diversity and seeing that the residents of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead, and surrounding communities, change their lives through fitness and education.

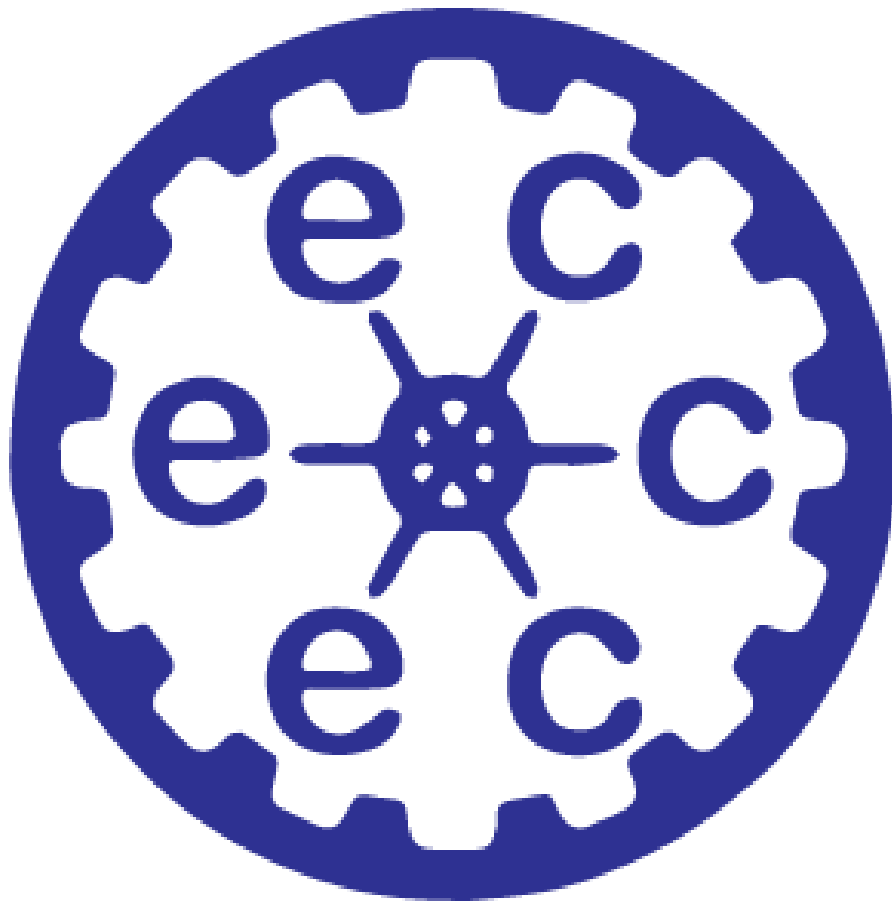
I want to extend a special thank you to the Antioch Baptist Church, for entrusting us in providing quality services for the students of Hempstead. Our partnership with them has been an incredible asset in providing a safe haven for our participants.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY NUTRITION WORKSHOP

This summer, the Cornell Cooperative Extension has collaborated with the Hempstead CAP Academic Summer Youth Program, to provide nutrition classes to the participants. Through the “SNAP-ED Eat Smart NY” Program, it was our goal to teach the participants that through exercise and healthy eating habits, you can maintain a healthy lifestyle. These classes helped participants make better healthy choices, such as planning nutritious meals and choosing low sugar drinks.

Workshops were held on a weekly basis and covered topics such as, “My Plate”, “Sugar Intakes” “RethinkYour Drink”, and “Fast Foods”. Throughout each workshop, the teachers implemented interactive games, such as having each participant review a nutrition label to determine which classmate had the label with the most sugar, least calories, etc. Each workshop provided the participants a healthy snack alternative, such as fresh fruit, black bean salsa, and a lemon fizzy drink.

The participants became aware of their eating habits, especially by choosing water as their go-to drink. Every week, the participants were interested in learning more about maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The information was extremely useful for the duration of the program, and hopefully will continue to benefit them the rest of their lives.



FIELD TRIPS

This year at the Hempstead CAP Academic Summer Youth Program, our main goal was to maintain and continue the education provided by the participants' schools. At Hempstead CAP Academic Summer Youth Program, we believe in a mind and body approach; participants had an opportunity to test their minds and also to exercise their bodies. Participants are often quite young, and we have found that the best way to engage them is by creating games that serve as vehicles for learning. Games like "concentration ball" and trivia contests were fun and effective ways of working on the participants' fine motor skills and developing their quick thinking.

Our plan for the Hempstead CAP Academic Summer Youth Program was to entertain, educate, and support the participants for the summer. We created an environment where the participants were allowed to express themselves in creative and productive ways. The participants were encouraged to play together and to leave their comfort zones; they were often asked to work together on group projects that were too complex for one person alone, and then present the project in front of everyone. Many adults shirk from activities like this, but by the end of the program the participants were well-equipped and even eager to present. The myriad of spelling and math bee's gave the participants a chance to show off their skills and experience healthy competition. Furthermore, we had the wonderful opportunity to work with the HCAP Summer Academic Program multiple times, to teach the participants the fundamentals of soccer. Each day the participants were able to stretch, draw, read, write, play, and dance.

All of the participants have different home lives, and here at Hempstead CAP Academic Summer Youth Program, we are dedicated to giving the participants an environment free from any issues they may experience at home, or in school. The participants were taught to respect authority as well, their safety required them to listen to the directions of the counselors, especially in places like Splish Splash and Adventureland. Over the course of the summer program, we implemented harder lessons and activities to make sure that the participants were actually learning. The participants were split up into three age groups, so that we could properly challenge them; the older participants had more complex games and lessons as opposed to our youngest group. The middle group had participants of varying ability levels, so after the second week, we knew which participants could handle the more difficult tasks and which participants needed easier ones. The counselors not only created special bonds with the participants, but also ensured a very safe, educational, and overall fun summer experience.

This summer, the Hempstead CAP Academic Summer Youth Program offered new experiences, in the form of field trips for the participants. The program provided transportation and lunch. To always ensure safety, adult supervision was at a ratio of 2:10 at most. For participants, this was their opportunity to safely explore new and different places on Long Island. We had five (5) trips:



Long Island Aquarium

At the Long Island Aquarium, the participants attended a sea lion show, viewed a variety of sea animals, and participated in activities to enhance their knowledge of sea life. Overall, participants found greater appreciation for the marine world.



Broadway Mall Movie Theater

The participants saw The Transformers: The Rise of The Beast. While consuming popcorn, they watched an animated movie about teamwork and new friendships. Participants left the cinema relaxed and with a smile.



Adventureland

All the participants rode on a series of roller coasters at Adventureland. They were able to explore the park and experience new adventures with their friends.



Splish Splash

At Splish Splash, all the participants were able to enjoy a great day in the water and experienced thrilling waterslides. They had the chance to bond with their friends and staff.



White Post Farms

At White Post Farms, the participants had the wonderful opportunity to explore a farm, filled with animals from all over the world. Not only did they get to see the animals, but many of the participants even fed them.

STAFF & VOLUNTEERS



Adriana Gonzalez (Supervisor)

My name is Adriana Gonzalez. I'm 19 years old and attending Nassau Community College, pursuing my associate's degree in business administration and management. I've been part of this organization for three years, and have received good working experience. I plan to strive and succeed in every aspect and thing I complete. My goal for this summer is for the participants to have a good time and experience, get out of their comfort zone, and learn before returning to school this September.



William Steinbuch (Coordinator)

My name is William Steinbuch. I am 25 years old and I am currently attending Touro Law School pursuing my Juris Doctorate in law. This is my second year as a coordinator and I find it to be truly satisfying work. I plan on teaching the participants, and learning just as much from them.



Jose Mercado

My name is Jose Mercado. I have been part of this program for three years now. I love to play and watch soccer, with my friends and family. My plan for this summer is to help the participants in the camp have the best time for the summer, before they head back to school. I intend to stay in this organization to continue helping my community.



Michael Ali

My name is Michael Ali. This is my first year as part of the program, and I dedicate this to the youth council for giving me this opportunity to be in the program. Even as a kid, my plans for school were to strive and succeed so I could go to my dream school, Farmingdale University, to become an aviation mechanic. I hope the participants had a fantastic time during the program, and hope they have a great school year. I will continue to be with this organization.



Dereck Sanango

My name is Dereck Sanango. I'm 17 years old and recently graduated from Hempstead High School. I'm planning to attend Nassau Boces to take an electrical engineering course. A sport I enjoy is boxing. I have been working with the EOC for two years, and I dedicate this to the youth council for giving me this opportunity to be in the program. I like working with kids and the organization, to obtain employment experience.



Olukayin Ramierez

My name is Olukayin Ramierez. I am 18 years old. I have been in this organization for 2 summers now, working and volunteering. I am attending Nassau Community College this upcoming fall 2023, as a graphic design major. I love to have a good time and make people excited and smile. The future I'm seeking is to become a social media influencer, and inspire the youth and the next generation.



Hector Ayala

My name is Hector Ayala. I'm 15 and this is my first year volunteering for the SYP. I am heading into 10th grade in the Academy Charter School, in Hempstead. I love to hangout with friends and family. I also enjoy playing sports, such as soccer and American football. I enjoy being in the SYP, because I get to interact with the participants and teach them things, and help them with the stuff that they don't know.



Adekunle Adejari Runolfo Ramierez

My name is Adekunle Adejari Runolfo Ramierez, I am 16 years old and I work for the EOC. I am currently enrolled in Uniondale High School. I enjoy playing basketball and baseball for my school team, and giving food to the elderly with my mother. In the future, I plan on going to college and becoming an accountant.



Khaliyl Acosta

My name is Khaliyl Acosta and I am 17 years old. I am currently entering my senior year at Hempstead High School, and on the way to graduating with an advanced regents diploma. I have been working at the EOC for over 2 years and have been Vice President of the Youth Council Program, for a little over a year. My favorite hobbies are playing basketball, boxing, and spending time with my mom. My main goal in life, and after college, is to have an occupation within the medical field.



Diva Waiters

My name is Diva Waiters. I am 16 years old, and I go to the Academy Charter High School. I am entering the 11th grade. After high school, I would like to attend college and major in psychology. My goal is to be able to help people and learn more about the way the mind works. This is my second year working with the EOC, in their summer program; I have been able to gain experience in the work field, as well as working with children, which I appreciate.

HEMPSTEAD EOC EMPIRE STATE INTRAMURAL RECREATIONAL SOCCER PROGRAM



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The EOC of Nassau County, Inc., in partnership with the Hempstead Union Free School District, have established the Empire State Summer Intramural Recreational Soccer Program, designed for the youth of the community, who have a desire to learn the fundamentals of soccer. The Empire State Program is offered to students, ages 6 through 12 years old. This program is free to all the participants and provides them with the necessary equipment to play soccer, such as soccer balls, shin guards, t-shirts, and soccer socks. The participants of the program had the opportunity to enjoy a variety of field trips, in order to gain new experiences in their surrounding communities. The Empire State Summer Intramural Recreational Soccer Program encourages participants to lean towards success, through the discipline learned within the fundamental skills of soccer, granting them the opportunity to be better citizens for their community.

The objective of the Empire State Summer Intramural Recreational Soccer Program is to enrich the children of Hempstead, NY, with the athletic and academic tools, to have a safe and enjoyable summer. In doing

so, participants were instilled with good character from the understanding of soccer skills. Although the participants were on summer vacation, we offered academic classes that taught participants the history of soccer, and weekly nutrition workshops about developing healthy habits. In addition, the participants had the opportunity to explore Long Island as we went on various field trips, such as to the Long Island Aquarium, Broadway Mall Cinema, Adventureland, and Splish Splash. To conclude the program, we invited the families to Cultural Diversity Day/Awards Ceremony, at the Jackson Annex Elementary School. The Tamborcito Factory provided the entertainment.

Cultural food was prepared by local, small businesses and the contributions of the parents, for all to enjoy after the awards ceremony. This celebration was the perfect way to provide recognition to the participants for their efforts and improvement, throughout the program. Each participant received a certificate of recognition and a medal.

As the program concluded, it was clear that the participants had learned and continued to improve upon the fundamental skills of soccer. The daily scrimmages were proof of their dynamic growth. The participants who were initially reluctant about playing soccer, had developed a passion for the sport and expressed interest to continue learning. They have begun to implement a healthy mind and healthy body mindset, that will continue to benefit them for the rest of their lives. The EOC of Nassau County takes great pride in the partnerships that we are creating within the communities, to provide impactful opportunities for the youth.



Mateo Flores
Program Director

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Hempstead CAP has a diversified staff and clientele, in which we service on a daily basis. We focus on serving individuals, children, youth, and families. We provide advocacy, emergency food and shelter, rental/utility assistance, on-site emergency food pantry, immigration services, unemployment benefits assistance (through the NYS Department of Labor), aid to the foreign born, senior programs, youth council programs, and summer youth programs.

We encounter and embrace cultural diversity everyday, by treating everyone as one community. As an agency, our main focus is empowering youth and families through the services and resources we provide.

The Empire State Summer Soccer Youth Program strives to enrich the children of Hempstead, NY, with the athletic and academic tools to have a safe and gratifying summer. In doing so, we were able to provide participants with an understanding of the fundamentals of soccer, which instilled good character and discipline.

My goal is to embrace every youth and their families with respect and dignity. I, as a parent, want to provide the same quality time to my community, as I give my family. From an organizational perspective, my vision is to empower and uplift the future generations, by embracing cultural diversity and seeing that the residents of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead and surrounding communities change their lives, through fitness and education.

I want to extend a special thank you to the Hempstead School District, for entrusting us in providing quality services for the students of Hempstead. Our partnership with the district has been an asset in upholding the EOC mission; Changing Youth Lives Through Soccer.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY NUTRITION WORKSHOP

This summer, the Cornell Cooperative Extension has collaborated with the Empire State Summer Intramural Recreational Soccer Program, to provide nutrition classes to the participants. Through the “SNAP-ED Eat Smart NY” Program, it was our goal to teach the participants that through exercise and healthy eating habits, you can maintain a healthy lifestyle. These classes helped participants make better healthy choices, such as planning nutritious meals and choosing low sugar drinks. Workshops were held on a weekly basis and covered topics, such as “My Plate”, “Sugar Intakes”, “Rethink Your Drink”, and “Fast Foods”. Throughout each workshop, the teachers implemented interactive games, such as having each participant review a nutrition label to determine which classmate had the label with the most sugar, least calories, etc. Each workshop provided the participants a healthy snack alternative, such as fresh fruit, black bean salsa, and a lemon fizzy drink.

The participants became aware of their eating habits, especially by choosing water as their go-to drink. Every week, the participants were interested in learning more about maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Although the information was extremely useful for the duration of the program, it will continue to benefit them the rest of their lives.



ATHLETICS



This year at the Empire State Summer Youth Intramural Recreational Soccer Program, our main goal was to teach the participants the fundamentals of soccer. Soccer is one of the most popular sports in the world today. At the Empire SYP, we wanted to spark the passion for the game within the participants. We succeeded by using a method called **“Plan, Purpose, and Play”**. The first **“P”** stands for **“Plan.”**

Our plan for the Empire Summer Intramural Recreational Soccer Program (SYP) was to teach the participants the basics of soccer. Most of the participants in the program had limited knowledge about the game.

Our aim was to expand their understanding of the fundamentals. For example, the rules, technique, teamwork, and passion. The second **“P”** stands for **“Purpose.”** Our purpose was to instill a healthy balance of fun and learning.

Participants learn to be responsible, by bringing their equipment (cleats, shin guards, ball, etc.) every single day. On the field, soccer encourages discipline and fun through good sportsmanship and teamwork. The third **“P”** stands for **“Play.”** At the Empire SYP, we wanted the participants to be active and maximize their time with the soccer ball. The daily activities aimed to teach the fundamental skills of soccer, and give the participants the chance to demonstrate those skills during scrimmages. During **“Play”**, the participants grasp the concept of the sport, at a deeper level. During this time, the staff refereed the scrimmages to instill a professional soccer game setting. To maximize playing time, staff would observe mistakes and make corrections during the morning group lessons. The participants were placed into three age categories, for the safety and enjoyment of all. Over the course of four weeks, we implemented new techniques and increased the level of the drills, as the participants mastered the skills. The topics we worked on were the fundamentals of soccer, which included; dribbling, passing, ball control, how to attack/defend the ball, and overall team play. Lessons were made specifically for each of the three age groups’ abilities. At the start of each day, each coach had to warm up their group with stretches, for the flexibility and mobility of the different joints. This is a fundamental part, if not the most important part, to prevent any injuries. We then focused on the technical part of soccer, where participants were taught ball control, passing, dribbling, and shooting to the goal. Secondly, the groups worked on physical resistance, coordination, jumping, flexibility, and several other physical skills that are necessary to achieve a successful game. Thirdly, participants engaged in activities that involved both technical and physical skills, worked on previously. The participants were taught to make quick decisions on the field, because soccer is a constant decision-making sport. Over time, activities such as **“one attacker vs one defender”** led to a full match between two teams. The focus of these activities was control of the ball, dribbling, and shooting to goal. The participants had to face their opponent head-on to score a goal, which was a constant motivation to put into practice what they had learned. Each day would conclude with recreational games, by splitting groups into two teams, allowing participants to have fun while practicing. Each week was a success, as the participants were grasping the skills needed to play the game. Most importantly, the participants remained safe and had fun each week, making the program a success.



FIELD TRIPS

This summer, the Empire State Summer Youth Program offered new experiences, in the form of field trips for the participants. The program provided admission, transportation, and lunch. To always ensure safety, adult supervision was at a ratio of 2:10. For participants, this was their opportunity to safely explore new and different places on Long Island. We had four (4) trips:



Long Island Aquarium

At the Long Island Aquarium, the participants attended a sea lion show, viewed a variety of sea animals, and participated in activities to enhance their knowledge of sea life. Overall, participants found greater appreciation for the marine world.



Broadway Mall Movie Theater

The participants saw *The Transformers: The Rise of The Beast*. While consuming popcorn, they watched an animated movie about teamwork and new friendships.

Participants left the cinema relaxed and with a smile.



Adventureland

All the participants rode on a series of roller coasters, at Adventureland. They were able to explore the park and experience new adventures with their friends.



Splish Splash

At Splish Splash, all the participants were able to enjoy a great day in the water and experience thrilling waterslides. They had the chance to bond with their friends and staff.

CULTURE DIVERSITY DAY

The Empire State Soccer Summer Youth Program concluded with its annual Cultural Diversity Day celebration, on August 3, 2023. To commemorate the final day of the program, parents and honorary guests were invited to celebrate the unique cultures, within the participants. The participants proudly shared all they had learned, to guests at the event. Several parents brought traditional plates and beverages of their culture to share with the program, as a clear demonstration of the diversity within soccer. The event allowed youth and adults to come together to share an interest in soccer and cultures.

The event began at 11:00 a.m. The program held a mini soccer tournament, for the participants to demonstrate overall improvement. Special guests in attendance included, the Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead Honorable Waylyn Hobbs Jr., President of the School Board Randy Stith, District Project Coordinator Barbara Powell, and Principal of Jackson Annex Summer Program Mr. Brown. Once all parents and guests arrived, the certificates and medals were awarded to each participant for their participation and success.

Special guests were also invited to share their experiences as contributors of the Empire State Program. They expressed their satisfaction with the program's continued successes. Special thank you to the District Project Coordinator, Ms. Barbara V. Powell.



STAFF & VOLUNTEERS



JOREY GARCIA (HEAD COACH)

I am 24 years old and I am a Hofstra University graduate, with a Bachelor's in Political Science. Since a young age, I have played soccer and have had the privilege to play at the highest collegiate level division 1 and internationally for the El Salvador Youth Under 23 National Team. In 2019, I took the role of Head Coach for the Empire State Summer Youth Soccer Program, with the intention of teaching children the fundamentals of soccer to the Hempstead community. Since my time in the program, I have been amazed with the enthusiasm of the children and their willingness to learn. It is very important to keep programs like this one, to make a difference in the community. The work we do as a staff is very important and the reason why I keep coming back each year.



CRISTINA SORIANO (PROGRAM COORDINATOR)

My name is Cristina Soriano. I am 22 years old, and recently graduated from The University of Hartford, in Connecticut. I majored in criminal justice and minored in sociology. I grew up on Long Island, New York. I played soccer for 16 years, until I got into college, and then chose to focus on my education and career.



ADRIAN ASTUDILLO (COACH)

My name is Adrian Astudillo. I am 20 years old and I will be attending Baruch College this coming fall, as a business major. I have played soccer since I was 5 years old and I have been coaching for 3 years now. My dream for the future is to open my own business, and take care of my family and my community.



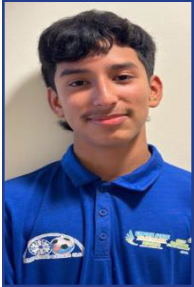
JEFFERSON MEJICANOS (COACH)

My name is Jefferson Mejicanos. I am 19 years old. I graduated from Hempstead High School last year, and I have lived in Hempstead my whole life. I currently enrolled in Queens College and am majoring in business management. I have played soccer in numerous club academies. I continue to enjoy the sport of soccer, each day.



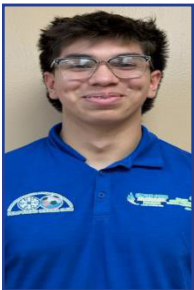
EVAN WILSON (JR. COUNSELOR)

My name is Evan Wilson. I am 16 years old, and currently go to West Hempstead High School. I am going into the 11th Grade. I love playing basketball, and my goal is to become a sports agent.



MATTHEW FLORES (JR. COUNSELOR)

My name is Matthew Flores. I attend Westbury High School, and I am going into 10th grade. This year, I aim to help change lives through soccer. I have been a soccer player with Hempstead EOC, since I was 6 years old. My interests are robotics, working with coding, designing, math, and soccer. In school, my main favorite subjects are math, U.S. history, and science. I want to pass my classes, in order to pursue a higher education.



JOSHUA ORELLANA (ASSISTANT COACH)

My name is Joshua. I am 17, and I go to Saint Anthony's High School. I played soccer there for two years and I am also involved in many more sports, and like playing rugby, and joining clubs. I've played soccer since I was a little kid. I just finished my junior year of high school and I am going into my senior year. I hope to get into a good college and pursue a business career, in the marketing field.



MATTHEW ORELLANA (JR. COUNSELOR)

My name is Matthew Orellana, and I am 14 years old. I am entering my freshman year of high school at Saint Anthony's High School. I currently play soccer with Uniondale NYSLA. I started playing soccer at a young age, and this is my first time working for Hempstead EOC, after formally being a participant.



KIARA MERCADO (ASSISTANT COACH)

My name is Kiara Mercado. I am 16 years old, and I attend Hempstead High School. A goal of mine is to own a business. It was a pleasure working with the counselors and participants this year.



JUSTIN LOPEZ (JR. COUNSELOR)

My name is Justin Lopez and I am 15 years old. I currently attend Evergreen Charter School. I am a soccer player for the Hempstead EOC Titans. My goal in life is to become a professional soccer player, or become a soldier for the U.S. Army.



MEARAH GRAY (ASSISTANT COACH)

My name is Mearah Gray. I am 17 years old and I attend Uniondale High School. Some things I like to do in my free time are, spending time with my friends/family and going to the beach to watch sunrises and sunsets. After high school, I plan to attend either Delaware State University, or Winston Salem, for physical therapy, and go to school to become an ultrasound technician.



CARL CANTAVE (JR. COUNSELOR)

My name is Carl Cantave. I am 15 years old and go to Baldwin High School. I have played football at Baldwin H.S. for 2 years. I just finished my sophomore year, and I'm currently going into my junior year. My goal in the future is to be in the engineering field



KYLE NOBLE (JR. COUNSELOR)

My name is Kyle Noble and I go to school at Westbury High School. I am 15 years old, and this was my first time working at this camp. I had a great time with the participants and I made sure to do my duty. I was happy to make the participants run the 400m, and my goal is to become number one in the state! My main sport is track and field.



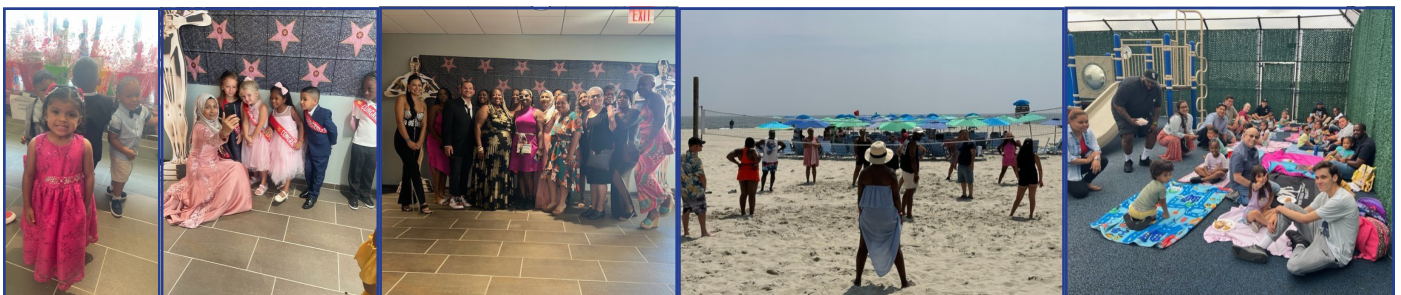
Long Beach Head Start

During the month of June 2023, the Long Beach Head Start program focused on preparing children for transitions to public school kindergarten classes. In addition, returning children were orientated to their new classroom environments, for the upcoming 2023-2024 program year. In partnership with the Long Beach Public Library, Long Beach Head Start students ventured to the library for story time and activities geared towards school readiness. Parents were encouraged to continue to visit the library and obtain library cards. All past dues fees (if applicable) owed to the Long Beach Public Library were expunged, and families had an opportunity to re-activate accounts and check out books without charge.

June activities also included Long Beach Head Start celebrating Flag Day. Students created flags that represented their cultural backgrounds. Long Beach Head Start also celebrated Father's Day in June, with a Father's Day luncheon theme of "Diner Date with Dad". All male role models in the child's life were welcomed to come. Parents and children enjoy diner style food, such as hamburgers/cheeseburgers, French fries, tator tots, salads, and ice cream sundaes for dessert. Parents participated in a miniature golf tournament that was set-up on the rooftop playground.

During the month of July 2023, classroom staff continued to meet educational needs of children as they implemented weekly lesson plans that followed the theme of gardening, and end of the year activities. End of the year celebrations included exclusive classroom parties, as well as an end of the year prom. Long Beach Head Start continuously rehearsed for our Moving-Up Ceremony, which was held on July 31, 2023. The theme for the Moving-Up Ceremony was Hollywood-Red Carpet. There were a total of (25) twenty-five of out of (67) sixty-seven children that transitioned into (3) three of our partnering public school districts, to attend kindergarten. The school districts included Long Beach, Island Park, and Oceanside. The remaining children will return to the Long Beach Head Start program, for the 2023-2024 program year.

Within the first (2) two-weeks of August 2023, Long Beach Head Start staff began setting up classrooms, education folders, social/health folders, and conducting home visits for new and returning children. From August 14th,-August 18th, 2023-staff attended the Head Start Training Institute, for pre-service training purposes. Staff also enjoyed an agency mental wellness day, that was hosted at The Shores Beach Club, in Atlantic Beach, NY. For the remainder of August 2023, staff utilized vacation and personal days to reset, and gear up for the upcoming 2023-2024 program year, at which Long Beach Head Start is looking to welcome approximately 40 new families to our Head Start Program.



Hempstead Head Start



In the month of July 2023, Hempstead Head Start maintained funded enrollment of 91 children. The children and staff participated in various educational, physical, social, and emotional activities. Parents were also engaged in school events, such as parent meeting, water day, moving up ceremony, field trip to Chuck E Cheese, tie dye day, face painting, and multicultural BBQ. The staff and children also participated in monthly fire and bus drills. In addition, families received food donations from the Island Harvest Youth Program. Fifty-four children moved on to kindergarten, while thirty-seven is looking to return. Although the program year was an exciting program year, there were facility concerns that needed addressing, such as the ceiling tile in classrooms 1 and 3. It leaks, due to heavy rain and/or snow. The FSW office's light fixture needs repair, the classrooms need to be repainted, due to chipped paint throughout classrooms. The front door needs to be replaced, repainting of building classrooms, hallway, kitchen, supervisor's office and annex building. There were also issues with the ceiling tiles, water rust from kitchen sink, and bathroom sink. The light fixture in the main building lobby needs to be replaced. Floors in both the annex and main building need to be stripped and waxed. The fence on the handball court has a hole and needs to be repaired. There are floor tiles throughout that are damaged and needs to be replaced in the annex, and kitchen.

August 2023

In the month of August 2023, Hempstead Head Start was closed to children. Staff closed out classrooms and students' files. Staff and program director attended Pre-service training, on August 7-11, 2023. Staff and program director were on vacation, from August 21-September 1, 2023. Program director conducted a parent meeting, education meeting, parent election, and nutrition committee meeting, in the month of September 2023. Moreover, the following positions became vacant-teacher assistance (full time), teacher (full time) and food service assistant manager (full time).





Freeport Head Start

JULY: On July 5th-15th, 2023 - Second Parent Teacher Conferences were conducted by all teaching staff! Freeport Head Start attended a trip to United Skates, & STEM end of the year trip was on July 11th, 2023. We had nine (9) parent chaperones. Program director and 2 parent representatives attended the Policy Council Recognition dinner, at 6 pm at Jonathan's. Final bus drills and fire drills were conducted for the school year. The CACFP review visit was conducted on July 13th, 2023. Freeport Head Start conducted a shelter in place drill, on July 21st, 2023, at 10:00 am-10:30 am. Thirty-eight (38) children were in attendance and twelve (12) staff. We had our first annual Pre-k Prom; it was an Under the Sea theme! On July 27th, 2023- Parent/ Child Award/Pizza Day - was conducted; there were fifteen (15) parents in attendance. All parents received Moving up Ceremony information, and a kindergarten readiness summer packet information. All families enjoyed pizza on the playground, with music. On July 28th, 2023- Birthday Celebrations/Movie Day/Pajama Day was celebrated, for all July birthdays. On July 31st, 2023- Moving UP Ceremony took place at Freeport, 9:00am-12pm. It was a joyous occasion; the children and staff did an amazing job! Great job everyone! There were (70) seventy adults in attendance, at the Moving up Ceremony!

AUGUST: On August 1st-August 4, 2023- Freeport Head Start staff cleaned and sanitized classrooms, for the upcoming program year. Staff started classroom arrangements and home visits, for all children. On August 3rd, 2023, the program director took staff out for a mental health outing, to Muse Paint Bar, in Garden City, NY! On August 7th-14th, 2023 - the Freeport staff engaged in various trainings, to support the various positions in Head Start. They worked collaboratively with the other Head Start programs, during trainings taught by Head Start corporate staff - Peer to Peer Training, CPR and MAT certification classes, and HR Policies and Procedures, to name a few. These courses helped the staff, to better prepare them for a dynamic 2023-2024 Program Year! On August 14th, 2023 - the Freeport Head Start enjoyed a day of mental health and relaxation at The Shores in Long Beach, for our first day of Pre-Service! On August 21st-Sept 1st, 2023 Head Start training/vacation week.

SEPTEMBER: September 6th, 2023- Parent Orientation was conducted, at 11:00am and 6:00pm, for a total of thirty-five (35) parents and family members, in attendance. September 8th, 11th, and 12th, 2023, Parent Orientation was conducted at various times, for seven (7) parents in total. September 12th, 2023- First Day of the Program Year-2022-2023! There were twenty-seven (27) children that entered the program today! September 13st, 2023- Parent Election Meeting, at 6:00pm!



Eastern Nassau Head Start Rockville Centre Head Start



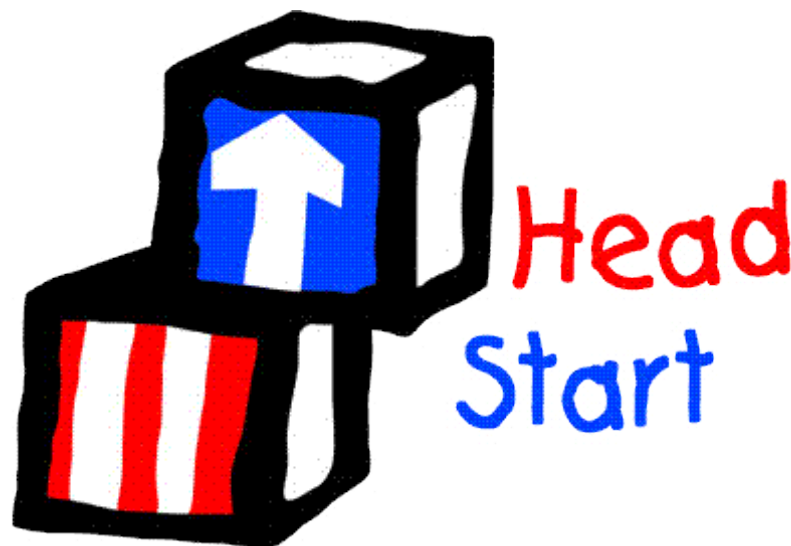
Eastern Nassau and Rockville Centre Head Start Programs ended service to children on July 31, 2023, with a Moving-Up Ceremony. The first four days in August, staff were engaged in breaking down their classroom, in preparation for cleaning. They were also occupied with closing children's files. Classroom staff was also involved in doing home visits for incoming students. Family service workers were busy doing intakes, making sure that returning children had all necessary paperwork, and closing files for children who were not returning. Program director ensured that each staff performed required duties. The director was also engaged in closing out the year. Food service managers ensured that the kitchen was properly cleaned, and storage closets were cleaned and organized.

The week of August 7th, was the beginning of Pre-Service training at Hofstra University. We were graced with the presence of Ms. Jennifer Sorby, STI/TA Early Childhood Specialist, and Mr. Michael Beard, President/CEO of Elevated Leadership, located in Gainesville, Florida. Ms. Sorby taught "Behavior Has Meaning". Behavior has a form and a function. The form could be crying, biting, or hitting. The possible function is that the child maybe tired, hungry, or even sleepy. She stated that children express their needs through their behavior. Babies cry when they need something. It is for adults to interpret what their needs are. Culture plays a part in children's behavior and a family's expectation. It is important for staff to understand the culture of the family, in order to be supportive to them. As adults, we have to help children regulate themselves.

Mr. Beard spoke about "Back to Basics, Back to Compliance". The week continued with additional training. The registered nurse went over the health care plan, with special emphasis on OCFS regulation, as it relates to accidents and injuries. Staff were engaged in other trainings, such as Health Care Plan, TSG Scoring, and Conscious Discipline.

On Thursday, August 10th, Wellness Day was held at The Shores at Atlantic Beach. Different activities were provided for staff engagement. It was a day full of fun and relaxation!

Staff returned to work on Sept 4th, to prepare classrooms to the receive children.





Five Towns Head Start

The summer is truly a busy and exciting time of year, at Five Towns Head Start. During the month of June, the teaching staff and children featured a gardening theme and planted vegetable and flower gardens, in our outdoor planters. The children were very excited to learn about gardening, and eagerly watched their efforts of providing soil, water, sunlight, and seeds turn into thriving plants.

The third week of June celebrated fathers. We enjoyed reading books, participating in classroom activities, and arts and crafts with fathers, uncles, and grandfathers visiting the program.

Our guest speaker for our June parent meeting was Ms. Terry Pena, from Operation HOPE, with 21 parents in attendance. Five Towns Head Start also took a trip during the month of June, to the Tanglewood Preserve in Rockville Center, New York.

During the month of July, the children enjoyed sprinkler days, to cool off during the warm weather. On July 26th, our children and families enjoyed a family fun day event, to celebrate the end of the program year. The theme for the month of July was, “Transitioning to Kindergarten”. The teachers discussed how preschool and kindergarten are different, and worked on strategies to help children adjust to the transition. FTHS staff worked with families to prepare them for registration, as well as focusing on enrolling new families for the 2023-2024 Program Year.

During July, we bid farewell to our Executive Director, Mr. K Brent Hill, and wished him well in his future endeavors.

On July 28th, we held our Moving Up Ceremony, in the FTCC gym, with 60 parents in attendance.

Our Pre-Service training began August 7th, at Hofstra University, and wrapped up on August 11th, at the Shores at Atlantic Beach West. The week was filled with ongoing professional development, as well as outreach and recruitment. August was filled with first home visits and classroom arrangements, to be prepared for the first day of the 2023-2024 Program Year, on September 12, 2023.



Roosevelt Head Start



General Activities / Classroom Theme: During the months of June and July, teaching staff and children planted a garden in their classrooms, consisting of flowers and vegetables. We created a class book of items that were the same, different, or similar, to understand the concept of transitioning to kindergarten and how things would be the same, different, or similar. In addition, we prepared for our Moving Up Ceremony.

The theme for the month of June & July, was **“Gardening & Getting Ready for Kindergarten.”** All domains were met, based on the foundation of approved lesson plans. The teachers developed lessons and activities, that correlated with each of these units and integrated the domains. The children demonstrated their understanding of the theme, during direct instructional time, small and large group activities, and individual correspondences with classroom teachers. The learning outcomes framework domains and goals were used to help children prepare for transitioning to kindergarten. The children prepared for the transition, by conversing about it at school. Family service workers & teaching staff worked with families, during the process of school readiness, and made sure that parents had what they needed, for registration. Also, we focused on enrolling new families, and getting geared up for the new program year 2023-2024. On July 31st, 2023, our Moving up Ceremony was held at the Roosevelt Middle School Auditorium, from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Families came out and celebrated Head Start staff & children. They congratulated all the children, and said their goodbyes to those moving on to kindergarten. Following the ceremony, the children received gifts from the teachers. There were three hundred and thirty-five (335) families in attendance.

On August 7th, 2023, we began our Pre-Service “kick off” at Hofstra University, and completed the week on August 11th, 2023, with a MENTAL WELLNESS DAY training at the Shores, Atlantic Beach.

In August and September 2023, staff arranged their classrooms, in preparation for children. Intakes, home visits, pre-service, vacation, parent orientations, elections, and outreach and recruitment were conducted. The goal for September is to complete all screenings and assessments, within the 45-day benchmark, as well as establishing a classroom routine. Our overall goal is to meet our 45-day compliance. We are looking forward to our first mental health observation, to get an understanding through another’s eyes of our teaching environment, and new children adjusting to the program. We look forward to beginning the year on Monday, September 12th, 2023.

We began the year on Monday, September 12th, 2023, with the theme “Beginning the Year”. All developmental screenings and assessments will be completed within the 45-day benchmark, as well as establishing a classroom routine.





Westbury Head Start

Westbury Head Start's summer began with the children attending a trip to LEGOLAND. Our children were able to listen, learn, and laugh, while focusing on building their ideas.

All returning students and new students for UPK program met at Westbury Head Start, to register at the school district for the UPK program. All classrooms had an end of the year celebration. July ended with the Moving-Up, and a family and friends BBQ event. All staff attended the Westbury community Black Out, where we recruited children and new staff.

Moving- Up 2023

August started with teachers dismantling the classroom, in preparation for the next school year. Teachers continued to complete children's files and started home visits. The family service worker and program director did intakes, closed out ChildPlus, and removed last year's files. The program director ensured that we had our funded enrollment, and created a new roster for classrooms. All staff attended the Westbury community Black-Out, where we used the time for outreach and recruitment of new children and new staff. From August 14th, through August 18th, 2023, staff attended the Head Start Training Institute, for pre-service training purposes. Everyone enjoyed the staff mental day, that was held at "The Shores Beach Club" in Atlantic Beach, NY. Orientation on August 19th was very successful; more than half of our parents came out. Westbury's staff ended the month with a well-needed vacation, and came back refreshed to work.



Professional Development Training



In preparation for PY 2023-2024, the Head Start Network staff participated in pre-service professional development training, during the week of August 7th, 2023 to Monday August 14, 2023. The theme was Back to Basics, Back to Compliance. Trainings were tailored, based on monitoring during the program year and on the needs of staff.

The Pre-service Opening Day was held on August 7th, 2023, at Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York. Michael Beard, President/CEO of Elevate Leadership, Florida, presented the keynote address to the Head Start Network. Mr. Beard's presentation centered on going back to basics, moving beyond the mission of the organization and focusing on your own purpose, and intention in serving children and families. He highlighted the core values YOU bring to the job, to support and enhance the Head Start Network. The core values discussed were Compassion – building meaningfully relationships through service, understanding and empowerment, Teamwork - striving together is the beginning... and achieving together is success, Growth Mindset – pursuing a forward-thinking approach to foster development of lifelong learners, and Excellence – delivering what we promise and exceeding expectations. Staff were also reminded of the difference between management and leadership. Management asked the question, “what are we doing and how are we doing it?” while leadership questions, “where are you taking me and why are we going there?”

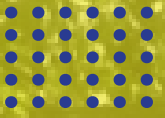
To equip classroom staff with the tools necessary for a successful school year, Jennifer Sorby, Early Childhood Specialist, from the Office of Head Start-Region II Training and Technical Assistance Center, delivered a presentation on “Behavior has Meaning”. Her presentation focused on understanding challenging behaviors in children and taking a deeper dive into what is behind the behavior. Staff were provided with practical strategies to build their “toolkit”, to address the behavior, support children’s emotional well-being, and ultimately enhance classroom management.

A total of seventeen (17) thematic trainings were conducted during the week. Topics included Lesson Planning, My Teaching Strategies Observations, Conducting Home Visits, Parent Teacher Conferences, ChildPlus Database, Conscious Discipline Curriculum, Active Supervision, Health Care Plan, Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS), The Family Partners Boot Camp, Medication Administration Training (MAT), and CPR/First Aid Certification and Recertification trainings. Ten (10) of these trainings were peer-to-peer, which were conducted by Head Start staff. This peer-to-peer strategy was an intentional, strength-based approach implemented to empower staff.

Food service staff participated in a webinar on “Food Production Record”, and also had the opportunity to engage in a hands-on, creative cooking activity with their peers.

To support staff’s mental health and overall well-being, a training was conducted by a team of mental health experts on “Finding Balance”, which provided staff with practical coping strategies, to promote emotional wellness in their daily lives and a healthier workplace environment. In addition, staff were treated to a mindful scenic and relaxing experience, at the Shores at Atlantic Beach, for the day. The day consisted of various mental wellness activities, lunch, and connecting with peers.





2023 Summer Youth Program Report



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