



# SCAN *life*

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## SCAN Mullaly: *On The Rise*



*New afterschool programming for middle school students at our Mullaly Academy is off to a strong start*

Brand new funding from the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development is helping to create a fresh atmosphere of excitement and achievement at one of SCAN's largest and most established sites in the South Bronx: our SCAN Mullaly Academy, which has been operated by the agency since 1993.

The new SONYC (School's Out New York City) Middle School Initiative activities at Mullaly are geared towards 90 middle school students, ages 11-14, who participate in a wide range of programming. Activities including outdoor and indoor recreation, drama and dance classes, cooking and nutrition instruction, a journalism club, project-based computer and internet education. The program also includes service learning activities, which are developed, planned and implemented by the students, to improve the quality of life in their community. The program also provides consistent homework support for youth and opportunities throughout the year to share accomplishments with their peers and parents.

Located on Jerome Avenue, just north of Yankee Stadium, Mullaly is managed by SCAN through a licensing agreement with the NYC Dept. of Parks, and is comprised of a 25,000 square foot facility and three square blocks of adjoining parkland. In addition to the new SONYC activities, the site continues to host two of SCAN's most impactful programs: our Reach For The Stars (RFTS) college-bound program and our Violence Prevention program.

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# Mullaly Academy: *On The Rise*

*continued from cover*

For more than 10 years, Mullaly has been home to our RFTS Bronx-based programming. The program provides an array of educational and social activities that improve academic performance and social development, which foster a strong network of peer and staff support.

RFTS' ability to dramatically improve the lives of at-risk African American and Latino youth has been consistently impressive. For the 2013-2014 school year, the program continued to achieve its core goal of placing 90% of graduating high school seniors into college, with 24 participants beginning their higher education at schools including Alfred State University, Fordham University, Mercy College, Pace University, St. Johns University, SUNY Brockport and SUNY Albany.

The launch of the SONYC program at Mullaly has now created the opportunity for the high school students enrolled in RFTS to partner with and mentor the newly-arrived SONYC middle school students, helping the younger students to manage their critical transition to high school.

The ongoing activities of SCAN's Violence Prevention program at Mullaly are also helping young people in our community to rise above some enormous challenges. For more than 14 years, our South Bronx-based program for court-involved youth has provided individual, group and family counseling for young people with a history of violence. Involvement in the program is typically a condition of the participant's probation.



*Reach For The Stars students participating in a workshop on internet safety and cyberbullying*

The program continues to produce strong results for teens, including reducing future arrests, physical confrontations, and participation in gangs.

George Parker, the SCAN staff member who directs the SCAN Mullaly Academy (and who has worked at the site for more than 17 years) is understandably excited and proud to see the center growing. "We have so much more to look forward to, like an upcoming workshop by a hip hop choreographer, our summer camp, and the first banquet for parents prepared entirely by our middle school students. It's wonderful that we can continue to make our center an even richer resource for this community."



*Mullaly's Program Director, George Parker (third from the right, in back) with some of the site's dedicated staff*



*Mullaly received a significant renovation in 2006, thanks in-part to our partners next door at Yankee Stadium*

## Announcing Two New SCAN Board Members

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of two new members of SCAN's Board of Directors: Sarah JJ Caffey and Rahesha Harrison. "We are honored to have Sarah and Rahesha elected to the Board," said Vincent DeGiaino, who was elected President of SCAN's Board of Directors in early 2014. "SCAN has never been in a better position to address the critical needs of the children and families we serve, and this is an exciting time for these two committed individuals to help us build the agency's programming and support."

Ms. Caffey is an ecommerce strategy consultant with Firebrand Group, a boutique multi-disciplinary brand engagement consultancy. She completed her Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology at American University and her Master of Science in Luxury Management at the International University of Monaco. Ms. Caffey is an active volunteer with the New York Junior League and a member of the Whitney Contemporaries.

Ms. Harrison, who holds a Masters Degree from Fordham University in Educational Leadership, and a Bachelors of Arts Degree from North Carolina Central University, is the founding Principal of Frederick Douglass Academy III, an NYC public high school located in The Bronx, NY, where she has served for ten years. Over the past 20 years she has received some noteworthy attention for her work in education: the Association of Black School Educators of New York honored Ms. Harrison as the "Educator of the Year" in 2013, and she was recently named a "Hometown Hero" by the NY Daily News.

Ms. Caffey and Ms. Harrison are both recent graduates of the New York Junior League's Nonprofit Boards Clearinghouse program, which, since 1991, has trained over 1,000 women and men to become effective board members, and introduces them to NYC-based nonprofits. Lew Zuchman, SCAN's Executive Director noted that, "This wonderful program is just one of the many ways in which the Junior League continues to partner with and support SCAN. SCAN and the Junior League have worked together for more than 10 years and I continue to be impressed with the commitment and energy of their volunteers."



Rahesha Harrison

photo: Sheila D's Productions



Sarah JJ Caffey

## Kops and Kids Basketball Program Launches in Partnership with the NYPD



Attendees at the first "Kops and Kids" game included NYPD Assistant Chief James Secreto, head of the NYCHA Housing Police (to the right of Lew Zuchman)

This past December, SCAN youth came together with the New York Police Department to begin a series of "Kops and Kids" basketball games, designed to help build mutual understanding and familiarity between the students who attend programs at our community centers, and the officers who work to keep NYCHA residents safe. So far, the games have taken place at SCAN's Johnson Cornerstone Community Center in East Harlem and the results have been very positive. After each game, the students and officers get together for pizza and soda and get to know one and other. As this new initiative evolves, and is expanded to more SCAN sites, we expect it will help to create a broader context for making progress around such issues as youth violence and the community's interest in better relations with the NYPD.



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## A New SCAN Youth Council is Seeking to Make Positive Change

As part of SCAN's ongoing efforts to make a difference and transform the lives of the 'highest risk' children and families of East Harlem, the agency established a brand new SCAN Youth Council in January. At its monthly meetings, the new council, made up of 25 members, works to identify important shared concerns about their community, and to develop a plan to make a positive change.

The structure for the council is based on SCAN's ongoing afterschool programming in East Harlem: youth between the ages of 13 - 18 at all of our Beacon and Cornerstone centers were identified by each site's program director, and two or three students from each site were invited to join the council.

Currently, the council has established that violence in the community, and the role of the police, are the key issues they want to address, and the group is now working towards two goals. First, the council will set-up a community conference to create a forum for students and members of the NYPD to come together to foster better communication. Second, the Youth Council is planning a dance for local teens in early May.



*The SCAN Youth Council monthly meeting is run by  
Lew Zuchman, SCAN's Executive Director*