

The Children's Zone®—One Family, 25,000-Strong

As we reflect on the achievements of our 12,509 children this past year, we feel honored to have worked with 12,498 parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends, and neighbors, all of whom hold a special place in the Harlem Children's Zone® family. Parents are a child's first teacher and our most important partners in ensuring that our kids and community thrive for generations to come.

One Parent's Story, One Family's Success

A lifelong resident of Central Harlem, Janine has five kids, ages 18 to 30. In 2016, the youngest, Errol, who has been with HCZ® since Baby College, graduated from high school, won a competitive, internal Geoffrey Canada College Scholarship, and started at SUNY Buffalo. When he finishes, all five children will have earned bachelor's degrees.

Not having gone to college herself, Janine knew she wanted her kids to go. Though she jokes that she “used to pray that they wouldn't ask me any questions” while doing homework, Janine always played a strong role in their education—checking assignments, making sure their schools were the right fit, and partnering with HCZ to help each one get to and through college.

She first crossed HCZ's path when her oldest daughter, Zakiyyah, had issues in elementary school at PS 149 where we ran a truancy prevention center. Our committed staff connected with Janine, helped Zakiyyah stay on track, and have remained a supportive presence ever since. Zakiyyah and her four younger siblings—Eureka, Jessica, Jenera, and Errol—all attended our TRUCE® afterschool programs in middle and high school. Though college had always been the goal for Janine's kids, TRUCE helped to bring it within reach by giving them opportunities to expand their horizons and “find themselves as individuals.” They took SAT prep, served on the Teen Advisory Board, nurtured their talents with high-quality enrichment activities,



98% of Promise Academy I High-School Seniors Graduated On Time and Were Accepted to College



Pre-K Scholars Huddle Close to CEO Anne Williams-Isom on “Read with Me Wednesday”

and gained exposure to new perspectives. With HCZ's support, they became globally minded critical thinkers, leaders in the community, and strong competitors when it came time to apply to college. TRUCE helped coach them—and Janine—through the college and financial aid application process, and, when her kids were accepted, connected them with our College Success Office to support them on their college journeys.

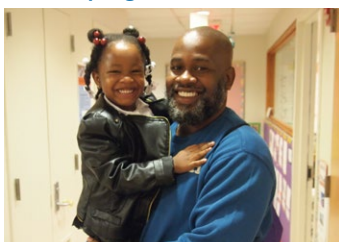
Today, Zakiyyah, Eureka, and Jenera have all graduated from college and are living in Harlem and working. Jenera is finishing up her degree at Hunter College and Errol is adjusting to campus life upstate with the guidance of his HCZ advisor. Janine has been deeply engaged every step of the way—discussing her kids' progress with HCZ staff, cheering them on at performances, and expanding her own horizons. Though reticent when her kids wanted to go to college outside New York City, today she marvels at the thriving adults they have become and their fulfillment of the potential that she—and we—always knew they had.

What Do HCZ DADS Do? EVERYTHING.

From sharing in the
early learning process...



To taking their kids to school
and helping with homework...



To spending fun quality
time with their families...



To celebrating major
milestones like graduations...



**HCZ fathers play meaningful
roles in every stage of their
children's academic and per-
sonal development and are
crucial partners in our work
to build community.**

Partnering with Parents Is in Our DNA

When HCZ started as Rheedlen Centers for Children and Families in 1970, we were New York City's first truancy prevention program, visiting homes to connect with parents, understand their unique needs, and develop strategies as a team to support not only their kids' academic success but also the health and well-being of the entire family. As we developed into HCZ, and now that our birth-through-college pipeline of best-practice programs has grown to scale, we are making an especially concerted effort to deepen and strengthen our partnerships with parents by building on lessons learned, particularly from our early childhood programs, where door-to-door outreach and face-to-face engagement have long been key to our success. Our work is always centered on the student, but it begins with the family.



Harlem Gems Celebrate Achieving 100% School-Readiness and "Moving Up" to Kindergarten with a Sock Hop

Early Childhood Education: Beginning at Birth for a Lifetime of Success

In 2016, 325 caregivers—including 82 fathers—graduated from The Baby College®, a 9-week series of workshops for new and expectant parents on early brain development, health and nutrition, safety and discipline, stress management, and the importance of talking and reading to their babies. After graduation, we make an extra effort to provide ongoing support to new dads and have been building a strong base of male community leaders through a weekly Father's Council.

Engaging families and equipping parents with the tools and expertise to take care of themselves and their children are central elements of all of our early childhood programs—The Baby College, Early Head Start/The Baby College GRADS, Three-Year-Old Journey, and our four Harlem Gems® pre-kindergarten sites. Parents at Head Start Gems spent time in the classroom on "Mommy Mondays" and "Father Fridays"; Uptown Gems introduced a new "Helping Hands" workshop for grandparents; and parents at Singleton Gems helped their young scholars develop and test hypotheses for the site's annual science fair. This year, 100% of our 207 Gems were assessed to be school-ready or better.



5,724 parents and caregivers
have graduated from The Baby
College since 2000



HCZ's Family Support Center has
helped **1,204** families stay stable
and avoid foster care since 2010



Since 2002, **2,132** pre-kindergarten
students have participated in
Harlem Gems

K–12: Building Confidence, Character, and College Readiness

In 2016, we worked with 10,147 K-12 students, including 2,120 students at our two Promise Academy Charter Schools and 8,027 students in traditional New York City public schools through our in-school and afterschool programs. Of those, 2,904 were students in our Peacemakers program, which provides all-day classroom support at the seven traditional public elementary schools in the Zone.

The goal of all our K-12 programming is to get our students—and their parents—college-ready. We provide outstanding education and comprehensive academic supports, including individualized case management, test prep, tutoring, writing instruction, and assistance with the college application and selection process. All of our sites hold monthly parent meetings on topics ranging from the new, more rigorous Common Core standards to health concerns such as asthma. When a student is struggling academically or emotionally, the first thing we do is connect with parents to assess the issue, set clear goals, and strategize a solution. We also conduct parent workshops to help them navigate the transitions to middle school, high school, and college. Indeed, this year, our College Prep Team met with parents at our high-school sites one-on-one to help explain their children's college financial aid packages and discuss their options.

We also provide countless opportunities for parents to spend meaningful time with their kids, as well as enjoy some much-needed “me” time. Dads and daughters beamed at the PS 76 father-daughter dance, and moms at PS 242 loved unwinding with a Friday painting class while HCZ provided childcare. Hundreds of local families flocked to the annual “Proud Poppas” carnival at our Countee Cullen Community Center, and the competition was fierce at a parent-child cook-off at our Learn to Earn afterschool program.

While academics are essential, they are ultimately just one piece of the college readiness puzzle. To keep our kids engaged, expose them to new interests and career paths, strengthen their cultural literacy, and help them build the grit, motivation, confidence, and competitive edge they need to succeed in and beyond college, we offer an expansive range of high-quality enrichment and athletic activities.

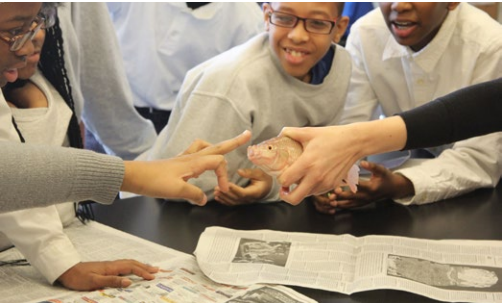
Programs for Every Student’s Passion, Passions to Make Every Parent Proud

Chess	Coding	Karate	Gymnastics
Dance	Jazz Band	Robotics	Creative Writing
Filmmaking	Yoga	Gardening	Cooking
Tennis	Soccer	Lacrosse	Track and Field
Golf	Swimming	Choir	Volunteering
Orchestra	Theater	Fashion Design	Basketball

Personal and Social Development at Scale

HCZ continues to deepen our work to help kids build strong character. In the past two years, we instituted an organization-wide Personal and Social Development initiative. By strategically infusing character education into the culture and curriculum of all of our programs, we foster crucial skills and traits in four key areas:

LOVE OF LEARNING



Scientists Learn about Tilapia from the Tank to the Dissection Table

PERSEVERANCE



4,000 Students Compete on the Track at HCZ Summer Games

SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE



Musicians Encourage a Shy Peer before Performing an Original Composition

JUSTICE



Dancers Strike a Pose of Solidarity at a High-School Showcase

From College Success to Career Competitiveness

In 2016, HCZ celebrated the graduation of at least 114 students from college, including 80 from 4-year schools and 34 from 2-year schools. Our College Success Office (CSO) worked with 913 students in 207 colleges and universities across the country, providing individualized academic advising, social services, financial guidance, emergency support, health and wellness activities, and a variety of career readiness workshops and professional opportunities. We helped 201 HCZ college students obtain paid internships at 57 organizations. In addition, the CSO Team conducted a series of workshops for parents of HCZ high-school and college students to help them navigate the financial aid process, introduce new CSO parents to their children's HCZ advisors, familiarize them with the challenges of college life, and help them develop strategies for supporting their kids while also fostering their independence. CSO also held its first College Fair for HCZ high-school students with representatives from 33 colleges nationwide.



An HCZ College Student Networks with Young Professionals at Our Annual "Mocktails"

In June, we celebrated the graduation of our third-ever Promise Academy High School class and, across our high-school programs, 96% of seniors were accepted to college. To help their younger peers prepare to follow their lead, we sent 196 high-school students to college-preparatory summer exposure programs at prestigious schools such as Columbia, Cornell, Stanford, Syracuse, NYU, UCLA, and Carleton College.

College Success by the Numbers in 2016:

114

Students Earned
a College Degree

96%

of High-School
Seniors Were
Accepted to College

913

Students in College

\$14 Million

in Scholarships Earned
by College-Bound HCZ
High-School Grads

201

College Students Interned
at 57 Organizations

196

High-School Students
Participated in Pre-College
Summer Programs
on College Campuses

96%

of High-School
Seniors Went on
a College Visit

Helping Students Find Their Voice

In 2016, Janine's son Errol (see page 1) won a prize in the poetry contest at our TRUCE Media and Arts afterschool program for his poem, "Graduated Understanding of Learning"—a powerful example of the confidence, creativity, and commitment we seek to inspire in all our kids.

*Cause when you invest in
learning ya growth can be
exponential*

*Don't matter what field it's in as
long ya budding potential*

*Follow what ya love to find a job
that's meant for you*

*Be diligent in whatever ya do,
makin' sure that it gives ya
joy too*

—Errol

HCZ College Freshman
at SUNY Buffalo

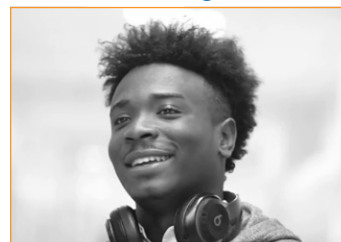
Promise Students Pay Tribute to

MOMS

Students in the Panther Media club at Promise Academy I High School made a special Mother's Day video in which they asked their peers to finish the sentence, "I love my mom because..."

THEIR ANSWERS?

**She wants me to be nothing
less than great.**



**She teaches me what's
right and wrong.**



**If I want something, she
makes me work for it.**



**Even when I'm down,
she's always there to pick
me right back up.**



To watch the video, visit HCZ's
YouTube page: www.youtube.com/HarlemChildrensZone

Healthy Harlem

In 2016, our innovative Healthy Harlem initiative continued to serve the HCZ community at scale, engaging 9,229 children of all ages in regular physical activity and health and nutrition education. In addition, 3,185 adults participated in fitness and cooking classes, support groups, and our monthly farmers markets in the courtyard of the St. Nicholas Houses.



An HCZ Afterschool Student at PS 242 Helps in the Garden

Healthy Harlem is strategically designed to make nutrition and physical fitness a fun family affair by giving parents the tools to establish inexpensive, easy-to-maintain healthy habits at home, offering appealing classes such as Zumba and salsa, and providing childcare so they can carve out time to take care of themselves. To help give kids the strongest start possible, this year we expanded nutrition education for parents of newborns and infants in HCZ's Baby College. Healthy Harlem principles and activities were regularly promoted at parent meetings at our 18 K-12 afterschool sites. Staff offered healthy tastings to parents and families during student pick-up times along with recipes and helpful nutrition tips. And the HCZ Food Services Team kept kids well-nourished throughout the day, preparing a total of 1.45 million healthy breakfasts, lunches, and snacks, all low in fat, salt, and sugar and 96% from scratch.

Each week, 1,000+ youth took advantage of the range of activities offered at the Harlem Armory. The home of our HCZ teams and intramural leagues, the Armory offers tennis, gymnastics, soccer, golf, volleyball, lacrosse, basketball, baseball, and track and field to students across our sites. It also features a climbing wall, a batting cage, and free fitness and cooking classes for the entire community. HCZ's Summer Games marked the culmination of our Healthy Harlem activities throughout the year. This summer, 4,000 kids—from pre-K to college—pushed themselves and each other to perform at peak in our annual organization-wide track-and-field competition.

Supporting the
Community at Scale—
Every Day, in Every Way



3,027 HCZ children and adults participated in programs and events in the St. Nicholas Houses



HCZ's free Tax Preparation Program helped **2,986** residents earn **\$4.4 million** in tax refunds in 2016



2,615 turkeys were distributed at 35 HCZ sites to help our families celebrate Thanksgiving



940 children and families celebrated Halloween at the Geoffrey Canada Community Center "Boo Bash"

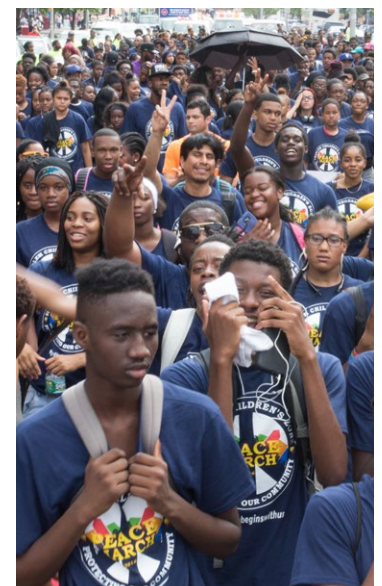


300 people picked up free fresh produce at monthly Healthy Harvests in the St. Nick Houses

Strengthening Families, Building Community

Parents are truly the link between the two cornerstones of our work at HCZ: education and community building. They were a powerful presence at our annual Children's March for Peace and have been absolutely central to our ongoing efforts in the St. Nicholas Houses, where we built our K-12 Promise Academy I school and community center—assuming leadership roles on our St. Nick Community Advisory Board, spearheading beautification projects, and providing invaluable feedback on how we can further support St. Nick children and families. This year, 1,617 St. Nick residents participated in programs across HCZ sites.

HCZ offers a host of services to support our parents and families on all fronts. With nearly 100 staff, the HCZ Social Services Team provides individualized case management and social-emotional supports for students and their families, conducts home visits, and facilitates references for more intensive physical and mental healthcare. We also conduct trainings to help staff handle crises in real time, host job fairs, provide free legal and financial counseling, and have four foster care prevention sites to help our most vulnerable families stay stable.



4,000 Members of the HCZ Community Come Together at our 22nd Annual Peace March

HCZ on the National Stage: Sharing What Works, Proving What Is Possible

2016 was filled with remarkable testaments to HCZ's national impact and enduring status as a model of what works. In April, we were extraordinarily honored to welcome First Lady Michelle Obama and 4,000+ New York City high-school students—including hundreds of HCZ students—to our very own Harlem Armory to celebrate National College Signing Day 2016. Part of the First Lady's Reach Higher initiative, the event was devoted to celebrating students going to college with the same excitement and admiration we



The Harlem Armory Hosts First Lady Michelle Obama and 4,000 NYC High-School Students on National College Signing Day

typically give to athletes and celebrities. While over 1,000 Signing Day Events were held in nearly all 50 states, the fact that Harlem was selected as the official host site underscores the strides made by our kids and community. Thirty, twenty, or even just ten years ago, the thought that Harlem might represent the dream of college for every child would have been inconceivable. But today we are helping to make that dream a reality for hundreds of young people each year.



Promise Academy II 4th grader Hawa's artwork is part of the U.S. State Department's permanent collection after winning finalist in the international Crayola® Art Expo

In December, then-U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan visited Promise Academy, where he met with CEO Anne Williams-Isom, President Geoffrey Canada, and members of the HCZ community to discuss Harlem's transformation. He also visited a college-level, credit-bearing class in our Bard Early College program, which served 127 students at our two Promise Academy High Schools this past year.

HCZ's Practitioners Institute hosted workshops for visitors from 28 U.S. communities and 17 international groups, sharing best practices and information about specific HCZ programs as well as our holistic, place-based approach. We also continued to work with the Promise Neighborhoods Institute to provide support and guidance to 70 communities committed to replicating our model, including the 48 communities in 24 states and Washington, DC, that have been awarded federal funding through President Obama's Promise Neighborhoods program.



U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan with CEO Anne Williams-Isom, President Geoffrey Canada, and Students in the Promise Academy I Bard Early College Program

The Year Ahead for the HCZ Family

HCZ did not become a national model for social change overnight. It has taken 17 years of constant evaluation and improvement, round-the-clock commitment from staff, and the unwavering partnership of loving, supportive parents like Janine. When HCZ began building our birth-through-college pipeline in 2000, Janine's oldest daughter was just joining TRUCE as a middle-schooler. Since then, she and her siblings have joined what were once the tens and have now become the many hundreds of college students we work with each year. In 2017, we look forward to continuing to give Errol, Jenera, and their 12,000 peers throughout the HCZ pipeline the academic, social-emotional, and family support they need, as Errol puts it, to be diligent in whatever they do, making sure that it gives them joy, too.



In 2016, HCZ Students Won:

130

Karate trophies, including 52 1st-place trophies

10

All-American titles in Track and Field

1st place

in the city-wide Chess Masters Tournament

1st place

in the Charter School Athletic Association Girls HS Varsity Volleyball Championship

To learn more about HCZ, visit our website at www.hcz.org