



Building our Future....One person at a Time

Newsletter



From Our President

Welcome to Succeed2gether's inaugural newsletter. As the breadth of our programs and staff grow, we have many exciting initiatives and activities to share with you. Our new Program Director, Barbara Kaplan and Program Administrator, Rabiye Hamade have made this edition possible. I hope you enjoy reading about the progress we have made and our plans for the months ahead.

With warm regards,
Marcia Marley,
President and Executive Director

From Our Director

Welcome to the first edition of Succeed2gether's quarterly newsletter!

The newsletter is our opportunity to share our activities, insights and plans with all of you. We hope you will enjoy reading it and that, as you learn more, you will be motivated to join us as a volunteer in our programs, to support us by donating to one or more of our initiatives, or to apply for one of our staff positions. We welcome your comments and thoughts about our organization.

Sincerely,
Barbara Kaplan
Program Director

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After-School Tutoring Program



"Hey, Ms. Barbara, I have a lot of homework today! Can you help me with my research project?" "Who can help me with "reflection and rotation?" "I'm finished with my homework; can I play a Math game with you?" These are the kinds of questions we hear in our After-School Tutoring Program now entering its 4th year of operation.

This year's After-School Tutoring Program got off to a lively start in September of 2011. Our program provides basic and enrichment tutoring services to low-income families from Montclair and the surrounding communities. The program is staffed entirely by our volunteer tutors who are successful current and retired professionals, teachers, college students, and honor-roll high school students. Training in best practices is provided to the tutors as well as up-to-date regarding academic techniques and materials. This year, we had 38 tutors working with 64 children in the Montclair Public Library which graciously offers us the their space on the Children's floor as our tutoring center. Most of our tutors will be returning next fall for their 4th year in the program; this continuity is an important contributing factor to our success.

At the beginning of our tutoring program, we test our students and use the results to provide targeted academic support. Similarly, we test at the end of the program to determine the progress that has been made during the year. This is our way of helping each child progress at his or her own pace. These results together with standardized test scores and report cards help us individualize instruction to allow each child to progress at his or her own pace and provide feedback to improve the program.

For those of you who are interested in volunteering as a Tutor or enrolling a student in our program, we welcome your participation. You do not have to be a teacher or have experience in education in order to be a fantastic Tutor. Please logon to our website, www.succeed2gether.org for more information about our tutoring program. We will be planning for the fall of 2012 in August. The administrative cost of the After-School Tutoring Program is funded entirely through grants and private donations. If you are interested in helping fund this important program, please visit our website and click on "donate" or "help a child succeed."

Summer Enrichment Program

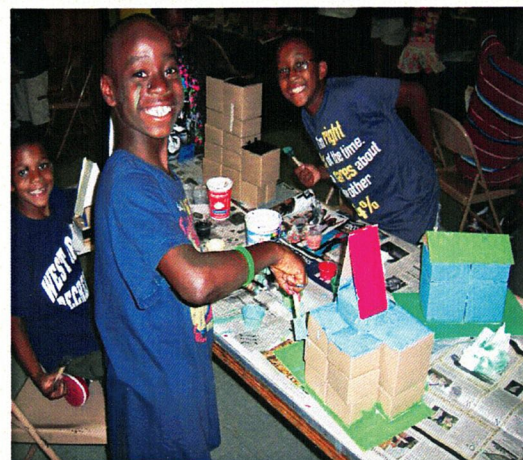
How about discussing the characters' motivation in a novel, or writing a play? What about setting your own rules for the classroom, determining what you need to spend for a pizza party, or participating in a project to document climate change?

This is what will be happening in our fourth annual Summer Enrichment Program.

The planning is in full swing! This year we will be hosting 45+ students, grades 3 through 8, in our highly successful and innovative 4 week Summer Enrichment Program. Held at the First Lutheran Church on Park Street in Montclair, this program is free of charge to qualifying low-income families and provides a fun academic experience that significantly reduces the summer achievement gap for low-income students. Our curriculum covers language arts, writing, and mathematics, science, the arts, nutrition, music, physical education, philosophy for kids, swimming, dance and even counseling in topics of interest to the students such as anti-bullying and using the internet safely. The program is highly interactive with

creative learning materials and small group instruction. Because of the number of volunteers and staff in the program, each student is provided with individual attention and support. Last year our students showed an improvement of 29% in reading comprehension and between 10 and 20% in math computation and concepts in just 4 weeks.

Succeed2gether's enrichment program allows our students to have access to the types of summer activities that children from more affluent families experience. Research has shown that this type of program helps to ensure that learning doesn't regress over the summer months. Moreover, because of our volunteers we are able to provide this entire 4-week program at an extremely cost efficient rate of \$600 per student. Your donation will go a long way to guaranteeing the continuity and expansion of our summer program and we appreciate your support. Please log on to our website, www.succeed2gether.org, for information about how to contribute.



Students creating their own city from cartons. Summer Program 2011

"I am extremely grateful for the positive changes that I have noticed in my child since she started your program. Her self-esteem and confidence have improved immensely."

~A Parent Testimonial

About a Few of Our Summer Specialists...

Danielle Mastrogiovanni, Language Arts Specialist: As a model teacher in Newark, Ms. Mastrogiovanni is most passionate about children's literacy.

Jacqueline Dauplaise, Mathematics Specialist: Whether it's baking cookies or stacking blocks, Ms. Dauplaise's creativity in teaching math has no boundaries.

Sally Solo, Writing Specialist: We are thrilled to have Ms. Solo work with our Summer Enrichment Program participants every morning to maintain and develop their writing skills and most importantly learn to love writing.

Jon Rogers, Philosophy for Children: As an EdD candidate at Montclair State University, Mr. Rogers focuses

on skills of asking and answering philosophical questions in discussion setting.

Alice Barron, Nutrition & Healthy Living: As a veteran teacher, Ms. Barron enjoys cooking with her students as they discuss the importance of nutrition and healthy living.



Hear Our Voices

How do we work together for peace? This question is asked every year as part of North Jersey Ceasefire and Succeed2gether's sponsorship of "Hear Our Voices," a scholarship and awards program for Montclair that has been recently expanded to the Newark Public School students through our co-sponsorship with the Million Moms March chapter.

This year's awards included 3 scholarships to Montclair High School students based on the quality of their essays on anti-violence initiatives. And 12 awards to elementary school students in Newark and Montclair for their creative art designs celebrating peace. These winning art works are

incorporated into a calendar displayed in the participating public schools. This year there were over 400 submissions of art work from Montclair and 25 essays from students at MHS.

We are proud of this program which continues to focus on the important goal of fostering awareness and efforts for anti-violence initiatives in our public schools.

We would like to thank Dorothy McGann and Francesca Elms, Co-Chairs of North Jersey Ceasefire for their coordination of this program and Assemblyman Thomas Giblin for presenting this year's scholarships in Montclair. Our 2013 Montclair and

Newark calendars, produced from the children's art work, will be available for purchase next fall. The 2012 calendar is on our website.



Meet Our New Staff

Barbara Kaplan, Program Director: With over 30 years of Human Resources professional experience in addition to teaching for 10 years before that, Ms. Kaplan has become an immeasurable asset to our programs.

Rabiye Hamade, Program Administrator: Former public school teacher with a recently earned MPA, Mrs. Hamade is excited to help run Third Annual Summer Enrichment Program.

"The effectiveness of the tutoring program is enhanced by the strong mentoring relationships that form between the tutors and students. "

~Barbara Kaplan, Program Director



Resource Center Programs

Succeed2gether Resource Center serves as the frontlines of our programs in the community.

Workshops for adults focusing on economic empowerment, financial literacy, resume building and job training are some of the services offered through the Resource Center.

In addition, the Resource Center

schedules and coordinates appointments with Essex County case workers for qualifying community members to enroll in such programs as SNAP and NJ Family Health Care.



Our seasonal clothing drives have been very successful in providing local families in need with gently used items especially coats, boots, and other winter wear.

We accept gently used clothing especially in plus-sizes.

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Building our Future....One person at a Time

Goals For Next Year and How You Can Help

Succeed2gether is expanding its programs and specializing on creating services to meet the needs of our community.

The administrative cost of the After-School Tutoring program is funded entirely through grants and private donations. We would like very much to expand this program next year but that will require additional funding for space and additional Program Administrators. Please log on to our website for more information on how you can donate or get involved.

Research shows that girls from low-income lag especially behind mathematics. Succeed2gether vows to address this issue by designing and implementing an Algebra Workshop for

Founded in 2009, Succeed2gether BWPIF exists to provide the skills, services and resources necessary for the well-being and economic success of those most in need. Our Resource Center at 346 Bloomfield Avenue in Montclair, NJ develops and implements education and youth empowerment programs, anti-violence initiatives, employment resources, and human needs activities such as clothing distribution and social services.

Our After-School Tutoring Program and Summer Enrichment Programs for families in need compromise the cornerstone of our efforts to help to fulfill our mission.

Girls in the upcoming school year. While we have received some funding for this program through a generous grant, we are still in need of more help through individual donations or volunteers to make this program a success.

We are proud of the Summer Enrichment Program designed for this year and in the upcoming years, we would like to expand our programs to more number of students in a location that can accommodate our programs. Generous donations from

our community members will help make this goal a reality.

Please help spread the word on our Resource Center Programs and contribute to our workshops or our



At the Holiday Party 2011

clothing drive efforts. As our programs expand, we need a more efficient space to serve our families in need through our Resource Center.

Please visit our website regularly for Volunteer Opportunities.

Also, help sponsor a student or a workshop by making donations.

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