

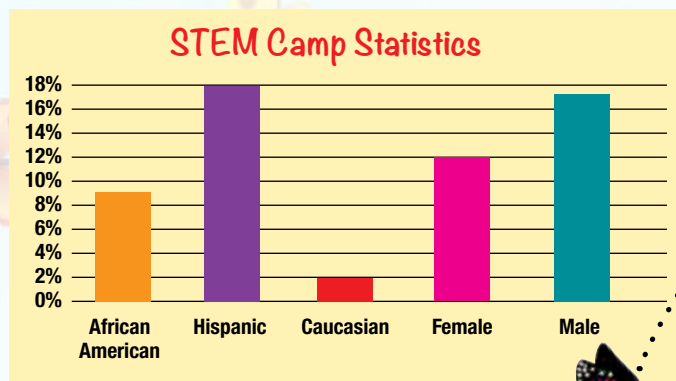
# City of White Plains Youth Bureau

Summer  
2022  
Report



# Middle School STEM Camp

In an efforts to prevent “summer slide,” keep them engaged and help prepare our youth for the next grade, the White Plains Youth Bureau hosted its STEM Camp for rising 6th, 7th & 8th graders. This year we exceeded our expectations and welcomed **29** students.



Our summer focused on problem solving, communication and teamwork through the Arts, Technology, Science and Engineering. The program components included:

**“I-Phone City” in Zhengzhou, China.** Students learned about the 2.2 mile facility that produces over 350 I-Phones a minute and uses parts from over 200 different suppliers. Students learned that communication and teamwork is just as important as the technical skills needed to create and design new products.

Through the pathway of art students participated in a workshops with **ARTS Westchester** learning about cartooning and acting that focused on self-awareness and also provided them an outlet for expressing themselves and relieving stress.

Our rising 8th graders went to the **New York Power Authority Social Justice Renewable Energy Fair**,



which focused on recognizing the need to include all marginalized communities in the benefits that accrue from a clean energy economy. Students learned that a critical part of Environmental Justice is acting as the internal voice of the community to ensure that an Environmental Justice lens is applied to all of NYPA's strategic planning efforts and operations.

The New York Knicks E-Gaming team worked with the students on traditional Basketball drills all while focusing on how the sports industry has merged with Technology to create and market E-Gaming.



**Youth Bureau Flight Simulator:** Students were immersed in flight simulation lessons with Captain James Parker. At Westchester County Airport and Million Air, students visited the control tower and conversed with pilots and other professionals and learn about all the various careers in aviation.

The **STEM Institute** returned this year with instruction with several engineering projects that included building a roller coaster out of recyclable materials, an “egg drop” contest, and launching rockets.





# Entrepreneurial Training Program

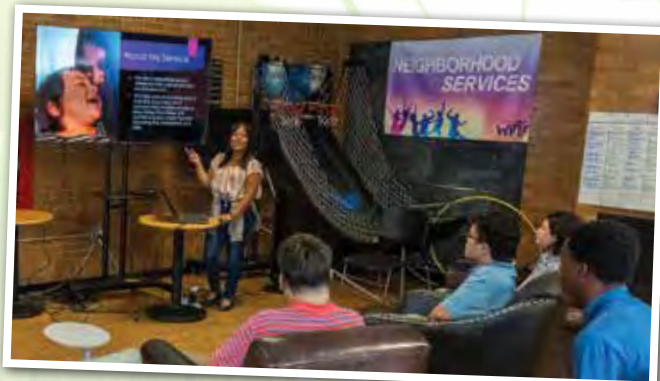
The White Plains Youth Bureau Summer Entrepreneurial Program welcomed **6** students to participate in a fun-filled, educational and illuminating experience. We challenged participants to create 'mock' businesses that fell into the category of either product or service and gave them a budget of \$1000 to achieve these tasks.

## The Curriculum

The **Life Skills** component of the curriculum focused on helping students align their life experiences, hobbies and interests with a viable business concept that showcased their proficiencies.



The **Management** component of the curriculum focused on the logistics of creating a viable business. We asked students to think about what type of business they would be interested in creating and why. Would they rather create a product or a service oriented business? Will their business need an accountant or a lawyer? The management of any business calls for organization and much consideration.



The **Marketing** curriculum focused on naming their product or service, advertising and branding. What is the business name? What is the product name? What forms of free advertising could they possibly take advantage of and would business cards, brochures, flyers, websites and other forms of getting the word out be used?



The **Financial** curriculum forced students to breakdown every aspect of spending to create a budget that took into account all materials and supplies needed, pricing for products and services and projected earnings.





# Bits N' Pieces Summer Camp

Another year of fun in the sun with **136** first through fifth grade campers engaged in supportive activities and academic learning. We offered academic modules in English Language Arts, Math, Science, Technology, Art and Culinary Arts. Bits 'n Pieces was lucky to have Susan Katz, who volunteered with one of our first grade groups, to bring them "Book Talk", a literacy program that happened three times a week.

## Math:

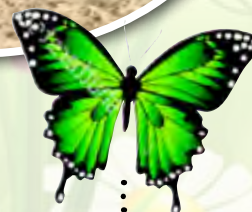
- **1st graders** reviewed counting to 120 utilizing the 100's or 120's charts, place value in the 1's and 10's, and also basic addition and subtraction to 20.
- **2nd graders** reviewed adding and subtracting with an introduction to regrouping, and skip counting by 5's and 10's.
- **3rd graders** discussed the relationship between repeated addition and multiplication, writing numbers in expanded form and discussed place value numbers up to 1000.
- **4th graders** reviewed money value as it correlates to coins and paper money, Time on an analog clock, simple fractions, and general measurements of the perimeter and area.
- **5th graders** focused on adding/subtracting single, double and triple digit numbers, fractions, double digit division and multiplication, number comparison in the thousands, ten thousandths and hundred thousandths.



**ELA:** The students reviewed and were introduced to grade level curriculum subject matter. Each grade worked on daily writing activities to enhance recognition and comprehension skills. Special focus was placed on sentence development, spelling and vocabulary.

**Science:** At each level, students designed mobiles that focus on different types of levers and balance. Science vocabulary was emphasized and identified throughout all the activities. The children were exposed to weights and measures, with specific focus on the force of friction and gravity. During the lessons on "buoyancy" and "displacement" of water, The children made vessels out of silly putty to see how the air pockets below the water line and how the increase in size and displacement of the air pockets affected the boat; allowing it to float and not sink.

Campers also enjoyed special programs organized by Back Yard Sports, and Grandpas United. Health, wellness and fitness components were taught to our fourth and fifth graders by the PAHL program.



# Healthy & Fit Summer Fitness Program

Health & Fitness summer program focuses on promoting healthy lifestyles targeted to **40** middle school students, grades 6-8.

- The students were taught fun and practical ways of maintaining a healthy lifestyle by their High School peers (PAHL) through hands on application.
- Summer activities included introduction to various activities and topics that promote a healthy lifestyle: martial arts, financial literacy, volleyball clinics, group mental health counseling, backyard sports and swimming.
- **Outcome:** Given the challenges of COVID, isolation and remote learning, the program provided students the opportunity to get out and play, develop new friendships, and learn new ways of coping with emotions.



## Peer Advocates for Healthy Living (PAHL)

Childhood obesity is a major health problem in America as well as the White Plains community. Due to pandemic, youth have been challenged by food insecurity, and social emotional issues thereby triggering stress, anxiety and depression. WPYB sought to address these issues by helping youth take real steps toward changing their habits and adopting a healthier lifestyle.

- **7** students were recruited as peer advocates.
- **Purpose:** PAHL is Peer advocate for Healthy Living program targeted to High School youth who serve as positive role models in the area of health and wellness focusing on obesity prevention

- **How it Works:** High school youth serve as peer to peer positive role models in the area of health and wellness focusing on obesity prevention.
- **The Summer curriculum and activities included:** Group mental health counseling, mindfulness, yoga, martial arts, sports & fitness, financial literacy, nutrition, drugs & alcohol prevention, gardening/ farm to table, nature hikes, volleyball clinic, cooking, career exploration, leadership & presentation skills, tour of the hospitals, and field trips.



# Youth Employment Services

141 youth employed

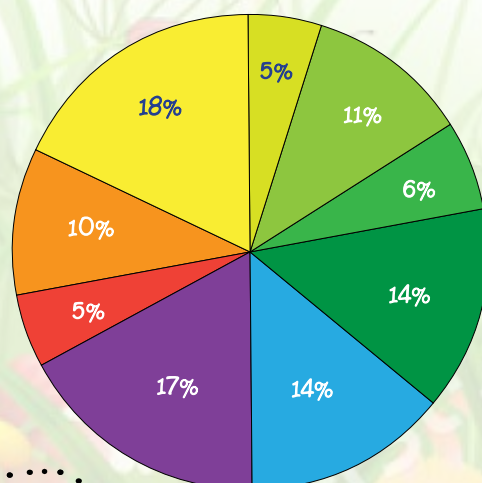


- 97 youth were funded by the City of White Plains
- 18 youth were placed through TANF funds (Grant)
- 6 youth were placed through Westchester County Youth Bureau funds (Grant)
- 8 youth were employed in Old Navy stores through funds from This Way ONward (Grant)
- 6 youth were placed in the PAHL program (Grant)
- 6 youth were placed in the Summer Medical Career Leadership program (Grant)

Summer youth workers completed evaluations. They were asked “What were some of the skills you learned at your summer placement?”

Below represents their responses!

Skills  
Obtained



- Gardening
- Childcare
- Business/Money Mgmt
- Patience
- Communication/Interpersonal skills
- Responsibility/Organization
- Computer/Clerical skills
- Life Skills/Job Readiness
- Teamwork



# Employee Highlight!

Over the years we have had the pleasure of working with thousands of young people. Many things have changed but two things remain the same; the lasting impression a first summer experience can have, everyone remembers their first job, and the pathway for a young person that it can help forge. Here is one such highlight from **Brian Reyes Martinez** in his own words, thanks to funds provided by the Westchester County Youth Bureau.



knowing that I graduated with my Marketing degree offered me a great opportunity to work within the retail management office for the Galleria Mall and Pacific Retail Capital Partners, to do marketing projects with them. I was very happy for the opportunity and began working for them in July through summer employment grant funds provided by the Westchester County Youth Bureau.

The White Plains Youth Bureau has been a great asset to my life. It has helped me grow into the person that I am today. From my first job in high school to working with them this summer as a college graduate, the opportunities they have provided me have jump started my professional career.

I was a freshman in high school when I first stepped foot into the Youth Employment office at White Plains High School and now, I am a 22-year-old that is forever grateful for every opportunity offered to me through Janet Spencer, Patti Staffiero and the Youth Employment department. In May 2022, I walked the stage to receive my Bachelor of Science Degree in Marketing from Mercy College. It was a very exciting time for me but a very scary one as well. Like a lot of freshly graduated students, the job hunt began, and I was not having much luck finding a full-time job. Patti Staffiero,



This summer I have learned a lot about marketing and how malls work and operate. My site supervisor, Ty Peterson, took me under her wing and trained me in various areas of marketing which include running social media campaigns, writing copy, learning how to understand tracking software, and the importance of relationships with tenants.

I have really enjoyed my time with the Galleria because of the knowledge I've gained through hands on training and leadership. To my surprise and elation my supervisor offered me a full-time position with them. I accepted, and will continue my employment with Pacific Retail Capital Partners. None of this would have been possible without the opportunities afforded to me by the Youth Bureau. I am truly grateful for the services and resources provided by the White Plains Youth Bureau to me and other youth in the City of White Plains.



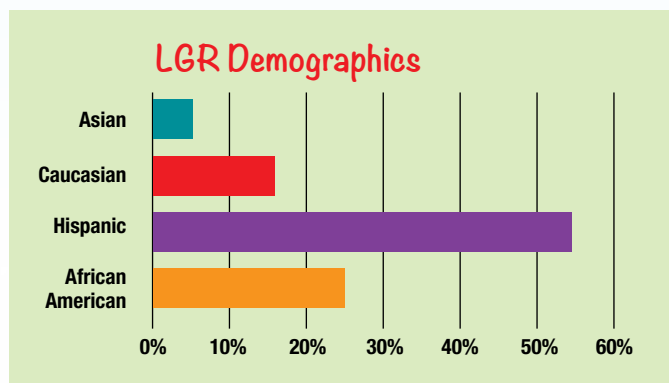


# Let's Get Ready SAT Prep Program

The Let's Get Ready SAT & College Preparation offered an intensive SAT preparation schedule, including Zoom classes and access to virtual learning. Students received **FREE SAT test preparation** in a stress free, supportive and encouraging environment. The **24** enrolled students adjusted well and showed a commitment and desire to learn and prepare for the SAT exam.

At LGR, there is no one size fits all approach to achieving a successful score on the SAT test. To accurately evaluate students' strengths and weaknesses, they were required to take two full SAT diagnostic exams. The first test was a baseline measure to effectively group students with the best academic coach, who then created a tailored curriculum designed to pinpoint student's areas of growth, ensuring students received a high-quality instruction. The second exam allowed the instructors and students to measure their level of improvement.

This year's recruitments efforts led to a highly motivated and diverse pool of students. Such a diverse group of participants speaks to the success and impact of the program.



We are confident that each LGR student exited the program confident and equipped to navigate the college application process and confidently take the SAT test.



## This Way Onward - In partnership with The Door & Old Navy

**This Way ONward** program, formerly known as This Way Ahead.

**This Way ONward** is a paid life skills and internship program that helps youth ages **16-24** land a first job at Old Navy stores.

**8** young people from across Westchester County participated in the virtual training sessions. Youth committed to a 32-hour training over 5-weeks which provided an opportunity to better understand their values and interests and how those influence their career development. Topics focused on interview and resume prep as well as retail and workforce specific skills such as customer service, managing workplace conflict, diversity, and communication.

At the end of the training program participants reflected on their experience and shared that they enjoyed getting to meet new people, and coming out of their comfort zone.

The participants were interviewed for positions in the Port Chester & Cross County stores and all were hired for summer internships positions. Of the **8** youth, **7** were offered seasonal positions beyond the summer and 6 accepted and will continue working in their respective stores during the school year! Both the store managers and youth echoed comments that the 2022 **This Way ONward** program was a success!

# Growing White Plains



8 Youth participated in short lesson plans ranging from the life cycle of plants and insects, to pollination, environmental science and organic gardening. The classes all aided the youth to successfully plant, nurture and maintain a healthy organic community garden.

This year we enhanced our agriculture efforts with the implementation of solar energy, how it works, the benefits and how to build solar powered devices. Starting small, they built solar model cars and lighting systems and by the end of the summer they were able to build a solar powered irrigation system for the garden. This project fed the students thirst for environmental solutions and led to them creating a system that would help reduce the use of fossil fuels, reduce the amount of time it took to manually water the garden and see if they could build an environmentally safe and friendly project that would help future groups to grow more food for their community.

- **Westchester Composting Department** allowed everyone to learn the importance of how composting helps reduce waste and helps with growing healthier better crops. The children learned how to compost from start to finish by watching the process first hand.



- **Harlem Grown**, an urban community garden in the heart of NYC, complete with chickens, raised bed gardens and Hydroponic Gardening. Hydroponic Gardening is the process of growing plants without the use of soil! The youth were amazed to walk through a two story green house filled with fruits and vegetables growing and producing food without a speck of soil!

- **Croton Dam** tour showed them the start of the aqueduct system that connected the dam and supplied NYC with water for many of years. They were even able to not only walk over the aqueduct but enter the underground tunnels where the water traveled from the dam all the way to midtown Manhattan!





# Summer Leadership Program:

Careers in Medicine in partnership with Liberty Partnership SUNY Purchase LLP



The goal of the Summer Leadership Pathways Program is to provide our participant's skills that enhance their leadership potential. This year's focus was careers in the medical and healthcare field.

The 14 program participants were afforded the opportunity to speak with and receive training from professional from the medical and health industry that are actively engaged in their fields. The group toured White Plains Hospital, Burke Rehabilitation Hospital and New York Medical College. Each onsite visit provided the students with a glimpse at numerous careers in the medical field. Students were exposed to every level of profession from maintenance to surgery. Students learned that each occupation requires the other to safely and effectively provide health care services to patients.



The students were tasked with developing a community based project that they believe would be beneficial to themselves, those in their age range, and to the White Plains community at large. This

year, the participants decided to focus their project on **Mental Health And Wellness**. They believed that the effects of COVID-19 have made it harder on children their age to communicate, be seen and get the help they need.

In response to this need, they created **"SafeSpace"** which would be a physical building that would offer programming like gardening, cooking, meditation groups, and art classes to assist those students with tangible elements to assist them in reaching a "calm" place based on their own needs. The goal would be to one day house these programs in their own building that would be solely devoted to increased programming and giving the members a place to go, not just for those experiencing mental health challenges, but for them to be seen, heard, and accepted for who they are.



# Greening Project

Reflecting on his time with Greening Zayir Colson, a rising junior at White Plains High School stated

*"I enjoyed working with the Greening Project. I like the different places we went to and the people we met."*

Co-worker and sophomore, Aleksa Bober added,

*"I liked being able to have many new experiences and learning more about gardening."*

This year's Greening Project was a fun and engaging work experience. 5 youth participated in numerous activities throughout Westchester County including growing their own vegetables in the community garden at Baldwin Farm. Most of the students had not gardened before and this was their first working experience of any kind. Participants learned how to create and care for not just a vegetable garden but also pollinator gardens and the importance of native plants. Students participated in workshops and discussions focusing on tool use and safety, plant families and crop rotation, as well as environmental issues such as climate change, forest health and ecology.

*The goal of the Greening Project is for young people, to understand the natural environment not just in an abstract way but also in a way that pertains to food production and in turn to their everyday lives.*



In addition to working on our own plot, weeding, watering and cultivating the land; we also had the opportunity to help other local gardening programs at White Plains High School, DIG Farm in North Salem, the Native Plant Center in Valhalla, and the Greenburgh Nature Center.

Although small in number the students worked hard growing their own food and creating a greener White Plains. After this experience they have a better understanding of where their food comes from and all the hard work that goes into the agricultural industry.





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# Community Youth Court



The White Plains Youth Bureau Social Justice for the Youth Program/Community Youth Court had an exciting virtual summer training for **17** new members making it a 34-member youth court. The largest group to date! New members learn about the juvenile justice system and the youth court diversion program.

**6** current Youth Court members were provided a six week internship with local Civil/ Criminal Judges from the Westchester Supreme Court, Corporation Counsel, and the County Prosecutor's Office.

Youth Court processed **7** real cases during the summer.

The members prepared and presented on several topics affecting our community such as the recent Supreme Court decision on Roe v. Wade, Gun rights vs. control, and mental health awareness.

The Youth Court members put on a Mock Trial on August 11th to show off their newfound knowledge and skills. They were presented with Certificates for successfully completing the training from the Westchester County District Attorney Office.

**The White Plains Community Youth Court was selected to participate in nationwide 9/11 Flag of Honor Across America Memorial event for the second year in a row.**