

The Office of Columbia Community Service (CSS) UTS Partner Field Sites



The mission of America SCORES New York is to empower students in urban communities through the practices of soccer, writing, creative expression, and service learning. Their Literacy in Action program, which is delivered in partnership with public elementary schools in West Harlem, provides free year-round instruction aimed at developing students' reading and writing ability, self-confidence, physical fitness, mental acuity, and engagement with their local communities. The America SCORES program model was developed in 1999 and currently operates in 14 different cities serving over 14,000 kids daily.

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Executive Director

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HEAF is an out-of-school time college preparatory and youth leadership organization that serves low-income students in New York City through a comprehensive continuum of academic support, youth development, and service-learning programs. HEAF's mission is to narrow the opportunity gap in education by ensuring that high-potential, underserved students have access to the social and intellectual resources and opportunities necessary to gain a competitive edge and complete high school prepared and inspired to attend and graduate from challenging four-year colleges. Their goal is to ensure that every student completes the program socially and intellectually prepared to succeed in higher education and life.

Ruth Rathblott

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Top Honors (THinc) helps struggling New York City middle school students master fundamentals of math. By providing students with a solid foundation, THinc gives them many of the tools necessary to succeed in high school and beyond. THinc's curriculum features lesson plans that guide tutors through each session and includes exercises that simulate real-life situations. It also includes math-driven games and competitions to make the learning experience more enjoyable for the student. THinc boasts a low student-to-tutor ratio, allowing tutors to tailor the program for their students.

Julia Kang

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The Wendy Hilliard Gymnastics Foundation (WHGF) promotes and provides opportunities for young people to learn and perform and compete in the sport of gymnastics and its associated disciplines, as well as to enhance their athletic, social and personal potential through quality instruction and workshops in reading and health and nutrition. The three main goals of WHGF are: to increase participant enrollment; enhance existing programs and develop new programs; and support competitive team programs.

Wendy Hilliard

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In a time when there is a growing number of older seniors, when families live at great distances, when there are cuts in government spending on the elderly, when there are too few geriatricians, and when many seniors are living close to the poverty line, our oldest community members can face dire challenges when they need care. LiLY Lifeforce in Later Years is dedicated to community-based models of elder care, and works through the power of intergenerational partnerships, as they help to support those who continue to provide us with vital legacies. Morningside Village, a LiLY project, is a community-building program, which, through a cadre of volunteers, is helping our elderly neighbors to age comfortably in their own homes where they want to remain. Volunteers who live right in the Morningside Heights community are supported by Morningside Village and its partners, as they assist seniors in a variety of ways. Volunteers befriend the elderly, help them connect with the community and needed services; as well as, improve their health and living conditions as they age.

Irene Zola

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Based in Harlem, The Reading Team is dedicated to enabling young children who are at high risk of reading failure to become strong and enthusiastic readers, writers, listeners, and speakers, and to develop the skills, habits, and behaviors that will support their success in school and in life. They accomplish this through a series of uniquely successful programs that immerse young children who are at high risk of reading failure in a rich and engaging learning environment before a lack of success in school dampens their natural enthusiasm for learning.

Maureen Rover

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Behind the Book

Behind the Book strengthens literacy in students attending underserved NYC public schools. Working with classes from Pre-K through the 12th grade, they identify books that speak to urban youth, and partner with teachers to create immersive curriculum units that bring the authors of those books into the classroom. Through a series of workshops, authors discuss their books and teach a genre of writing, encouraging students to see themselves as readers and writers, and ultimately guiding them in the creation of their own original writing.

Jo Umans

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