

Harlem Children's Zone FY 2010 Accomplishments



RESULTS CONTINUE TO DEMONSTRATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR MODEL

HCZ served over 20,000 children and families in 97 blocks of Central Harlem, providing residents with comprehensive, high-quality programs and services. We are at a tipping point, having implemented programs on a scale never seen before, serving more than 80% of the children who live in the Zone with documented success.

It is clearer now than ever before that the HCZ Project is a model that works, providing long-lasting solutions and effective strategies to tackle the effects of poverty and failing educational systems across the country and around the globe.

HCZ PROJECT CONTINUES TO INSPIRE OTHER COMMUNITIES

- **U.S. Department of Education *Promise Neighborhoods*:** This September, 21 organizations across the country were selected for Phase I *Promise Neighborhood* planning grants. The federal *Promise Neighborhoods* program is modeled after HCZ's "cradle through college" approach and emphasis on accountability.
- **U.S. Department of Housing *Choice Neighborhoods*:** HCZ is being used as the model for another government initiative, the U.S. Department of Housing and Development's *Choice Neighborhoods* program, intended to transform poor communities with high concentrations of public housing.
- **Changing the Odds Conference:** HCZ and PolicyLink hosted a two-day national conference, *Changing the Odds: Learning from the Harlem Children's Zone Model*, in November 2009 to share our model on a larger scale. Over 1,400 practitioners that are implementing or planning to implement a comprehensive, community-based program attended the event.

BUILDING A STRONGER FOUNDATION IN OUR EARLY CHILDHOOD PIPELINE

- **Additional Programs to Support Families with Young Children:** HCZ received a prestigious Early Head Start award, extending programming to 110 families of children 0-3 years old with intensive home visits and group sessions that build parents' skills to create a literacy rich environment for their children, improve and increase parent to child interactions, and maximize language development.
- **Increased Enrollment:** HCZ opened 2 new classrooms for an additional 40 Harlem Gems Pre-K students. We now serve 240 three and four-year olds with year-round classes from 8 AM- 5:45 PM daily.
- **Ready for Kindergarten:** Notably, 99% of our four-year old students in our Pre-K programs tested "school ready" for kindergarten at the end of the year on the Bracken Basic Concept Scale Revised.

CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

- Promise Academy II is the highest performing school in Community District 5 in every grade in both math and ELA; 81% of our Promise Academy II students were on or above grade level in Math and 62% in ELA.
- Our Promise Academy I students performed on par with the other charter schools around the state. In Math, PAI outperformed Community District 5 schools and New York City as a whole in every grade.
- Promise Academy I high school students excelled on Regents exams in math (97% passed), science (86% passed), and global history (94% passed), outperforming black and white students across New York State overall.

EXPANDING ACADEMIC CASE MANAGEMENT TO 1,400 STUDENTS

- HCZ is providing uniform college readiness programs for nearly 1,900 students using our innovative Academic Case Management approach. Over 200 full-time staff members dedicated to students' achievement interface with public school teachers and counselors, provide one-on-one tutoring, prepare youth for college entrance exams, and much more to ensure they finish high school and remain on track for college.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY TO COLLEGE

- This fall, 175 HCZ students entered college as freshmen. Impressively, our students earned nearly \$6.4 million in college scholarships.



Geoffrey Canada chats with Promise Academy students.

HELPING OUR STUDENTS STAY IN COLLEGE

- **CSO Works with Largest Group of Current College Students:** With 626 HCZ youth in 160 colleges across the U.S., our 29 College Success Office staff help students navigate through college, ensuring they receive all the supports needed to thrive. Last year, staff made personal visits to eight campuses to help students with difficult academic and personal issues.
- **CSO Summer Institute:** CSO offered college transition and preparation workshops designed specifically for our youth entering college, many of whom are often the first in their family to attend. The workshops helped students improve writing and research skills, study habits, public speaking, and much more.
- **HCZ College Students Prepare for Academic Year and Participate in Internships:** This summer, HCZ placed 138 students in paid internships; 96 students worked at companies and organizations throughout New York City; and 42 students worked within HCZ. An additional 76 students who needed further academic support participated in an intensive, 9-week academic workshop.

EXCELLING IN SPORTS AND THE ARTS

- **Karate Mavens:** TRUCE Fitness participants attended four martial arts competitions, winning 149 trophies, including seventy-one 1st Place, forty-one 2nd Place, and thirty-seven 3rd Place awards.
- **Basketball Champs:** The boys' basketball team, the Panthers, had an undefeated season winning both the junior varsity and varsity championships. The Promise Academy girls' basketball team, the Lady Panthers, won the junior varsity championship in their division.
- **Girls Track and Field Team Win Major Competition:** HCZ Community Center's "Girls 12 & Under" track relay team came in first place at the New Balance Games and second place in the 4x200 meter relay at the Millrose Games held at Madison Square Garden.
- **Junior Olympic Games:** Two Promise Academy 5th Graders competed in the USA Track and Field Junior Olympics in the 100 meter and 200 meter dash.

- **Youth Filmmakers Recognized for Work:** TRUCE won a regional award (out of 9,000 entries) and a national award (out of 225,000 entries) in Scholastic Arts & Writing for the student-produced video entitled “Incarcerated Parents: Breaking the Cycle.”

KEEPING OUR YOUTH HEALTHY AND FIT

- **Annual Wellness Challenge:** 314 youth across all of HCZ’s middle and high school sites competed in the 2nd Annual Wellness Challenge, a pilot weight loss competition. 181 participants were overweight and many were in the high-normal classification, at high risk of becoming overweight. 46% of target participants lost or maintained weight over 8 months. Collectively, 88 youth in the competition lost an impressive 440 pounds.
- **HCZ Summer Games:** 2,500 youth, ages 4 to 18, competed in the annual HCZ Summer Games. They participated in track and field events at the New Balance Track and Field Center.
- **Promise Academy Healthcare Services:** HCZ provides free medical and dental healthcare to nearly 1,400 students in our Promise Academy Charter Schools through a partnership with the Children’s Health Fund. They also conduct vision and hearing screenings.



Youth compete in 2010 HCZ Summer Games.

ASSESSING THE FINANCIAL STABILITY OF THE COMMUNITY

- **Impact of Economic Downturn:** HCZ created and administered an Economic Stability Survey to HCZ participants during the summer of 2009 to understand how the economic downturn has affected our families. Of the respondents, 52% had a household income of \$24,800 or lower; 95.2% receive food assistance; 41% were employed full-time; and, 30% had lost their job within the past year.
- We continue to connect families with critical services while we are developing new strategies to assist families with emerging needs.

KEEPING THE LOCAL ECONOMY VIBRANT

- HCZ is irrevocably entrenched in Central Harlem. We are a major economic engine in the community, utilizing the services of local businesses to keep them vibrant.
- We employ over 2,000 people; approximately 50% live in Harlem.
- Staff helped 4,991 participants prepare tax returns bringing \$8.4 million back to the community.

PROMOTING PEACE IN CENTRAL HARLEM

- **HCZ Rallies for Peace:** Over 4,000 members of the HCZ community marched through Central Harlem on August 11th to call for peace during the 16th annual HCZ Peace March.
- **Ensuring the Safety of Our Youth:** The Safety Knights program continued this year using staff from each site to help students transition safely between programs. We are in the process of developing the “Safety Corridors” initiative that will map out safe routes for students to travel to and from program sites.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

- **HCZ Featured in American Express Commercials:** American Express is featuring HCZ in a sustained national ad campaign. Geoffrey Canada explains HCZ’s “block-by-block” growth and strategic goals.
- **Anderson Cooper Revisits Our Work:** “60 Minutes” did a follow-up segment about HCZ with Anderson Cooper. The segment focused on the HCZ Promise Academy Charter School. Cooper spoke with Dr. Roland Fryer of Harvard, who studied the school and who declared the results “absolutely incredible.”



Geoffrey Canada with Anderson Cooper.

- **Thomas Friedman Recognizes HCZ:** In his *New York Times* op-ed entitled "Steal This Movie," Thomas Friedman promotes public education reform, citing HCZ and the documentary "Waiting for Superman" as part of the growing call for innovation in our public school systems.
- **Geoffrey Canada a Leading Voice in Education Reform Debate:** The controversy over "Waiting for 'Superman'" has sparked heated debate about the state of public education. Canada is in the forefront, advocating for reform via television, radio, and newspaper editorials.

WHAT'S NEW FOR THE COMING YEAR (FY 2011)

- **New Promise Academy School Building:** We are making progress toward breaking ground on our new Promise Academy K-12 school, which will ultimately serve nearly 1,200 students. Located in the Saint Nicholas Houses in Harlem, this new facility will also be a community center, offering wrap-around services benefiting the entire community. The community will gain employment opportunities, access to technology, and guaranteed entry into a high-achieving school.
- **New Harlem Armory:** HCZ recently took over the management of the Harlem Armory, a 50,000 square foot sports facility, which we are transforming into a premier, state-of-the-art community health, fitness, and performing arts facility. With a dearth of recreational facilities in Central Harlem, the Armory will act as a community center, providing an essential resource to maintain physical activity, promote wellness for hundreds of youth per day.
- **Advising Organizations Across the Country:** In collaboration with PolicyLink's Promise Neighborhoods Institute and the Center for the Study of Social Policy, HCZ will begin providing technical assistance and advisement for Promise Neighborhood planning grantees across the country. To launch this new initiative, we are co-hosting a grantee conference in Washington, DC in November and a leadership conference, sponsored by Goldman Sachs Gives, in January.
- **Path to Sustainability:** The HCZ Project has moved from experiment to success; the final challenge is sustainability. Our intention is to fulfill the promise we make every year to the children who are now entering our pipeline at birth—that we will be with them when they graduate in 2028, as well as the next class and the next class. HCZ is building an endowment that will reliably generate income for its annual budgetary needs starting in 2015. These funds, coupled with ongoing contributions, will ensure HCZ is a self-sustaining community resource for decades to come.

PROGRESS IN THE MAKING: TRANSFORMING THE COMMUNITY THROUGH ITS CHILDREN

Our vision for the children of Central Harlem is best expressed by HCZ CEO Geoffrey Canada: "We see a new generation of successful adults coming back to Harlem to not only bring economic prosperity back to their neighborhood, but also to be the parents of and role models for the next generation of youth growing up here."

