

Year-End Update 2010-2011

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A Banner Year for GVYC

Since 1969, GVYC has been engaging and empowering **the most at-risk, isolated, and disenfranchised young**



JOY Center Graduation, June 2011. Credit: Russ & Reyn

people in NYC – youth in foster care and the juvenile justice system, from troubled families and impoverished

neighborhoods, surrounded by violence.

We believe that for kids to make it, **they need to feel safe in the world.**

To do that, we **provide them with the essentials that a loving home provides** – the home many of them lack.

More formally, the overall goal of all of our programs is to help at-risk young people build healthy lives

by supporting them to prevent substance abuse, delinquency, and other risky behaviors.

This fiscal year we have taken several leaps forward in our ability to provide our youth the essentials of a home.

- 1) **We opened up an actual home, Family House,** for those youth with no place else to turn (see more below)
- 2) **We partnered with Planned Parenthood** to offer a pregnancy prevention program to young teens at the JOY Center (see other side)
- 3) **We offered several evidence-based substance abuse prevention programs** (right). And much, much more...

Summer 2011

Substance Abuse Prevention

All of GVYC's programming is aimed at reducing substance abuse among youth by providing healthy alternatives and role models. Recently we've added several formal, evidence-based programs serving almost 200 youth across 3 sites:

Teen Intervene (for ages 12-19). Used with 50 youth.

Project ALERT: Middle school 12-session drug prevention model program.

Project Towards No Drug Abuse: High School, 12 session drug prevention model program.

Project Towards No Tobacco Use: Elementary/Middle School

By the Numbers:

- Youth Counseled this year: 87
- Participants in School-based after-school programs: 600
- GVYC youth Basketball players: 288

Fulfilling a Dream, Family House Opens

Executive Director John Pettinato has long had a dream that he could **provide a true home for GVYC's most troubled young people** to help launch them into adulthood.

Last summer, he was able to fulfill that dream by buying and renovating a house in Bushwick, Brooklyn.

There is a huge, docu-

mented service gap for 18-24-year-old at risk youth aging out of foster care and the juvenile justice system, which Family House helps to fill. Family House is a major addition to our comprehensive services for kids.

It allows us to **support them intensively** through times of crisis and give them a real chance to succeed.



Highlights from Our Programs

The JOY Center

This year, the JOY Center got a makeover — it received brand new floors for the first time since it opened, fresh paint, and new furniture.

We also partnered for the first time with Planned Parenthood to offer a new, evidence-based pregnancy prevention program for young teens called Making Proud Choices.

The Institute for Collaborative Education

I.C.E., which 20 years ago grew out of GVYC's educational programs and is

now one of the most successful schools in NYC, continued its record of impressive achievements in academics and the arts, with support from CBO partner GVYC. Including:

- **Music:** This spring, the High School Band & Songwriters performed at the Gateshead International Jazz Festival in England with their original "Subway Songs". The Independent of London wrote: "It was the most inspiring performance I've seen for years."
- **College Bound:** Every single ICE

graduate was admitted to college this year! This fall, ICE students will be off to Brandeis, NYU, Swarthmore, Hunter College, Binghamton, and many more.

Greenwich Village Girls' Basketball League

The GBL enjoyed yet another successful basketball season, featuring clinics by the Columbia Women's Basketball team and half-time scrimmages at their games, along with our requisite fun, teamwork, and plenty of playing time for all 100 of our 9-15-year-old girls.

GVYC Enriches Lives at Essex Street Academy

GVYC's afterschool and other enrichment programs at Essex Street Academy serve some of the most at-risk teens on the Lower East Side, with over 75% living in poverty. Some highlights from this school year:

- We had our highest ever level of participation in our afterschool program — 93 percent of our 328 students participated.
- We launched a soccer club which

engaged a large segment of our population that we had previously had trouble reaching: first generation immigrants, many of whom are struggling academically and facing pressures to join gangs.

93 percent of Essex Street students participated in GVYC's after-school and Saturday programs this year

- We sent a group of 14 students to Peru on a 10 day study and volunteer summer trip.
- We had the highest number of service hours ever recorded in our community service club. Students have spread an ethos of volunteering to the whole community.
- We were able to offer 39 different academic, sports, and arts activities during afterschool and on Saturdays.

Summer in the City — and Outside it!

And the year isn't over yet! This summer we're offering our youth three comprehensive out-of-school-time options:



- 1) The West Fourth Street Summer Basketball League's 37th season has just opened. We've expanded to three leagues this year, adding a 14-and-under boys league to our 15-17 girls and boys leagues. All are welcome to come out and see a game at the W. 4th St. "Cage"!
- 2) The JOY Center is hosting a full-day summer camp for 6-12 year olds, featuring swimming, crafts, sports, and field trips — including a

tour of Yankee Stadium.

- 3) The GVYC Summer Intervention Program will serve 35 youth who are either involved with drugs or at high risk of getting involved, who are failing their classes, and who would otherwise not leave the city during the summer. It offers summer school, tutoring, outdoor recreation, supported work experience (for older youth), and a chance to relax in the countryside.