

AGENCY OF THE MONTH

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lence serves up to 25 children between the ages of six and 12 and operates from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. weekdays during September to June. A summer program offers extended day programs.

The second after-school program is an HCCI Computer Clubhouse that provides access to the latest computer software including graphic design, music and even robotics. (See: Learning Through Design, page 11.)

HCCI's HIV/AIDS program was launched in the late-1980s by Pennessa C. Seel in response to the emerging AIDS crisis in Harlem. "People in our community were dying and we needed to do something," says McEwen. HCCI began doing HIV/AIDS education and outreach and subsequently secured the scattered site housing contract. "We provide services, act as advocates on their behalf and make sure they are receiving the right medication. We also have 8-10 peer counselors. These are people affected by AIDS go out and counsel others." Seel subsequently went on to found The Balm in Gilead, the nation's largest faith-based HIV/AIDS service organization.

HCCI also assists it member congregations to develop "AIDS ministries" in their churches. "We have received funding from MHRRA to provide assistance to five churches," says McEwen. HCCI helps them to set up separate 501(c)3s with the appropriate financial and program management infrastructure. HCCI also helps each congregation to develop a service model which fits with its individual religious culture. "We have such a broad membership which ranges from very liberal organizations to very conservative churches and mosques, so we provide HIV/AIDS counseling services that run that gamut. Some are only willing to promote abstinence, whereas others are willing to talk about safe sex. We show people how they can start those ministries and address the needs of the community regardless of where they are on that spectrum. When the problem is as devastating as it is here in Harlem, we need everyone on board."

These programs developed into HCCI's current Health and Wellness Division also offers WIC (Women, Infants and Children) health and nutrition programs, food card services and a Health Resource Library where community residents can get information on healthcare issues. The agency is part of the Start Right 2010 coalition.

HCCI also offers employment training and other economic development assistance. The Bradhurst Village Career Center is funded through Seedco and the Earnfair Alliance and provides job readiness training workshops, computer skills training and job placement assistance. HCCI trains community residents for jobs in the retail grocery industry through a separate program developed in conjunction with Pathmark Supermarkets, a tenant at the recently-opened Bradhurst Court project at the corner of 145th and Frederick Douglass Blvd.

In May, HCCI launched its latest workforce development project, The Construc-

tion Trades Academy, which will target young people aged 18 to 25 and provide training in basic construction trades. "There is a lot of building going on in Harlem and we want to make sure that our young people get some opportunities to participate in that work," says McEwen. The project is getting financial support from the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and the Valerine Perry Snyder Fund. "We are going to start with 30 students with the hope of having 15-20 graduate. The last third of a six month training period is actually working on site with developers."

HCCI has several additional projects in development.

Plans for development of a state-of-the-art early childhood education center have been completed for a site at 260-262 West 153rd Street. Finding funding to complete the project - at a cost which will make the space affordable for other non-profit day care providers - is still a challenge, however. "People are still looking at day care as a social service and not recognizing its economic impact," says McEwen. "It allows parents to seek employment. It contributes to the local economy and it makes a tremendous impact on young people." The site would accommodate 150 children in day care as well as additional after-school programming.

Another new housing project is "The Sutton", named after former Manhattan Borough President Percy Sutton. "This is a 135-unit coop which will be affordable for families starting at 80% of AMI." HCCI is also seeking to complete renovation of the former PS 90 on 148th St. which has been vacant for about 30 years. We are hoping to develop it into large artist studio/loft-type apartments," says McEwen. The facility will also feature ground floor offices and a basement auditorium which would be appropriate for nonprofits seeking administrative or program space.

Similarly, HCCI is looking forward to developing its own centralized agency headquarters as part of a planned development at 203 West 146th St. "Right now we are in eight or nine different locations," says McEwen. "When we have commercial space or community space in a building, we use that for service delivery but it keeps us spread out. This will allow the agency to really come together as an organization." It will also free up many of the storefronts along Frederick Douglass Blvd. for additional retail shops and other commercial development.

Over the years, HCCI's membership has grown from the original 16 churches to more than 90 congregations which now also include mosques and a synagogue.

Walking the streets of Bradhurst, it is difficult to imagine that the community would even exist without the block after block of redevelopment led by HCCI. "We were able to lower the risk factors so that other nonprofits and for-profits began to invest in Harlem," says Canon Williams. "We became the catalyst for the revitalization of Harlem."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS continued from page 3

ing teens to take responsibility and plan for their future. 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., \$245 registration fee. For further information and an application, please contact Rebecca Iwerks at 212-675-6181 or by email at riwerks@youthadvocacycenter.org

June 13 - VCS Annual Golf Tournament to benefit child abuse prevention programs will be held at 11:00 am at Patriot Hills Golf Club. For more information call (845) 634-5729.

June 14 - Does Culture Make a Difference? sponsored by the Mental Health Association of Nassau County. A 1/2 Day program, 9:15 am -12 Noon; \$10 fee, includes continental breakfast. For additional information, visit our website, www.mhanc.org; professional services/training calendar or email lgilmore@mhanc.org.

June 15 - The Mid-Hudson Coalition for the Development of Direct Care Practice, Inc will host its 13th Annual Conference, "Together We Can Make a Difference," Dutchess Community College, North Cafeteria at Drumlum Hall, Poughkeepsie, NY. For information, call 845-452-5772, ext. 119.

June 15 - "Empowered and Engaged: Accountability Now and for the Future" will be hosted by the Better Business Bureau of New York, the New York State Attorney General's Office, NYU Wagner Graduate School, and the Support Center for Nonprofit Management. Featured speakers include Zachary W. Carter, Board Chair, Hale House; Pablo Eisenberg, Senior Fellow, Georgetown University Public Policy Institute; Karin Kunster Goldman, Assistant Attorney General, Charities Bureau; Lillian Rodriguez-Lopez, Executive Director, Hispanic Federation and Lorie Slutsky, President & CEO, New York Community Trust, 8:00am - 12:30pm. Space is limited and early registration is recommended. For event location, schedule and registration information, go to <http://www.supportcenteronline.org/accountability.php>.

June 16 - NY Citizens' Committee on Health Care Decisions will host "Dietary Supplements: What You Don't Know Can Hurt You" with Tina Powell, MD, Executive Director, New York State Task Force on Life & the Law, 6:00-8:30 pm at 2 West 64th St. Fee/Registration Required. For more information call 212-586-4638.

June 18- Ruby Weston Manor hosts its 2nd Annual Health Fair 11:00 am- 5:00 pm 2237 Linden Boulevard at Cleveland and Ashford Streets in Brooklyn. Free health screening and information, games, face painting and clowns for the children, live-entertainment and food. (Rain Date: Saturday, June 25, 2005)

June 19 - The 4th Annual Deputy Chief Ray Downey "Forever Running" Memorial 5K Run/Walk will benefit United Way of Long Island, NYFF Burn Center, Deer Park Athletic Scholarships, Thomas Elssasser Fund, Marty Lyons Make-A-Wish, Fire Family Transport, Town of Babylon 9/11 Memorial, Knights of Columbus and others, through the Deputy Chief Raymond Downey Scholarship/Charity Fund. To register, visit www.chiefaydowney.com. For more information, visit www.unitedwayil.org.

June 22 - Graduate Open House, Milano Graduate School, New School University Starting at 6:00 pm, 72 5th Avenue, NYC. RSVP at milanoadmissions@newschool.edu or call 212-229-5400 x1120.

June 27 - Break the Cycle New York's Summer Soirée will be held from 6:30 - 9:30 pm, at Capitale. To learn more, visit www.breakthecycle.org and click on What's New.

June 28 - Support Center for Nonprofit Management is offering a Half-Day Workshop "Stewardship: The Art of Thanking Donors," 9:30am - 12:30pm at Support Center, 305 Seventh Ave, 11 Flr, NYC. For more information or registration contact Steve Damiano at (212) 924-6744 ext. 302, or sd@supportctr.org. Visit Support Center website at www.supportcenteronline.org.

July 21 - Council of Community Services of New York State, Inc. (CCSNYS) will sponsor "Fund Development 101:" 1:00 - 4:00 pm, Putnam Family and Community Services' Great Room, 1808 Route 6, Carmel, NY. To register, or for additional information, go to www.ccsnys.org/bahn05.htm or call Amy Nevin at 1.800.515.5012, ext. 106.

August 12 - Council of Community Services of New York State, Inc. (CCSNYS) will sponsor 2005 "Grave New World: Grantsseeking on the Internet," 9:00 am - 12 Noon and 1:00 - 4:00 pm, Mid-Hudson Library System Auditorium, 105 Market Street, Poughkeepsie. To register, or for additional information, go to www.ccsnys.org/bahn05.htm or call Amy Nevin at 1.800.515.5012, ext. 106.

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