

PROGRAM NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Over 230 NYC Students Participate in the Service in Schools Youth Service Summit

On Friday, May 27, 206 elementary students from across New York City came together at St. Francis College in Brooklyn to participate in the Service in Schools (SIS) Youth Service Summit, an extraordinary day of service. The Summit was led by 26 high school student leaders who participated in April's week-long



SIS Student Leader Syeda Lubabah educates elementary students at the Youth Service Summit on what foods are best to donate to a food drive.

Service in Schools Service Leadership Institute, facilitated by Maureen Connolly from CBK Associates. These high schoolers, who became certified Service in Schools Leaders (SSLs), planned and led engaging lessons and service projects for the grade 3-5 elementary school students that addressed the important community issues of homelessness, pollution, hunger, health, and animals. For their service projects, students created animal adoption kits, decorated magnets and tote bags that promoted water conservation, illustrated brochures that discussed effective foods to donate to a food drive, packed fitness packs for children, and made kits for children in shelters that included journals with encouraging messages. The service projects completed at the Summit were donated to The Bowery Mission, the Food Bank For New York City, Fit 4 Life NYC, the Humane Society of New York, and the Bronx River Alliance. Representatives from these organizations spoke at the Youth Service Summit and witnessed the hard work the SSLs and elementary students put into their service projects.

The Youth Service Summit also included a fun and inspiring performance from beatboxer Chris “Shockwave” Sullivan, who motivated students to use their talents and passions to contribute to their community. The Youth Service Summit culminated with a reflection session led by the SIS Leaders, during which students discussed what they learned and how they plan on sharing their knowledge and service ideas with their family, friends, and peers. Through the SIS Youth Service Summit, elementary and high school students alike were empowered to serve as agents of change in their own communities, as well as communities across the globe.

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Service in Schools Celebrates the 2015-2016 Kids Care Clubs

On Friday, June 3, five groups of students, educators, and chaperones from around the City participated in an inspiring celebration to recognize the second cohort of the SIS Kids Care Clubs. This Celebration of Service honored the awesome service work that over 50 elementary students accomplished in their SIS Kids Care Club this year. Students from all five Clubs shared visual and oral presentations on their service

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accomplishments with one another, asking and answering questions, and expanding upon the positive influence they were able to have on their community. Students presented on a wide range of projects that their SIS Kids Care Clubs engaged in this year, including gathering donations for a homeless shelter, implementing compost bins at their school, and creating a friendship bench to mitigate bullying and student isolation. Through these peer-to-peer presentations, SIS Kids Care Club members were able to inspire and educate one other on how they can make a difference in their schools and communities.



Members of the P.S. 135 Sheldon A. Brookner SIS Kids Care Club present the service work they completed this year, including holding a donations drive for a homeless shelter, creating and donating coloring books to children in shelters, and creating a quilt made of artwork centering on the concept of "home."

Following the Club presentations, SIS partner organization [generationOn](#) led participants through a service project focused on energy conservation. Students decorated paper light switch covers with eye-catching stickers and phrases like "Turn me off!", and were able to take their light switch covers home to remind their family to conserve energy. Prior to leaving the Celebration, each Club member was presented with a customized certificate recognizing their service accomplishments. The SIS Kids Care Club Celebration gave students a chance to celebrate and reflect on all their hard work this school year, and students walked away feeling proud of their achievements and motivated to do more. During the reflection, one student announced how she felt capable in her ability to make a big difference, even though she may be just a kid. Service in Schools is proud of the incredible impact

these inspiring students had on their communities this year, and we look forward to working with the third cohort of SIS Kids Care Clubs next year!

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

John Dewey High School in Brooklyn



John Dewey High School marine science teacher Lane Rosen and students from John Dewey High School participate in their It's My Estuary Day event.

John Dewey High School (JDHS) has hosted community events and beautification projects for many years. After 2012's Hurricane Sandy, marine environmental awareness pertaining to the Coney Island Creek became a large part of JDHS's culture. The storm devastated the Coney Island community, displacing many JDHS students and families from their homes and polluting the community and surrounding waterway. Confronted with the storm's destruction, JDHS students felt motivated to help clean and rebuild the community.

As part of the school's environmental initiative, JDHS students and staff co-host the [International Coastal Cleanup](#), [City of Water Day](#), and [It's My Estuary Day](#) with over 40 partnering organizations and 10 schools annually. These events promote the stewardship and coastal resiliency of Coney Island and bring attention to the polluted and neglected waterway of Coney Island Creek, which has the potential to be a great resource

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for recreational, scientific, and commercial use in the community. These events take place each year and are cumulatively attended by up to 600 people. At the events, JDHS students lead students in grades K-8 in coastal cleanups, which include picking up and weighing debris that has washed up from the Coney Island Creek. The students also conduct water chemistry testing to study the materials collected during the cleanup. The testing done at the events aids the students in cleaning the water in the community and learning more about how to prevent the spread of pollution. Over the years, JDHS students have been able to collect over eight tons of waste that have polluted the Coney Island community. Much of the equipment used for these activities was funded through the Service in Schools Service-Learning Grant awarded to JDHS.



John Dewey High School students clean debris from the Coney Island Creek during the It's My Estuary Day event.

In addition to supporting the environment through coastal cleanup events, JDHS students advocate for health through promoting cancer awareness in their communities. Every October, students and staff participate in a breast cancer walk, where they provide pamphlets in several languages to educate the community about cancer. Students also run health education tables where they share ways to prevent and detect cancer and promote getting mammograms and prostate exams.

JDHS is already planning its service activities for the next school year, including setting up a medical and health awareness day for the people of the Coney Island community on October 8. During the event, students and teachers will take blood pressure readings; run a cancer education table; discuss prenatal care; create a map of local health clinics, an STD information sheet, and an obesity chart; and complete a breast cancer walk. All of these initiatives will be student-led and community-based. JDHS students and staff look forward to these upcoming health-related service-learning opportunities, as well as continuing their many marine service projects next year.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Kids for Kids at Project Sunshine (Ongoing)

[Project Sunshine](#) is a nonprofit organization that provides free educational, recreational, and social programs to children facing medical challenges and their families. The Kids for Kids youth service program at Project Sunshine gives children and teens the opportunity to volunteer and give back in a meaningful way. Kids for Kids volunteers help out by fundraising; creating art projects to send to hospitalized children; and organizing book, toy, Band-Aid, and other collection drives. Project Sunshine partners with schools, youth groups, community service clubs, National Honor Societies, sports teams, and more on Kids for Kids programs. Priority is given to groups of five or more volunteers. Interested participants can click [here](#) to complete the volunteer inquiry form. More information on the Kids for Kids program is available [here](#).



The Kids for Kids program participants making arts and craft kit bags to go to pediatric patients in the hospital.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES (CON'T)

GlamourGals (Ongoing)



GlamourGals volunteers pose with a senior citizen after giving her a brand new manicure.

[GlamourGals Foundation, Inc.](#) inspires and organizes teen volunteers to provide ongoing companionship and complimentary beauty makeovers to women living in senior homes, creating a venue for engagement between generations. The vision is to end elder isolation by engaging teens in skill-building experiences and promoting their development as leaders in their communities. The NYC office of GlamourGals invites high schools to establish a club and become a GlamourGals chapter. Starting a chapter is a great way for teens to do community service while developing leadership and communication skills, making friends of all ages, and fighting elder loneliness. To learn more, click [here](#) or email Contact@GlamourGals.org.

Friends of Van Cortlandt Park (Ongoing)

[Friends of Van Cortlandt Park](#) invites teachers to bring students of all grade levels to the third largest park in New York City for a unique service-learning experience in a beautiful natural setting. Whether they visit just once or again and again, students are sure to have fun while learning the importance of preserving nature. Information about student programs, including “Forester for a Day,” “Garden Exploration,” “Freshwater Ecology,” and more, is available [here](#).



Summer interns with Friends of Van Cortlandt Park perform trail work.

RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS

Sign Up for New Teaching Materials from 9/11 Day



**TOMORROW
TOGETHER**

For the upcoming 15th anniversary of the September 11th attacks, the nonprofit group [9/11 Day](#) is offering NYC educators free supplemental materials to help them teach 9/11 in new ways to elementary, middle, and high school students. The 9/11 Day education program for the 15th anniversary, supported by a federal grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service, will include materials developed by Ashoka and the National Youth Leadership Council to help teach empathy and the value of diversity, as well as assist educators in developing age-appropriate service-learning activities for their students. September 11th is now the nation’s largest day of charitable service and officially recognized under federal law. Each year, millions of students in schools across the country learn about 9/11 through the free lesson plans provided by 9/11 Day. Some materials are already available on the [9/11 Day website](#); educators interested in teaching about 9/11 can sign up for updates and information. Many more new materials will be released later this summer. Email info@911day.org to get on the official 9/11 Day Teachers List for updates and early access to materials and other resources.

YMCA Service-Learning Resource (Ongoing)

The [YMCA](#) provides a suite of resources that can guide adults in helping youth identify their interests and connect those interests to volunteer and service-learning projects in their community. The [Guide to Service Learning](#) helps young people determine what excites them, and what



RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS (CON'T)

skills and passions they can share as part of the larger world. These resources seek to help match young people to service-learning opportunities that fit their interests and passions in which they will be motivated to learn and build skills while addressing important community needs. The Y's service learning resources include a [guide](#) for adults, a [survey](#) for teens, and a [YouTube channel](#) for youth to share experiences and reflections.

CONTACT THE SERVICE IN SCHOOLS TEAM

Does your school have a great service project to share? If so, the Service in Schools team wants to know!

Invite the Service in Schools team to visit your service project. We want to see your students and school community in action. Email the Service in Schools team at ServiceinSchools@schools.nyc.gov with two weeks' notice, and we'll schedule a visit to your school to learn about your project and see the impact you're making on the community.



Follow [@NYCDOEService](#) to receive program updates, upcoming service opportunities, resources, and more. We encourage students who use Twitter and are interested in service opportunities to follow us.

Mission: Service in Schools strives to expand the number of NYC students engaged in transformative community service and service-learning experiences that enable them to use their voice, skills, and critical thinking to strengthen communities.