

# METRO DREAMS

"I HAVE A DREAM" FOUNDATION® - New York Metro Area | Volume 1, Issue 1 - Winter 2006

## RENEWING DREAMS AT RAVENSWOOD

### 50 Youth Officially Become Dreamers at Ravenswood II - IHAD

On November 9, 2006, the Ravenswood II "I Have a Dream" Program officially "kicked off" with a dinner and celebration at PS 112, the Dutch Kills School. Thanks to the generous contributions of The Jean and Thomas Elmezzi Private Foundation and the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), the third and fourth-graders living in the Ravenswood Houses received the promise of their dreams -- a college education and free after-school mentoring and tutoring through the 12th grade. The Dreamers, in turn, promised to stay in

school, aim for college, and keep their eye on their dreams.

"We chose the 'I Have a Dream' Program because of the long term nature of the program. Working with the children consistently over 10-12 years has a deeper impact on their lives," said Elmezzi Foundation Program Officer Pooja Joshi.

Ravenswood II "I Have a Dream" is the second group of Dreamers to be adopted from the Ravenswood Houses since Harold Friedman, the CEO of National Elevator Cab & Door Corp., "adopted" a group of 80 Dreamers from

P.S. 76 in 1994. Saul Arvelo, one of the original Ravenswood Dreamers and now a junior at Hofstra University, gave the keynote address. Eugene Lang, founder of the "I Have a Dream" Foundation®, led the Dreamers in the traditional Dreamer Pledge. In addition, Earl Andrews, Vice Chairman of the New York City Housing Authority, addressed the audience. He spoke about NYCHA's commitment to a successful ongoing relationship between his organization and IHAD - NY.

The event was organized by Ravenswood II Program Director Karlisle Honore and Assistant Program Director Matt Wright. They have worked very hard over the past year to establish the Ravenswood II IHAD Program as a valuable resource for the Dreamers, their families, and the Ravenswood community.



This group of third and fourth graders from the Ravenswood II IHAD Program is all smiles at their kickoff event on November 9, 2006.

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## "I HAVE A DREAM" FOUNDATION® CELEBRATES 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Last April, the "I Have a Dream" Foundation® celebrated its 25th Anniversary with a Conference and Gala. The phenomenal celebration, held at The Rainbow Room, honored and recognized Eugene M. Lang for his vision, dedicated leadership, and continuous support of the "I Have a Dream" Foundation® throughout the years. Since the day of Mr. Lang's spontaneous offer in 1981, IHAD has served 15,000 children across the country and more than 2,500 in the New York metro area.

*25th Anniversary continued on page 2.*

Right: Eugene Lang accepts the Lifetime Achievement Award at the April 2006 Gala.  
*(Photograph © Benjamin Luzon)*



## OUR STAFF

Kara Forte, Executive Director  
 Thierry Cazeau, Deputy Director  
 Hilary Cramer, Communications & Development Associate  
 Marvin Feibusch, Accountant  
 Elizabeth Cooke, Program Director, *Chelsea-Elliott II*  
 Salim Martin, Program Educator, *Chelsea-Elliott II*  
 Derrick Tyes, Program Director, *DeHostos-Wise*  
 Tanya Goldman, Program Educator, *DeHostos-Wise*  
 Shari Alleyne, Program Director, *Melrose I*  
 John Bermudez, Program Director, *Melrose I*  
 Ray Llanos, Program Director, *Melrose II*  
 Yamila Sterling, Assistant Program Director, *Melrose II*  
 Larry Johnson, Program Director, *Plainfield (New Jersey)*  
 Karlisle Honore, Program Director, *Ravenswood II*  
 Matthew Wright, Assistant Program Director, *Ravenswood II*

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 Stan Picheny, Co-Chair  
 Barbara Eisold, Secretary  
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 Howard Kaye  
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## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KARA FORTE

Well, here it is – at long last and well worth the wait! Welcome to the first edition of the “I Have a Dream” Foundation® – New York Metro Area’s newsletter—*Metro Dreams*.

Last month, we celebrated the kickoff of our Ravenswood II “I Have a Dream” Program in Queens. Fifty third and fourth grade children crowded the stage in the auditorium at P.S. 112. They wore their IHAD t-shirts with pride and with confident voices recited the Dreamer pledge led by our illustrious founder Gene Lang. Their voices were loud, their convictions strong. I watched as Gene turned to the Dreamers beside him and said, “There is no place I would rather be right now than on this stage with you.”

The audience was filled with parents, extended family, IHAD staff and board members, New York City Housing Authority officials, and several board members from the Thomas and Jeanne Elmezzi Foundation, the Program’s Sponsors. I know that every person there that night felt just as Gene did – there was no place else they’d rather be.

Why is that, you might be wondering? Perhaps it is because we all realize that “I Have a Dream” is a program that *truly leaves no child behind*. It is no secret that we are a nation in crisis on many levels, particularly because of dire educational inequities between the rich and the poor. How can we thrive or even survive as a nation when only 40% of our children graduate high school? Such a devastating



statistic should not be tolerated. “I Have a Dream” does not accept this. We are not only changing these numbers by more than doubling the national high school graduation rate at every Program we serve, but we are also changing lives.

We are very proud of our 85-95% high school graduation rates, and the fact that two-thirds or more of these Dreamers go on to college. But what is perhaps even more rewarding is that we have enabled these children to dream, to achieve, and to reach their potential as confident, productive, and creative adults who give back to society through positive pursuits. IHAD makes it possible for children to dream.

For over 25 years, IHAD-NY has inspired underserved children to follow their dreams and has provided them with a road map to do so. During this time, there have been 31 IHAD Programs in the New York metro area, transforming the lives of over 2,500 children. Currently we have eight active Programs serving over 500 Dreamers. But there are thousands more children who need and deserve to be part of an IHAD Program. The time has come to make the American Dream a reality. Just imagine a world where all children graduate high school and go on to college or vocational school with the confidence and skills necessary to lead happy and productive lives.

I have been the leader of this organization for six years and counting, and I can honestly say that there is no place I’d rather be than “I Have a Dream”.

## 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY, cont.

The conference, which was held on April 23rd at Columbia University Teacher’s College, drew Sponsors, Project Coordinators, Executive Directors and IHAD friends from across the country (and even New Zealand). Participants attended workshops and group discussions, highlighted by a Dreamer Alumni Panel.

This exciting anniversary was a time to recognize and thank key Sponsors, donors, and staff for their years of generous support. The event also recognized the Dreamers for their outstanding dedication and achievement.

We, at the “I Have a Dream” Foundation® – New York Metro Area, are more committed than ever to Mr. Lang’s vision and doing great things for our current and future Dreamers.

Right: Gene Lang is joined by Dreamers from the original IHAD class.  
 (Photograph © Benjamin Luzon)



## HEALTH MATTERS

For more than a year, the Chelsea-Elliott II and DeHostos-Wise "I Have a Dream" Programs have served as two of the pilot sites for the new IHAD Health Literacy curriculum. They have tested the lessons and activities, and provided feedback about the program. The curriculum, which was designed by Adeline Azrack and Lori Donoho, was made possible by a generous donation from Pfizer.

The Chelsea-Elliott II IHAD Program decided to implement the Health Literacy Curriculum because it is a necessary and valuable intervention tool in the lives of the Dreamers, according to former Program Educator Viviana Benitez. To achieve this, students have been engaged in activities and thought-provoking lessons which have sparked their curiosity. Dreamers at both sites have enjoyed lessons on nutrition, hygiene and safety. The Chelsea-Elliott II Dreamers even had a visit from a dentist who taught them the importance of getting their teeth cleaned every year.



Dreamers Savannah Nunez and Tia Porter show off their new toothbrushes.

The program has also exposed Dreamers to new concepts. They have learned about how to read medicine labels and how the media impacts their choices. The lessons have also taught Dreamers to think of health in new ways, and work and cooperate in small groups. Both sites will begin teaching the next part of this program in January 2007.

With the experiences of the pilot sites, this curriculum will be implemented in IHAD Programs across the country. If IHAD can improve Dreamers' health, states one of the goals of the program, we can then improve their chances of achieving their education and career goals.

## SPONSOR PROFILE: Harold Friedman

In 1993, Harold Friedman became a Sponsor of an "I Have a Dream" Program when he agreed to "adopt" 80 third graders living in the Ravenswood Houses in Long Island City, Queens.

Mr. Friedman has been the CEO of National Elevator Cab & Door Corp., a manufacturer of architectural products to the elevator industry, since 1972.

When Mr. Friedman was in high school, he helped out in his father's carpet store on Steinway Street in Queens. One of his jobs was to lay carpet or linoleum. He remembers measuring apartments and laying floors at the Ravenswood Houses. This is the reason that Mr. Friedman chose Ravenswood Houses as the community to adopt his Dreamers.

To achieve improved academic performance among his Dreamers, Mr. Friedman enlisted the support of the Principal of PS 111, the Superintendent of School District 30, and obtained approval from the NYC Board of Education to have the Dreamers assigned to attend PS 76, a magnet school, during their 5th and 6th grade years. Two dedicated classes were established, with two NYC Board of Education teachers and two assistant teachers, who were provided by Mr. Friedman and who were graduates of prior "I Have a Dream" Programs.

In 2004, Mr. Friedman, family, teachers, staff and supporters

celebrated the high school graduation of the Ravenswood Dreamers. In honor of his dedication, commitment and generosity to the Dreamers and families, Mr. Friedman was presented with a plaque by Dreamer Saul Arvelo who said "10 years is a long time to patiently stick to an endeavor. In a few years we hope to show our appreciation for all that he has done and continues to do for the Dreamers and their families, by presenting him with copies of our college degrees." Currently, sixty Dreamers are attending colleges, universities and vocational programs throughout the city and the country. One Dreamer is serving in the United States Marines Corps.

**"Simply put - we are all Dreamers"**

On August 12, 2004, Mr. Friedman was given a proclamation by the Mayor's Office in recognition of his commitment to his Dreamers. He continues to serve on the Board of Directors of the "I Have a Dream" Foundation® - New York Metro Area. He is actively involved in other worthwhile endeavors including being "Principal For a Day" at IS 104, where most of the Ravenswood Dreamers were students, and at PS 17 in Queens. Since 2004 he has also participated in the Baruch College *Executives On Campus* program by mentoring students enrolled in the Graduate Business School.

Regarding his experience as a Sponsor, Mr. Friedman says, "I am amazed by the effectiveness of the Sponsor, staff, parent and Dreamer relationship. The combination of trust and long-term perspective build the good will and energy to achieve our goals. Simply put - we are all Dreamers."



## NIGA JACQUES

By Larry Johnson  
(Program Director, IHAD Plainfield)

Niga is a seventh grade Dreamer at the IHAD - Plainfield Project. She has been a Plainfield resident for two years and became a Dreamer in the fifth grade. Before that she lived in the Bronx, New York; Elizabeth, New Jersey; North Plainfield, New Jersey; and New Mexico. After all of her moving around she is glad to be back in Plainfield and near her family.

With the help of IHAD, Niga is a great student and frequently finds herself on the school honor roll. When she's not in school she spends her time reading, playing on the computer, babysitting her god-sister

Brianna, and practicing with the Hubbard Middle School softball team. She hopes to play catcher for the school team.

Niga was selected to participate in the People-To-People World Leadership Forum last spring in Washington, DC. There she spent a week with other middle school students from around the country to participate in workshops, take classes to earn high school credits, and tour the capital. She was one of only two students in Plainfield to attend this prestigious event.

Niga hopes to one day become an attorney. She says that the major influences in life are her mom, her fifth grade teacher Mr. Smith, and her great grandmother. If she keeps

up her hard work and focus she'll no doubt become a great lawyer and achieve her goal of running her own firm.



Niga is a seventh grade Dreamer at Hubbard Middle School in Plainfield, NJ.

## MEET OUR DREAMERS

### NATALIA SANCHEZ

*Natalia Sanchez, 21, is a Dreamer from the Chelsea-Elliott I Program. She is currently a junior at New York City Technical College.*

My transition from high school to college was not difficult. Rather, it was different and very fast. All of a sudden, I had a lot of freedom and responsibility that I never had before and I had a hard time learning how to maintain focus and balance my time. I realized that I could not leave things until the last minute. Now, after three years, I have actually begun to look forward to facing new challenges. For me, the best part of college is meeting new people and experiencing new and exciting things.

Throughout the years at IHAD, mentoring, tutoring, and peer

groups helped me prepare for the pressures of college life. IHAD also motivated me to do the best I can in school and in life. I think it has also instilled in me that it doesn't matter where I come from, or how much money I have, I can and I will succeed. I believe in myself.

I would advise other Dreamers to try to keep their heads on straight and focus on what they are in college for. Also, I think I would tell Dreamers to follow the advice that IHAD gives you because, in the end, it really does help. IHAD helped me make sure everything for college, from financial aid, registering for classes, and even choosing a career, was done the right way. Though I have faced hard times along the way, I have a strong focus on my ultimate career goal: to become a radiologist.

### MELROSE I DREAMER APPEARS ON THE TODAY SHOW!

On September 13, 2006, Melrose I Dreamer Kristina DeLeon appeared on *The Today Show*. The segment, which was about teenagers and make-up, featured Kristina and other teenagers having their makeup done by celebrity make-up artist Joanna Schlip. This was an especially exciting day, as it was *Today* co-host Meredith Viera's first day on the program and the unveiling of the show's new set.

Ms. Schlip, who has done make-up for some of the most well-known celebrities, was promoting her new book, *Glamour Gurlz*. She wrote this book to encourage teenage girls that confidence and good self esteem should not just come from the way they look. She encourages all "gurlz" to trust their instincts. This was an exciting event for Kristina, the Melrose I Program, and IHAD-NY.



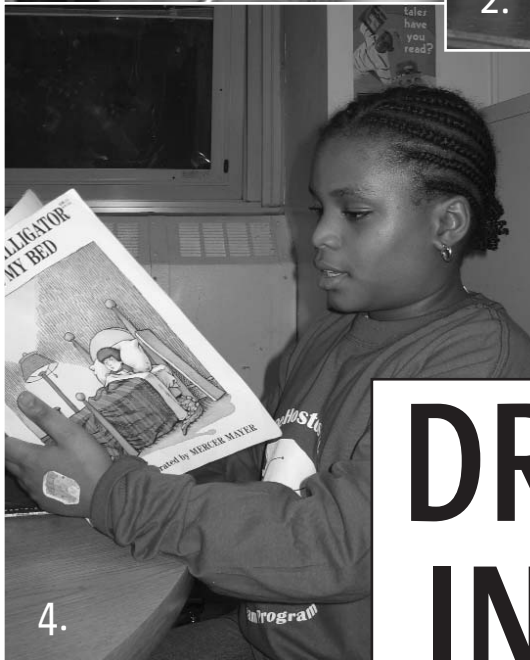
1.



2.



3.



4.



5.

# DREAMERS IN ACTION



6.



7.



8.



9.

1. Chelsea-Elliott II Dreamer Raheem Logan poses for the camera. 2. Chelsea-Elliott II Dreamers perform yoga positions during their spring show. 3. Melrose II Assistant Program Director Yamila Sterling with Dreamers Jose Hiraldo and Colin Fredrick, Jr. at their Batizado (initiation) for Capoeira. (Photograph © Ray A. Llanos) 4. Kadija Doumbia, a DeHostos-Wise Dreamer, reads a book. 5. Ravenswood II Dreamers gather outside the Ravenswood Houses in Long Island City, Queens. 6. Ravenswood II Assistant Program Director Matt Wright ice skates with Dreamer Maegan Melendez at Wollman Rink. 7. Teil Samuels, a Chelsea Elliott I Dreamer, works on an art project with Chelsea Elliott II Dreamer Job Bridgett. 8. Melrose I Program Director John Bermudez with Dreamers Mike Ortiz and Sean Greene Jr. on the field at Yankee Stadium. 9. Ravenswood II Dreamers Diasia Deboue and Kaylah Russel-Starks cheering on the Jets at a recent game.

# DREAMER SERVICE DAY 2006

On Monday, January 16, 2006 the "I Have a Dream" Foundation® - New York Metro Area participated in the Manhattan Country

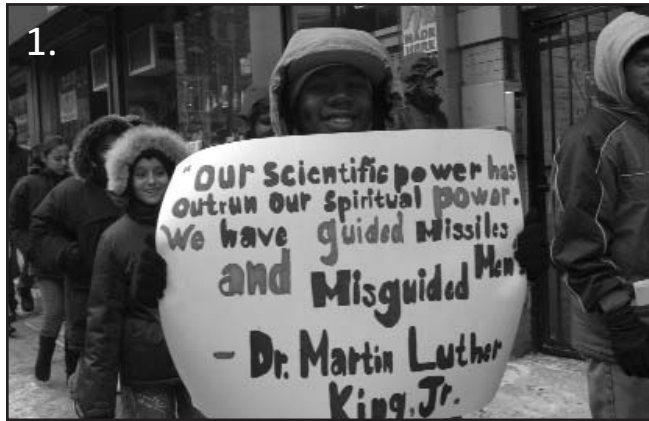
School's 18th Annual Martin Luther King Commemorative Walk. Though the temperatures were low, the spirit and energy of IHAD-NY Dreamers and staff members was extremely high. The walk, which was led by the eighth grade class of Manhattan Country School, celebrates the life, legacy, and beliefs of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The theme of the walk was "Activists March Against Injustices: Honoring the Past...Dreaming the Future." Throughout the march, Manhattan Country School students read original work which addressed numerous themes including: race, gender issues, equality, the death of Rosa Parks, poverty,

and the war in Iraq. The path of the march took the Dreamers and staff past important landmarks representing community organizing, cultural celebration, and issues of justice and education.

Dreamers carried signs and sang songs about peace and equality. In addition, they were able to distribute small gift bags, prepared by Dreamers, which reminded non-marchers to remember Martin Luther King on this day.

It was truly a rewarding experience for IHAD-NY. According to Deputy Director Thierry Cazeau, "it was an excellent opportunity for the Dreamers to be part of such a large, successful, and socially conscious event that was primarily planned by eighth grade students." It will serve as an inspiration that they can make a positive difference in their communities. IHAD-NY plans to participate in this event again in the future.



# YEAR IN

## NASDAQ CLOSING BELL CEREMONY

On Monday, August 21, the "I Have a Dream" Foundation® rang the closing bell for the NASDAQ Market. This event was attended by Dreamers, staff, and IHAD-NY partners from the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). The ceremony was broadcast live on a seven-story electronic billboard in Times Square, as well as on television channels across the globe, including CNBC, CNBC Asia, and CNN International. Many thanks to Plainfield, NJ Sponsor Warren Eisenberg for this exciting opportunity.

Top to bottom: 1. Dreamers from Melrose II IHAD march in the MLK Commemorative Walk. 2. At the end of the march, IHAD staff and Dreamers pose for the camera. 3. Program Director Larry Johnson with Plainfield Dreamers at the 2006 Dreamer Conference. (Photograph © Ray A. Llanos) 4. Representatives from IHAD and NYCHA pose in Times Square after the NASDAQ closing bell ceremony. (Photograph © The Nasdaq Stock Market Inc.)

# IHAD-NY ADDS TWO NEW PROGRAMS!

During the 2005-2006 school year, two new “I Have a Dream” Foundation® - New York Metro Area Programs kicked off.

On December 7, 2005, 40 additional Dreamers were adopted by Jeff Gural and Howard Kaye at the Chelsea-Elliott II IHAD Program, bringing the total to 80 Dreamers served at this site. Additional Sponsors are Frank Williams, Joey Jacobs, and Walgreens. This was a fantastic event which celebrated the diversity and richness of the Chelsea-Elliott II Program.

On February 3, 2006 Rick Aidekman, co-founder and CEO of the Cornelia Day Resort in Manhattan, and North Fork Bank officially “adopted” 35 third and fourth-graders who live in the DeHostos-Wise Towers on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. The Dreamers dazzled the crowd with a spectacular performance.



# REVIEW

## DREAMER CONFERENCE 2006

The 2006 Dreamer Conference took place on July 21-23 at Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan. 124 Dreamers and PCs from 25 Projects had the opportunity to attend, including Dreamers and staff from Plainfield and Melrose I & II “I Have a Dream” – New York Metro Area Programs. This year’s workshop topics included: Plan on College, Express Yourself, Dare to be Different, Image and Ideology, Job Preparation, Transition to High School and more. Thank you to New York staff members Thierry Cazeau, John Bermudez, Ray Llanos, Larry Johnson, and Yamila Sterling for being part of the planning committee.

Top to bottom: 8. Eugene M. Lang is crowned the king of IHAD at the 2005 Chelsea-Elliott II kickoff. (Photograph © Ray A. Llanos) 7. Chelsea-Elliott II Dreamers gratefully receive their IHAD backpacks at the kickoff. (Photograph © Ray A. Llanos) 6. DeHostos-Wise Dreamers get ready to recite the Dreamer pledge at the February 2006 kickoff. 5. (L-R) DeHostos-Wise Sponsors Rick and Ellen Aidekman with IHAD-NY Executive Director Kara Forte, DeHostos-Wise Program Director Derrick Tyes, IHAD Founder Eugene M. Lang, and former DeHostos-Wise Program Director Makeda Jordan.

# DREAMER ORIGINALS

## UNTITLED

By Anthony Lallave (DeHostos-Wise IHAD)

Roberto has hair like a rocky mountain.  
 Branly has hair like a river or water.  
 Ricardo's hair is silky smooth like a lollipop.  
 Raina has blue eyes like the sky.  
 Samantha has brown eyes like a Hershey bar.  
 Ricardo has brown eyes like a carmel bar.  
 Roberto has a camouflage shirt like the Army.  
 Ricardo has a gray sweater like the sky turns when it's rainy.

## FEAR

By Samantha Torres (DeHostos-Wise IHAD)

Fear looks like a dark cave  
 Fear feels like a ghost touching your heart  
 Fear sounds like a ghost saying "OOOO"  
 Fear smells like old milk coming for me  
 Fear tastes like horrible ice cream



Ravenswood Dreamer Skye Fearon poses with the church she made at the NYC Transit Museum, during a "create your own neighborhood" workshop.

## A FLOWER

By Samantha Perez (Plainfield IHAD)

To see a flower grow  
 To know there's a seed  
 To show  
 To know that the flower may someday have a foe  
 I am that flower, my heart a seed deep below  
 Too young to have power  
 Too young to be heard  
 Too old to weep about a creep  
 Too old to listen to the lie there's nothing to be afraid of  
 I am a flower, cut me from my roots and I pray to quickly perish  
 I am a flower but my pain is real  
 Can't hide it away in a zip-lock seal  
 To hide my pain is like hiding rain  
 That's why when you ask me to hide my pain I say no deal  
 I am a flower and my pain is real

## ACADEMIC & EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR DREAMERS & PARENTS

*Dreamers and parents can use these sites to access helpful information on specific academic subjects, homework help, essay writing, and other school-related topics. For assistance in accessing these sites, please contact your local "I Have a Dream" Program.*

### The Internet Public Library

[www.ipl.org](http://www.ipl.org)

This site features several resources for homework help. Browse the virtual stacks of ready reference material to find almanacs and geography resources, or head to the more specialized Teen Space area, where you'll find resources for writing, college and career advice, and homework resources by subject. For younger visitors, Kid Space features resources for math, science, art and music, and more along with areas for parents and teachers too.

### DiscoverySchool.com's Homework Help & More

<http://school.discovery.com/students/>  
 This link takes you to the Discovery School's homework helper website – a

great resource for assistance in all academic subjects. It has tools to help you study, games to challenge your mind, and tons of great clip art for students to use. In addition, there are nearly a dozen learning adventures that let you explore everything from Ancient Egypt to the Space Station.

### HomeworkSpot.com

<http://homeworkspot.com/>

This is a free homework information portal that features the very best K-12 homework-related sites together with engaging editorial in one high-utility, educational spot.

### LibrarySpot.com

[www.libraryspot.com](http://www.libraryspot.com)

Need to do some research? This sister site of HomeworkSpot.com brings the best library and reference sites together in one Spot. You'll find top-notch reference tools, online texts, libraries and, much more.

### Math for America

[www.mathforamerica.org/htdocs/template.php?section=math&content=resources](http://www.mathforamerica.org/htdocs/template.php?section=math&content=resources)

This site contains a number of excellent online resources for math-focused activities, skills

practice, games and challenges, and technology specific sites. It's a great resource for helping students develop better math skills.

### NY Times Student Navigator

[www.nytimes.com/learning/general/navigator/students.html](http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/navigator/students.html)

This site serves as a resource for students and provides homework help and research topics in a range of subjects. It also gives information about college admissions, standardized tests, and financial aid.

### StudyBuddy.com

<http://homework-help.aol.com>

An education Web site and homework help destination for students in grades K-12. It features an easy-to-use search engine with dependable results, reference tools, fun activities, games, and more.

### New York City Department of Education

<http://nycboe.net/default.aspx>

Comprehensive information about the New York City public school system, including school calendars, student requirements, events, resources, and more.

# PROGRAM PROFILES

The "I Have a Dream" Foundation® - New York Metro Area has six active programs. To volunteer, mentor or tutor, or to support a program, please contact the Program Directors.

## Chelsea-Elliott II IHAD Class of 2016/2017

Number of Dreamers: 80  
Year & Grade Adopted: 2004/2005; 1st & 2nd Grade  
Current Grade: 2nd & 3rd

Class Sponsor: Jeff Gural  
Program Director: Elizabeth Cooke  
Program Educator: Salim Martin  
Volunteer Coordinator: Linda Schlapp  
Program Manager: Natalie Corujo

322 8th Avenue, Suite 200  
New York, NY 10001  
Office: 212-627-3086  
Fax: 212- 627- 3059  
E-mail: [ecooke@ihadchelsea.org](mailto:ecooke@ihadchelsea.org)

Program Activities: Tutoring, mentoring, drama literacy, Capoeira (Afro-Brazilian martial arts), Taekwondo, yoga, dance, cheer-leading, comic book illustration & writing, health literacy, introduction to computers, advanced math, human relations/civics, counseling & mental health services

## DeHostos-Wise IHAD Class of 2014/2015

Number of Dreamers: 35  
Year & Grade Adopted: 2005; 3rd Grade  
Current Grade: 4th & 5th

Class Sponsors: Rick Aidekman and Stuart & Kim Spodek  
Program Director: Derrick Tyes  
Program Educator: Tanya Goldman

201 West 93rd Street  
New York, NY 10025  
Office: 212-222-2448  
Fax: 212-222-2449  
E-mail: [dtyes2@hotmail.com](mailto:dtyes2@hotmail.com)

Program Activities: Homework help, tutoring, NYS exam prep, improving math & literacy skills through the visual arts & media, social enrichment, art enrichment, "Pow Wow" – peer group discussions, and health literacy.

## Melrose I IHAD Class of 2008

Number of Dreamers: 39  
Year & Grade Adopted: 1998; 3rd Grade  
Current Grade: 11th

Class Sponsor: Sharon Kaufman  
Program Directors: John Bermudez & Shari Alleyne

277 East 153rd Street  
Bronx, NY 10451  
Office: 718-585-1730  
Fax: 718-292-7673

Program Activities: Educational/academic needs assessment for each Dreamer, homework help, tutoring, Regents exam preparation, career awareness, college prep workshops & activities including PSAT/SAT prep, college tours, skills/interest inventory, resume writing & interviewing skills, theatre arts, social, recreation & cultural enrichment activities.

## Melrose II IHAD Class of 2012

Number of Dreamers: 46  
Year & Grade Adopted: 2002; 3rd Grade  
Current Grade: 7th

Class Sponsors: Brian Heidtke & Stan Picheny  
Program Director: Ray Llanos  
Assistant Program Director: Yamila Sterling

277 East 153rd Street  
Bronx, NY 10451  
Office: 718-401-3223  
Fax: 718-292-7673  
E-mail: [melrose2ihad@yahoo.com](mailto:melrose2ihad@yahoo.com)

Program Activities: Homework help, tutoring, reading, science & math enrichment, photography, health literacy, sports & recreation activities, career awareness & college prep workshops, and activities including college tours & skills/interest inventory.



## IHAD Plainfield (NJ) Project Class of 2012

Number of Dreamers: 65  
Year & Grade Adopted: 2000; 1st Grade  
Current Grade: 7th

Class Sponsor: Temple Emanu-El of Westfield  
Program Director: Larry Johnson

Hubbard Middle School  
661 West 8th Street  
Plainfield, NJ 07060  
Office: 908-731- 4320 ext. 5622  
Fax: 908-731- 4415  
E-mail: [ljohnson@plainfield.k12.nj.us](mailto:ljohnson@plainfield.k12.nj.us)

Program Activities: Homework help, tutoring, reading club, computer training, social & cultural enrichment, counseling & mental health services, and violence prevention programs.

## Ravenswood II IHAD Class of 2015/2016

Number of Dreamers: 50  
Year & Grade Adopted: 2006; 3rd  
Current Grade: 3rd & 4th

Class Sponsor: The Thomas and Jean Elmezzi (JET) Foundation  
Program Director: Karlisle Honore  
Assistant Program Director: Matthew Wright

14-01 36th Ave, Apt 1A  
Long Island City, NY 11106  
Office: 718-472-5589  
Fax: 718-389-3959  
E-mail: [ravenswood2dreams@gmail.com](mailto:ravenswood2dreams@gmail.com)  
Web: <http://www.ravenswoodihad.org>

Program Activities: Homework help, tutoring, math & literacy enrichment, social & cultural Enrichment, mentoring, health literacy, sports & recreation activities.

*In addition to providing Dreamers with a long-term program of mentoring, tutoring, and academic enrichment, "I Have a Dream" Foundation® - New York Metro Area Programs also give Dreamers the opportunity to explore self-expression and creativity through the arts. The following is an overview of our arts enrichment programming for the Fall 2006.*

## ENRICHMENT THROUGH THE ARTS

### Chelsea-Elliott II IHAD

Forty-eight 2nd grade Dreamers and thirty-one 3rd grade Dreamers are currently participating in a Drama Literacy Theatre Program with The New School University conducted by a professor and her class once a week for each grade for 1 & 1/2 hours. At the end of the semester, the Dreamers will perform at PS 33 and at The New School University.

Second grade Dreamers participate in dance classes twice a week for 45 minutes each, as well as vocal and art classes once a week each for 45 minutes. A group of eight Dreamers are in a singing/songwriting class with a New School intern. Two Comic Book Illustration/Writing classes are given each week for each grade level.

### DeHostos IHAD

The New York Writer's Coalition comes directly into the DeHostos community to assist Dreamers in expressing themselves through creative writing. Facilitators visit the center once a week to work with the entire group of Dreamers to build their confidence in writing, teach them to become better writers, and learn to write for the fun of writing.

Free Arts NYC is another organization that is dedicated to helping our Dreamers become more cultivated in the arts. Free Arts uses a flexible, age appropriate curriculum that is both educational and therapeutic. Facilitators work with the Dreamers using a variety of art forms including drawing, sculpting, tie-dying, woodwork and more, to provide the Dreamers with a meaningful artistic experience through creative arts.

### Melrose I IHAD

The Talking Drum Theatre Arts Program gives Dreamers the opportunity to share ideas, listen, and think creatively using acting techniques, role playing, and group discussions. Talking Drum Theatre Arts Program is facilitated by Vanessa Roscoe, a former Assistant Project Coordinator at the Melrose II IHAD Program.

Groups of Dreamers meet weekly to compete in the "Melrose Olympic Activity" facilitated by the Project Coordinators. This activity consists of various missions at the center where Dreamers are required to paint, write, dance and problem solve for points.

Dreamers are also each in the process of designing a book that reflects their personality. There is no limit to the size or materials the Dreamers use to create this book as long as it is a reflection of who they are.

### Melrose II IHAD

Last year at the International Center for Photography @ the Point, Dreamers learned the technical and artistic aspects of photography including: composition, operating manual film cameras, developing and processing film, printing their own black and white photography in a dark room, basic studio and street photography practices, and more. This year, Dreamers continue to participate in ICP programs to hone their photography skills.

Dreamers have also participated in Capoeira (pronounced ka-poo-eh-da), an Afro-Brazilian martial art that combines dance, music, percussion, song, ritual, self-defense technique, and acrobatics. It is an athletic stream of consciousness. In part it is a dance; a rhythmic dialogue with a partner set to the music of traditional instruments. In part it is a fight; a strategic match of throwing and dodging kicks, sweeps, and defensive movements.

Dreamers worked with their instructor Mucuiu, from the ABADA Capoeira Group, for 10-12 weeks at Melrose where he taught the Dreamers the history, instruments, music, language, and moves of Capoeira. Several Dreamers continue this enlightening experience by taking classes at the Arte Capoeira Center in Tribeca on Saturdays along with their Assistant Program Director.

### IHAD Plainfield (NJ)

With the assistance of the Yendor Arts/ C.A.S.T. Theater Program, Dreamers are in the process of completing a feature length Dreamer Documentary. The Dreamers were interviewed for the documentary and worked on it themselves. The documentary includes a trip to two New York museums and the Program's after school and summer activities.

Dreamers are also expressing themselves through fine arts, painting, drawing, etc. in the Hubbard Middle School's After School Program Art Club, facilitated by IHAD staff.

### Ravenswood II IHAD

Dreamers have been introduced to drama and theatre through a program called Kids Acting Out (KAO). The mission of KAO is "to bring theatre to the lives of underprivileged children in order to improve their social well-being and academic focus." The program engages students in the production and presentation of a full-length play through costuming, set design and construction, rehearsal and performance. The program works with kids in an after-school setting once a week for 1 & 1/2 hours over the course of a semester. Dreamers have participated in KAO activities through workshops in which the organization introduced the Dreamers to various elements of drama and theatre.

#### For more information about any of these programs please contact:

ABADA Capoeira Group & Arte Capoeira Center  
212-431 0811 [www.artecapoeira.com](http://www.artecapoeira.com)

Free Arts NYC  
212-974-9092 [www.freeartsnyc.org](http://www.freeartsnyc.org)

International Center of Photography (ICP)  
212-857-0000 [www.icp.org](http://www.icp.org)

Kids Acting Out  
Breanna DiGiammarino at [BreMarie@nyu.edu](mailto:BreMarie@nyu.edu)  
[www.KidsActingOut.org](http://www.KidsActingOut.org)

New York Writer's Coalition  
718-398-2883 [www.nywriterscoalition.org](http://www.nywriterscoalition.org)

Talking Drum Theatre Arts Program  
646-281-2004 [www.talkdrum.org](http://www.talkdrum.org)

Yendor Arts/ C.A.S.T. Theater Program  
973-946-9512

## PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S CORNER

*Derrick Tyes is the Program Director at the DeHostos-Wise Program on Manhattan's Upper West Side.*

When the topic of arts in education arises, it is often times met with a long, silent, and uncomfortable pause. How can children improve on their math skills by taking a visual arts class? What does dance have to do with science and literacy? How can a drama class help my child become an active learner?

At DeHostos-Wise, our Dreamers are fully engaged in education through the arts. In our Art and the World workshop we combine literacy, math, geography, and cultural awareness with visual arts. The Dreamers proceed on a journey from continent to continent via handouts, their imaginations, a map, and an engaging visual arts project. At the end of each project, the Dreamers reflect upon what they have completed with questions. We ask them, can you apply the tech-

niques that you have learned to your everyday life?

While exploring a particular art form, Dreamers realize that a lot more goes into art than just being the artist. For example, if only the actors showed up to perform in a play, what words would they speak without a script? How would the actors be seen and heard without lighting or sound? How would the actors feel standing on stage without costumes? This is the perfect tool for Program Directors to implement career awareness.

Involving Dreamers in the arts instills discipline, focus and confidence. Dreamers are often asked to think outside of the box, to create based on an original idea or how they're feeling at the time. In drama, Dreamers must read and investigate. There is always an opportunity to dig deeper under

the skin. It teaches responsibility and accountability. It urges Dreamers to analyze their surroundings and become free thinkers.

The best part is that art promotes flexibility within any discipline, whatever genre it may be. By using the arts, our Dreamers can create, learn, develop life skills, discover new things about themselves, interact with others, and have a lot of fun.



DeHostos-Wise Dreamers perform in celebration of Black History Month.

## VOLUNTEERS ROCK AT IHAD-NY!

*Karen Zacconi is a Childhood Education major at Brooklyn College, works full time at a non-profit, and is a volunteer at Chelsea-Elliott II IHAD.*

Each Friday afternoon, I say goodbye to the upholstered cubicle walls and trade the various rings, beeps and mechanical hums of the office for the laughs, the smiles and wisdom of the Dreamers from the Elliott-Chelsea Houses.

As a volunteer for the "I Have a Dream" Foundation®, I am part of a unique family. My job here is not measured by financial profits but in the

success, growth, and the healthy development of our community's children.

"I Have a Dream" is a truly dynamic program. It offers an opportunity for social interaction and academic support to children who need it most. There are shared readings for the younger children and one-on-one buddy time for the older children.

Upon my arrival, the afternoon's program is already in full swing. The Dreamers are engaged in various activities. Some are reading, some draw and color, and others play board games. This is the time set aside in the after-

noon's program to offer the students, restless from being in school all day, a choice of which activities they'd like to participate in. This time allows for the literacy activities and tutoring to be more focused. I am immediately in the mix as the familiar faces of the Dreamers draw me in. Their excited recognition is contagious.

The trivialities of my life outside of PS 33 melt away instantly because I know the role I play as an "I Have a Dream" volunteer, tutor, mentor and friend has no comparison.

*Thank goodness it's Friday!*

**"I HAVE A DREAM" FOUNDATION® - NY Metro Area**  
330 Seventh Avenue, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10001

**JEFFREY GURAL**  
Chairman

**KARA FORTE**  
Executive Director

The mission of the "I Have a Dream" Foundation® – New York Metro Area is to empower children and families living in underserved areas of the tri-state region to reach their college and career goals by providing a dynamic, long-term program of mentoring, tutoring and enrichment with an assured opportunity for higher education.

For information about "I Have a Dream", details on becoming a Project Sponsor, or to make a donation, please contact:

"I Have a Dream" Foundation® – NY Metro Area  
330 7th Avenue, 20th Fl  
New York, NY 10001  
(212) 293-5480 ext. 11  
hcramer@ihad-newyork.org

**METRO DREAMS STAFF**

Hilary Cramer, Editor  
Thierry Cazeau, Editor  
Rosemary Wilson, Designer

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# HOW YOU CAN HELP

## BECOME A SPONSOR

By becoming a class Sponsor, your generous contribution covers tuition assistance and Program costs for an entire class of students for nearly a decade. A Sponsor can be an individual or a group of individuals willing to secure funding for students and build personal relationships. We welcome the support of corporations, foundations, as well as civic and religious organizations.

## BECOME A PARTNER

Contributing to "I Have a Dream" Programs helps us to reach more children and enhance our services. Your donations or in-kind gifts can be earmarked for: tuition scholarships, summer programs, field trips, operating costs, tutoring/mentoring programs, and educational enrichment.

## BECOME A VOLUNTEER

As a volunteer tutor or mentor, the bonds you form can change a life and last a lifetime.

**For more information please contact:**

"I Have a Dream" Foundation® - New York Metro Area  
Kara Forte, Executive Director, kforte@ihad-newyork.org  
330 Seventh Avenue, 20th Floor • New York, NY 10001 • 212-293-5480, ext. 19 • www.ihad.org

## WE ARE EXTREMELY PROUD OF OUR SUCCESS!

While the average high school graduation rate in New York is 40%, *our Dreamers graduate at a rate of 80% or more!*

This is double the New York City average for African American and Latino students.

Of these graduates, more than two-thirds go on to pursue a college or vocational education. Many of our Dreamers are the first in their families to go to college.