















This has been an extraordinary year for The Arthur Project. We have successfully managed to both expand and refine our programming to respond to the needs of young people. And our youth have flourished!

We continue to have a 100% completion rate for our 6th, 7th and 8th graders. Our mentors report that our youths' confidence, sense of mattering and communication skills have grown while our families and teachers report that our youth are more academically engaged.

While participating in The Arthur Project, our kids find their voices and their strengths. Once shy students raise their hands in class and report feeling more motivated to attend school and overcome academic challenges.

Our evidence-based therapeutic mentoring model has been recognized as powerful and impactful by our partner organizations and schools. Yet our youths' needs continue to grow as they are disproportionately impacted by our nation's mental health crises and lack of resources at individual and systemic levels.

While The Arthur Project's innovative approach to intensive mentoring have been uniquely successful, significant work remains as our youth's needs intensify. We currently serve 300 young people with 30 mentors. And there are many more who could benefit from participating in our programming that we currently cannot serve.

It is our dream to respond to every youth who hopes to find that special person with whom to bond, share, grow and become their highest potential. For that to happen, we need more advocates, more champions, and more supporters of youth development initiatives such as ours.

We need you.

As much as this annual report is a celebration of our kids and The Arthur Project community committed to supporting them, it is also an invitation for you to join that community, increase your involvement and/or share our work with others.

As you read about the amazing journey of our last year, it is our hope that you will be moved to play a significant role in The Arthur Projects' future with your support and donations.



Karen Miner-Romanoff



Travis Montez Johnson

Best,

Laker Ira

THE ARTHUR PROJECT BOARD CO-PRESIDENTS

MENTOR + MENTEE PROFILE:

Estela Lopey (Mentor) and Malik McGhie (Mentee)



Estela Lopez and her mentee, Malik McGhie, came into each other's lives at a time when things weren't exactly perfect. Malik said "my first day of middle school was rough. I didn't know anyone, and I didn't know where anything was. I just needed room to breathe."

Thus began their year-long journey together. And while Malik was in middle school to learn, he was also there to teach. In fact, Estela shared that through Malik, she

learned that middle school students want to share their experiences of adolescence - that they want to have a relationship with a trusted adult who can be a listening ear. At the same time, they want space to explore, to make mistakes, and to be themselves.

Estela and Malik soon identified some similarities that created a foundation for a deep and collaborative relationship. Like Malik, The Bronx played a critical role in Estela's educational journey. "My path to become a social worker began at Bronx Community

College. After graduating in 2022 I got accepted into Lehman College, which finally led me to graduating with my master's [of social work] at Fordham University."

Finding this common ground allowed their relationship to flourish and soon Malik came to view his relationship with Estela as a safe place to navigate the trials and tribulations of middle school. He shares that before the Arthur Project, life was pretty boring. He felt like he was just another student stuck in class. Now, Malik says

"being a mentee in the Arthur Project helped me learn lots of things, like [learning] from my mistakes. My relationship with my mentor is good - we play games and talk about life."

Malik isn't the only one to benefit from the mentoring relationship. Estela shares that Malik not only taught her how to be a good mentor, but how to be a good social worker. She says that "every day, I am reminded why I took this path - to lend support, compassion, and a listening ear."



THE ARTHUR PROJECT:

Murturing Success at The Meyer Levin School for the Performing Arts

In the vibrant halls of The Meyer Levin School for the Performing Arts, two exceptional students stand out as beacons of academic and personal achievement. 2024 Valedictorian, Ashley Dorvil and Salutatorian, Kayla Termilus are shining examples of dedication and excellence. But they share more than just their academic accolades - they are both proud participants in The Arthur Project's mentoring program.

Ashley and Kayla have so much to celebrate - it is their determination, hard work and dedication to their education that led these achievements. The support of their mentors - through The Arthur Project's unique therapeutic mentoring program - also played a pivotal role in their journey to success, underscoring the profound impact of mentorship and support on young lives. In fact, they both share that through their relationships with The Arthur Project mentors, they learned to set and achieve important personal goals.

These accomplishments are a testament to the transformative power of The Arthur Project. As Kayla and Ashley move forward, their success stories will continue to inspire others, highlighting the transformative impact of mentorship for young people.



The Arthur Project's * # # # (O) Y LEADERSHIE INSTITUTE SUMMER PROGRAM: **EMPOWERING** FUTURE FRESHMEN

In July of 2024, a group of eager 8th grade middle school students embarked on an enriching journey with The Arthur Project's Youth Leadership Institute summer program. The program ran until August 15 and was designed specifically for students who were rising freshmen in high school. It was an exciting blend of educational enrichment, creative exploration, and community engagement.

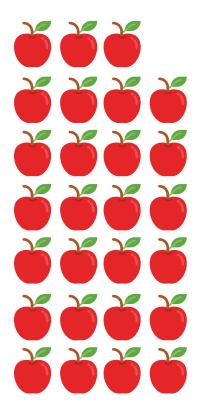
Throughout the six-week program, students participated in a variety of activities and outings that aimed to foster personal growth and academic readiness. Here's a glimpse of just a few things they participated in:

- CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS
- BEAT THE BOMB
- FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOPS
- FIELD TRIP TO SIX FLAGS

The Arthur Project's Youth Leadership Institute Summer Program is more than just a series of activities; it's a comprehensive approach to preparing students for the next stage of their academic journey. By combining creative, educational, and recreational activities, the program ensures a well-rounded experience that addresses various aspects of personal and academic development. It not just prepares students for high school; it's equipping them with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to become active, engaged, and successful individuals. By investing in these young leaders today, the Arthur Project is paving the way for a brighter, more empowered future.

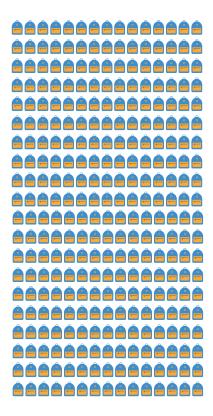


This year, The Arthur Project:



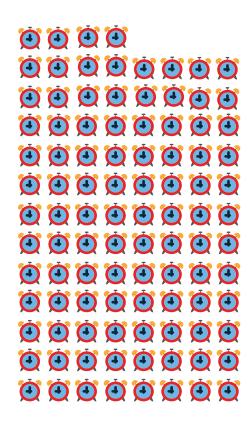
Engaged 27 social work students as therapeutic mentors

= one therapeutic mentor



Served 300 middle school students

= one student



Provided up to **500 hours** of mentoring per student



Arthur Project mentees:



Improve their MENTAL HEALTH



Gain CONFIDENCE



Improve
PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS
and are more likely to
PERSIST through challenges



Improve
ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE,
including grades and
attendance



Strengthen COMMUNICATION skills



Become BETTER
ADVOCATES – for
themselves and others



REFLECTIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jessica Greenawalt, PhD. LCSW

Dear Community,

As we reflect on the past year, I am honored to share with you the tremendous progress and impact we have achieved at The Arthur Project. Serving as the Executive Director of our innovative mentoring nonprofit has been both a privilege and a profound responsibility.

Though there is much to celebrate, I'd be remiss to not speak truth to the challenges of the past year, including ongoing political and social shifts that have directly impacted the lives of the students and families we serve. In response, our organization has remained steadfast in our commitment to innovation, listening attentively to community needs, and implementing new strategies to fill critical gaps in support for our mentees during uncertain times. By remaining adaptable and proactive, we have strengthened our impact and reinforced our commitment to equity and inclusivity.

Amidst these challenges, I have also seen the power of mentorship in action. Our mentors - who bring a wealth of diverse perspectives and experiences - have continued to serve as steadfast role models and advocates, providing crucial care, guidance, and encouragement to our mentees. Their dedication and compassion

have made a profound difference in the lives of young people facing unprecedented social pressures and uncertainties.

The current political and social climate has underscored the importance of our mission more than ever before. It has highlighted the inequalities and disparities that exist within our city - and beyond - and reinforced the urgency of our work. As we move forward, I am committed to creating opportunities for young people to experience healing, growth, and exploration. I am also committed to advocating for systemic change that empowers all young people to reach their fullest potential. I hope you will join me.

I am inspired by the resilience and strength of our community. Together, we will continue to make a meaningful impact in the lives of young people and contribute to a more just and equitable society.

In solidarity,

Dr. Jossica Groonaw

Dr. Jessica Greenawalt, LCSW Executive Director and Co-Founder



Meet Our BRONX **EDUCATION** ADVOCATE, **DESTINY KIRK**

Destiny J. Kirk, the Brooklyn Education Advocate for The Arthur Project, is a proud Brooklyn native who has dedicated her life to serving the diverse communities of her hometown. Her deepest passion lies in assisting and uplifting those in need, including youth, the homeless, the mentally ill, LGBTQIA individuals, and low-income populations. Her dedication to community service is evident through her numerous initiatives, such as organizing annual toy drives, community givebacks, scholarships, and workshops.

One of Destiny's most significant accomplishments occurred in 2020 when she organized a march in Brooklyn to address gun violence within the Black community. This impactful event brought together 500 constituents, including over 200 youth, as well as key community and state stakeholders, to spark vital conversations and actions towards combating this critical issue.

With her background as a former educator, Destiny has a profound understanding of the disparities and inequalities faced by Black and Brown children in the NYC education system. This experience has made her transition to the role of an Education Advocate seamless and effective. Her commitment to advocacy and education has been recognized through her recent appointment as a Youth Ambassador for Mayor Eric Adams and her honor as one of Brooklyn's Power Professionals.

When she is not advocating, teaching, or learning, Destiny enjoys reading, traveling, fashion, and spending quality time with her loved ones. Her unwavering dedication to her community continues to inspire and drive positive change in Brooklyn and beyond.

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT YEAR

Our TAP community — much like our global community — continue to face a host of challenges. Amidst these difficulties, it's easy to become disillusioned and disheartened and to believe the myth that we cannot make a difference.

Today we share our hope and belief that we can and will make a difference and that the young people we serve will continue to grow and thrive. We hold this hope because we've seen firsthand the difference our program makes. The data shows that our program supports young people in getting better grades and improving their attendance, in improving their relationships with peers and teachers and in developing essential life skills.

More compelling is the impact that our young people share – that because of their mentors, they feel safe, feel seen, and can imagine new possibilities for themselves. Because of our small afterschool groups, they feel a sense of belonging with peers they had never connected with. Because of our Saturday activities, they visited a museum in Manhattan for the first time in their life. We hear our

parents say that without The Arthur Project, they would not have known their child was struggling with their mental health and would not have the tools to support them. We hear our Principal say that partnering with The Arthur Project was one of the best decisions they ever made in their role as Principal.

As our impact grows – so does the need for programming like ours. Over the next year, we will deepen our collaboration with our current partner middle schools as we establish new partnerships with additional NYC middle schools. We will continue to listen to our stakeholders and refine our programming to meet their needs.

And we will remain hopeful. The radiance of our young people will keep this hope ignited and light our path as we support them through another year of healing, growth, and exploration.

WILL YOU JOIN US?



Community Holiday Celebration

This past year, The Arthur Project hosted a spectacular Community Holiday Event at the High City Lofts in Manhattan, NYC. The festive gathering brought together The Arthur Project community - all eager to celebrate the season with a blend of music, art, and creative activities.

The party was kicked off by DJ Dot from 105.1, whose vibrant music set the perfect tone for the festivities. Guests danced and enjoyed a lively atmosphere, thanks to DJ Dot's energetic beats.

Adding to the musical charm of the event, Kelly Baker, a talented Sony Music artist, delivered a captivating live performance. The event also featured an interactive painting session with renowned visual artist Steve Camillone. Guests also got to indulge in a unique sensory experience, with Alexis Grugeon-led perfume-making sessions. Between the good food, great music, and creative activities, there was something for everyone to enjoy.

We hope you will join us this year in celebration of our vibrant Arthur Project community.

Please Mark Your Calendars for Our Next Community Holiday Celebration, December 14th, 2024



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> **Please note this list was compiled on 8/2/2024. If you believe there is an error in the report, or you would like to be removed from future reporting, please contact: ecasablanca@thearthurproject.org

Jackson Sheu



This year, The Arthur Project (TAP) celebrated our 2nd Annual

Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament, with a turnout of 150 guests.

THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY, WE RAISED AN ASTOUNDING \$113,648.00 TOWARDS OUR MISSION.

In addition, we gave away ten (10) high-end prizes, including a weekend away in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, New York Knicks Tickets, and Notre Dame versus Army Football tickets, amongst other fantastic items.

This event wouldn't have been possible without the support of our key sponsors:

The Miner-Romanoff Family, Quontic Bank, Sigma Worldwide, Tarter Krinsky & Drogin, AVO Construction, Rosenthal Business Credit, and Tiary Jewelry.











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- PROVIDE therapeutic mentoring services to over 300 middle school students
- **2 FACILITATE** over 100+ hours of training and support for our social work mentor interns
- 3 PROVIDE up to 500 hours of services each year for each student
- **4 SUPPORT** the expansion of our program into New York City schools

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