



Most Valuable Kids of Greater New York

Testimonials



INSPIRING KIDS WITH NEW EXPERIENCES



Dear Most Valuable Kids NYC,

Thank you so much for the outstanding reward for our top summer school performers yesterday. Our students had a wonderful experience. Thanks to the benefit of a rain delay, the students were able to learn about careers in the sports world outside of being an athlete.

As you know, we have a tradition of bringing students to the Jackie Robinson Rotunda to teach them about all of the amazing qualities for which he stood as a ballplayer and as a person. That tradition, which we started in 2013, continued yesterday. As Abraham (on the left in the picture) looked around the rotunda and read about Jackie Robinson, he remarked "***these are a lot of qualities I can work on in my own life, even if I am not a ballplayer.***" As we have done before, we celebrated by taking a picture with our students in front of the picture of Jackie Robinson receiving his college degree, something these two students will be doing in five years!

We look forward to rewarding more of our students for their outstanding participation in our programs!

Best,

Andrew- Project Rousseau



MORRIS HEIGHTS HEALTH CENTER / HARRISON
*57 W. BURNSIDE AVE * BRONX, NEW YORK 10453* (718) 839-8900 EXT: 3333*

November 19, 2014

Rae Anne McLaughlin
Most Valuable Kids
1440 Broadway
23rd Floor
New York, NY 10018

Dear Rae Anne,

It is with gratitude that I write this letter to you. This year, for our kids and families, has been one of momentous gains and success. Because of the generosity of your donors, we have been able to send deserving kids to the Circus, Broadway, Concerts, Baseball and Basketball and Football games and numerous other events. Our families come from one of the poorest urban zip codes in the United States and these experiences are often ones that they could never have experienced. We use all of these experiences as reward for positive change and treatment compliance. It is a brilliant concept which has proven itself successful over and over again.

Our kids and families often have to choose whether to eat or pay for electricity; whether to stay in school or find a job to help the family; whether to listen to their parent or their friend. We have worked tirelessly with our families to develop healthy and long lasting coping skills and the events have been a way to reward their hard work and dedication to their future.

We were also able to offer a summer internship, through MVK's connection to the Lincoln Center, to one of our teens and that opportunity taught her that she was valued as a person, that she could work with a diverse group of people towards a common goal and that she could feel good about herself. This experience changed her life.

As we move into this new year and look towards another great partnership with MVK, we are anticipating even more amazing and once in a lifetime experiences for our families who would otherwise not be able to enjoy all the things that NYC has to offer. Your dedication to the overall health of our kids, families and community is commendable and their success has a direct relation to the experiences that they have had. It is a pleasure working with you. Your understanding of the population we serve is a true key component of why MVK works so well. Thank you.

In the spirit of continued life changing experiences,

Alison Maling, LCSW
Program Director
The Counseling Center



Benton House
199 Benton Place
Bay Shore, NY 11706
Ph: 631.231.3136
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Main Office
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Oakdale House
95 E. Oakdale Street
Bay Shore, NY 11706
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Dear Ms. McLaughlin,

I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for including the Awixa Kids in the Most Valuable Kids program.

As you know many of the kids in our program are coming from impoverished backgrounds. When they enter Awixa they are thankful simply for a safe, warm place to sleep, for food and nurturance. Things that you and I may take for granted as basic human rights.

For the first time, our kids are getting the ability to attend events that are typically reserved for the privileged. The smiles on their faces speak for themselves. One of our girls is so perpetually melancholy that it is difficult to get her to smile. However, when you look at the pictures of her at the MVK events, her smile is from cheek to cheek.

The access to all of these events has changed the face of our Behavior Management program. MVK allows our kids to receive meaningful rewards for positive behavior. This has acted as a form of encouragement for our kids to participate in program, do better in school, and be respectful. Because now they know that if they show positive, productive behaviors in the group home, the reward will be an amazing MVK event!

Once again, it is with my deepest gratitude that I say thank you,



Alyse Cardello, *Founder & CEO*
Awixa Home of LI, Inc.



**GRENVILLE BAKER
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**

December 2, 2014

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ramon Reyes

Dear Most Valuable Kids of Greater New York,

I am writing to you today to express our Club's sincere gratitude for the Most Valuable Kids Foundation (MVK). The foundation has allowed members of our Club of over 1,600 kids to experience an array of different games of which they would not have been able to attend without MVK's assistance.

The relationship our Club has with MVK helps our staff promote positive choices and behaviors among our members with positive rewards. The tickets you provide are given to members who not only make positive decisions but are also role models to other members in how they conduct themselves within the Club. Without the support of MVK our Club would not be able to provide these opportunities and incentives to our members.

These tickets are also given to members of our Club who would not otherwise be able to attend these events. This allows us to create long-lasting memories for our members that would not have been possible without the Club and its relationship with MVK. Our kids are always excited to attend and express just how thankful they are for the opportunity to go to these events.

In addition to being an excellent way to reward our outstanding members, the tickets and opportunities provided by MVK also serve as an amazing learning tool. At the games you allow us to go to, our kids get to see positive role models in action and sometimes even have the opportunity to speak with them in person. This allows our members to see first-hand what hard work, dedication, and a positive attitude can accomplish. Meeting the players and watching the games helps reinforce the lessons we teach here at the Club.

Without our relationship with MVK, we here at Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club would not be as successful as we are. We are proud to promote great futures for our members and the opportunities provided by MVK help make that possible. MVK helps us create the great leaders of tomorrow by inspiring them today, and it is for this inspiration that we are forever thankful.

We very much look forward to a continued and successful relationship with MVK and cannot express enough how thankful we are for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Marc Bilbrey
Associate Director
Grenville Baker Boys and Girls Club

Introduction:

One of Most Valuable Kids' recipient agencies, Project Rousseau, works to help extremely underserved young people reach their full potential and pursue higher education. Most Valuable Kids has provided over 1,000 tickets since 2013, and the success of the students who have been rewarded for their good behavior has been inspiring. Below are four sample case studies which demonstrate the benefit of Most Valuable Kids tickets.

The Method of Distribution: Tickets are distributed to students based on their positive behaviors in one of four areas: academics, community service, broadening horizons, or profound improvements in their lives as a result of mentoring. Students can receive tickets an unlimited number of times; everything is earned, and there is no "taking turns".

Case #1: SAT Scores

Project Rousseau's average student increases her/his SAT scores by 530 points (2400 point scale). The average Project Rousseau student who has rewarded for her/his excellent performance in SAT Prep with tickets from Most Valuable Kids has improved her/his SAT scores by 680 points. Better yet, the more often a student was rewarded, the greater her/his score increase. This clearly indicates the positive feedback loop that hard work and the reward of a Most Valuable Kids ticket create.

Case #2: BLS/EMT Certification

Some Project Rousseau students are eager to begin their career preparation. For those who engage regularly in their weekly Nursing Home volunteer program, they are provided with BLS Certification and EMT Certification thereafter. One Saturday, Most Valuable Kids tickets were used to reward students who had completed BLS Certification. After this occasion, Project Rousseau students developed a much more positive view of preparing themselves for careers in the health professions; more students showed interest in participating in BLS Certification and pursuing EMT Certification after the event.

Case #3: Community Service Hours

Community Service is a hallmark of the students' Project Rousseau experience. They are expected to perform community service every Sunday. Though quality is the priority over quantity, Most Valuable Kids tickets have positive effects on students in both ways. Students who were rewarded with Most Valuable Kids tickets for their dedication to Community Service conduct over 20% more community service hours per year.

Case #4: Music Exposure

Music and the arts are unfortunately growing all the more rare in schools, particularly those that serve low-income students. Students who participate in Project Rousseau's music program are rewarded as often as possible with Most Valuable Kids New York Philharmonic tickets, which further enriches their passion for music and the arts and demonstrates the value of arts education and exposure.

Timothy Hill  Children's Ranch
298 Middle Road, Riverhead, New York 11901-9805 • Phone: (631) 369-1234 • Fax: (631) 369-0130 • www.timothyhillranch.org

Dear Rae Anne,

I want to thank you and all of the donors to Most Valuable Kids again for all of the amazing once-in-a-lifetime experiences that have been given to our young men and women at Timothy Hill Children's Ranch. I wish I could fully express the wide-eyed look of surprise and joy that comes over their faces when they step into a stadium for the first time. That joy and excitement stays in their conversations the entire night and often for the days following.

At Timothy Hill, the majority of the young adults we work with come from an environment with varying levels of abuse, neglect and crisis. For most of our residents, it will be the first time they experience something as memorable as watching a professional sports team play or a singer perform. Possibly the biggest impression that is left for our residents through these donations is the fact that someone they don't know gave up something that is valuable so that they could experience it firsthand. For many of our young men and women, generosity is a foreign concept to them and being taken advantage of by their surroundings is the norm. When I explain that our tickets were donated, not just purchased by our own recreation department, they are genuinely surprised, overjoyed and immeasurably grateful. Not only are donors blessing them with an amazing experience, they are also giving strong examples of generosity for our residents in a package they will never forget and will hopefully emulate, in their own ways.

Timothy Hill Children's Ranch is an incentives based program. We have a recreation department whose goal is (1) to promote team-building on-campus and (2) to create experiences to reward positive behavior off-campus. Since teaming up with you and Most Valuable Kids, our ability to create amazing off-campus activities has multiplied in more ways than I can count! Consistent positive behavior in their houses, showing leadership among their peer group, exceptional work in school and going above their requirements are all ways that our guys and girls can earn attendance to events that we have received donations for. These are always events that our residents want to go on, and I've overhead conversations where peers were encouraging each other to go above and beyond in their behavior and with the goal being to enjoy an event where we have been donated tickets. In my opinion, there's nothing better than positive reinforcement and Most Valuable Kids and the generous donors that give to them are the best reward and reinforcement we can give to encourage that. I can't thank you and the donors enough but I'll keep trying. Thank you all so much.

James Clifford



Recreation Coordinator
Timothy Hill Children's Ranch



CHARTER SCHOOL

The Equity Project (TEP) Charter School
549 Audubon Avenue, Trailer 30
New York, New York, 10040

Telephone 646 254 6451
Facsimile 212 202 3584
www.tepcharter.org

November 5th 2014

To whom this may concern:

Most Valuable Kids has been a tremendously helpful partner to our organization – we have been working with them since February 2013. Raeanne is an extremely effective and efficient communicator, always seeking to ensure that available tickets reach our students and families. Their tickets have fueled field trips, a variety of family rewards, and class-based incentives.

We have utilized these tickets to sponsor grade-wide field trips to baseball games and theatre performances. Additionally, 7th and 8th grade teachers use these tickets as incentives that students can earn, to encourage intentional work ethic, strong class conduct, and academic excellence. Sometimes these events are attended with teachers, and sometimes events are attended with families.

All in all, working with Most Valuable Kids has empowered us to rethink how we positively incentivize our students, expose our low-income high need students and families and to important cultural institutions in New York City.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me anytime.

Thank you,



**

David Weinreb
Director of High School Placement & Enrichment
[The Equity Project Charter School](http://TheEquityProjectCharterSchool.com) | david.weinreb@tepcharter.org
O | 646 254 6451 C | 914 393 7671
[Watch](#) TEP's story on 60 Minutes



**BELLMORE – MERRICK
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
WELLINGTON C. MEPHAM HIGH SCHOOL**

**2401 CAMP AVENUE, BELLMORE, NEW YORK 11710-3099 / 516 992-1500
FAX 516 785-7590**

Administration

Michael Harrington
Principal
Eric Caballero
Jennifer B. Carne
Christopher Safina
Assistant Principals

Henry G. Kiernan, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Rae Anne McLaughlin,

I wanted to take a minute and thank you for all that you have done for the Mepham high School community. The tickets that you provided this year have helped us change the culture at our school. At Mepham we use the tickets to reward students who display high character and lead by example. We also use them as incentives for our underprivileged students and also the “at risk” population.

When thinking back on 2012-2013 one particular student’s situation stands out as proof to the effectiveness of the MVK program. One of our students has been having a difficult time transitioning to the High School. His attendance was extremely poor and after two years he had earned very few credits. He always expressed interest in the tickets to games that we provided. On one particular morning I called him in and outlined an incentive program that would allow him to earn tickets. He was extremely excited to have the opportunity and assured me that he would achieve the goals that we established. In the last three months he has earned numerous tickets to events for achieving the goals that we established. His academic standing and attendance have improved dramatically. On Monday he came to me to express his thanks. During the conversation he told me for the first time he actually believes that graduation and college are real possibilities. He is even expecting to make the honor roll for the first time in his life. The accomplishments and turnaround of this student would not have been possible without the MVK program. In this particular case your program has drastically changed the life of a student.

The MVK program has allowed the building culture at Mepham to reach new heights. I am forever grateful for having the opportunity to participate. I am looking forward to continuing our partnership for years to come. On behalf of the students, administrators, coaches, and parents I just wanted to say thanks for everything.

Sincerely,
Anthony J. Cracco
Anthony J. Cracco
Head Football Coach/Attendance Dean/ Athletic Coordinator



CARDINAL HAYES HIGH SCHOOL
"UP HAYES AND ALL ITS LOYAL MEN!"

October 19, 2015

To Rae Anne McLaughlin and MVK:

My name is Francis Badillo, I am a Cardinal Hayes alumnus, and for the last eight years, I have been teaching religion and this year criminal justice at Cardinal Hayes High School and I am also the Director of Student Activities and as a result I receive some of the tickets, which are donated to MVK in order to reward good behavior in the schools of New York. In addition to being at Hayes previously I also retired from the New York City Police Department as a police officer special assignment, after twenty years of dedicated service.

I am writing this letter to state that without a doubt I have seen that there is a direct correlation between students receiving tickets from MVK and their increased performance in school. We started to keep track of not only high performing students but the whole student population two years ago and we found through ticket incentives and encouraging students to be in school the lateness/tardy record fell 22% from the previous year. This year lateness is also on the decline and for the month of October for example last year there were 100 students a week late and thus far for the first two weeks of October there have been only 100 students late, literally a 50% reduction. This year we will be studying the effects on absences as well but those students who are more engaged in the school are the students least likely to be absent. This is important because students are aware that if they participate in the school's various activities their likelihood of getting tickets increase. In the last two years almost every club or activity has seen their membership grow almost double and part of it can be attributed to MVK ticket donations because the more you do for the school the more opportunities you get to get tickets and when they go to the various the events they grow stronger relationships between themselves and other students and even with the teachers and it makes the job of coming to school a lot more enjoyable for everyone.

It is my opinion that the students who receive tickets from Most Valuable Kids are taught to work harder at being a good student but as a result of receiving tickets for their hard work they will do so much better in the future because they learned to participate and be present. As a result of this these students will then work harder to give back to their community and to those who have helped them on their road to success, for they have learned that the road to great success is filled with many tour guides or helpers and the great success they will achieve is as a result of many people working to inspire and impart on them all of the necessary skills needed to become a success in the future. When people donate to MVK, they should feel proud that they will also be part of the helpers who have played a part in a future success stories. If any further information is needed, feel free to contact me at 718-292-6100, ext. 151.

Francis Badillo
Religion and History Department
Director of Student Activities



Hello!

My name is Joseph Valli. I just want to thank you for the opportunity to go to Citi Field on May 30th. I love going to see the Mets play but I never dreamed I would get to see a game from a suite. That was very unique for a twelve year old kid like me. It was very interesting to actually go on the field. It was great to meet the umpires. They were really nice. My favorite part was getting my own official baseball from the umps.

Thank you again for this unforgettable experience!





This child was having trouble getting along with his peers. He would often initiate fights with others as a way of expressing himself.

His Big Brother helped him with verbalizing his feelings rather than physically expressing himself. As a reward for his decreased aggression and impulsivity, he was given tickets to the Barclay Center where he saw his favorite NBA team play the Nets.

— *Kyriaki Georgiadis*
Big Brothers Big Sisters NYC



Dear Rae Anne,
On behalf of all the young men in the attached photo, thank you for providing access to a Yankee Stadium Suite.

Most Valuable Kids continues to be a great tool in our ability to reward our students for hard work and excellent academic success.

Best Regards,
S. Michel, CHHS

June 6

Good morning Rae Anne -

I want to first start by saying that our partnership with Most Valuable Kids has truly been a life saver. And that's no exaggeration.

As a small grassroots organization with very limited funds, it has always been a struggle, and a disappointment, to not have the ability to offer our youth opportunities to enjoy and be exposed to a variety of recreational and cultural events. Not only do we at STRONG believe that it's every child's right to have chances to participate in these types of events but it's essential. It is through trips such as those made possible by MVK that youth get a taste for how big the world really is and that it's there for their taking. Whenever we take students on trips made possible by the tickets from MVK, we are sure to include conversation with them that points out to them the benefits of the experience (aside from the obvious entertainment factor). We'll talk to them about careers, about good things come to people that do good and work hard and how lucky they are because, unfortunately, not everyone will get a chance to know these feelings.

STRONG has used the availability of these tickets as both a teaching tool and a rewarding tool. We usually hold some sort of contest where students must do something (usually in line with our organizational mission) to make them eligible for the trip. For example, for one of the trips youth had to memorize the organizations mission statement and recite in front of their peers (it's long and no easy task!!). STRONG is also a part of another collaborative project in Hempstead where we offer non-mandated bi-weekly educational sessions to Hempstead students. The WRAP team decided to reward the students that had attended the most meetings by taking them to the Mets-Yankees game. The best part is that the news about this awesome trip spreads like fire and now the kids know that we are a great group to invest their time in because we can deliver on great experiences. We are sure this one experience will help impact even more lives because it offers us leverage to get increased attendance.

We cannot express enough how happy and blessed we feel that we came across this wonderful organization. Our partnership with MVK has complimented our programming and was the missing link we needed for years. I am very much looking forward to having MVK around for many, many years!!!

Thanks Rae Anne!

Rahsmia Zatar, LMSW, MA
Executive Director
S.T.R.O.N.G. Youth, Inc.
www.strongyouth.com



As a school, we are dedicated to providing our teachers with ways of positively encouraging our students to do the right thing.

It's an amazing gift that Most Valuable Kids provides to us, free and frequently rapid-turnaround incentives that allow students to reflect on their great behavior and outstanding work habits. It allows us to utilize our limited funds on other important academic priorities.

We greatly appreciate the generosity of the strangers that fuel this incredible engine.

— *Dave Weinreb*
The Equity School



Dear Rae Anne,

Thank you for the unforgettable day MVK provided for 4 children from the LCofR Youth Group.

These children were chosen because of their 90% or better attendance during the school year.

MVK's continued support and offering of these types of experiences are a proven motivators for our group members positive behavior, school attendance and improved behavior.

Sincerely,
S. Vaccaro
Youth Coordinator

May 9, 2014

Dear Rae Anne,

I wanted to take the time to thank you for providing us with tickets to a recent Mets game held at Citi Field on April 23, 2015. This turned into an event that created a “buzz” amongst the student body in the Central Islip High School. We are a district that struggles on the socio-economic scale, so many of our students would never have had the opportunity to see Citi Field, let alone take in a baseball game. Once a student was approved for the trip (we took students from the honor roll list from grades 9-12), you could not expunge the smile from his/her face, and they quickly became the envy of all of their friends.

Once the buzz caught on, I had students from every nook and cranny, ones I have never met before, imploring me that I let them on the trip. Many promised that they would improve their grades if I allow them to go with us. Overall, I noticed a change for the better in the behavior of many of our students due to the creation of a B-list. The B-list was created as a waiting list, in the case that a chosen student backed out or changed their mind about attending. Needless to say, everyone who was chosen attended the field trip. However, I loved how this opportunity rewarded and encouraged exceptional behavior within the student body as a whole.

The field trip was two-fold. It allowed me as an educator to expose our underprivileged children of Central Islip to the wonder of Major League Baseball, but more importantly, Most Valuable Kids provided us with the opportunity to get young students, primarily underclassmen, to see and experience the endeavors of getting started with the rigor of the college process. They were given very valuable information on how to get the ball rolling on their future. After the well-organized presentation given by the colleges of New York City, many of our students took their seats and discussed their college dreams with their friends with much excitement. To top things off, they watched their beloved Mets beat the Atlanta Braves by the score of 6 – 3. None of the kids left their seat until the last pitch was thrown as they wanted to take in every sight and sound that MLB had to offer. In addition, they braved cold temperatures and relentless winds throughout the day, but still desired to stay until the end of the game, savoring the experience.

None of this would have been possible without the diligence and hard-work and generosity of MVK and Ms. Rae Anne McLaughlin. I cannot thank you enough for providing us with such a grand opportunity. I hope to make this an annual event in my district and get the buzz going in September. If students are aware that their good behavior and hard work will reward them in this fashion, maybe they will take their studies more seriously from the outset of the school year. Without your efforts, none of this would have been possible. On behalf of the entire Central Islip High School staff and student body, I want to thank you wholeheartedly for giving our students the opportunity of taking in a Mets game and exposing them to the benefits of a college education. I truly look forward to continuing our relationship as it has helped many of our students in ways you’ll never know. Thank you MVK!!!

Regards,

Jason Pastore

English Teacher

Central Islip High School

June 6

Good Morning Rae Ann,

How schools use tickets from MVK as incentives and as rewards:

- 1) A high school in northern Bronx, New Explorations HS, recently won the small high schools soccer championship. They were rewarded with tickets to the Israel-Honduras soccer match at Citifield. But being a member of the team was not enough...in order to attend each student had to have at least an 85% attendance rate, passed all of their classes from the last semester and have no suspensions on record. The principal and the coach want to be sure that "student athletes" are truly students first and that they do not have a sense of entitlement based on being on a team.
- 2) A high school in Far Rockaway, Channel View School for Research, took 16 tenth, eleventh and twelfth graders to see the Mets play the Braves at Citifield. The students were selected from a group of upperclassmen who served as mentors to the freshmen cohort. When the principal heard about the tickets, she decided that it would make sense to reward some of them, especially the 11th graders, knowing that they will be the seniors and leaders next year. The game at Citifield in a suite was all the young men were talking about when they returned to school after the weekend.
- 3) While most schools look for the top students who have perfect attendance and never get into trouble, some schools have used the tickets as a "short term reward". Some students have to work harder to "stay out of trouble" so some guidance counselors and teachers give out rewards and incentives based on "small successes". So if a student has perfect attendance for 2 weeks, he might be rewarded with a ticket to a game. If she turns in her homework every day for a week, she might be rewarded with a ticket. If he doesn't get a detention or suspension in a month, he might win a ticket. This helps to incentivize good behavior. The ultimate goal is for students to do the right thing simply because it's the right thing to do but the research is clear that youngsters develop at different rates and some will need extrinsic rewards before it become intrinsic behavior. These tickets help that process along.

Paul Forbes

Expanded Success Initiative, Director

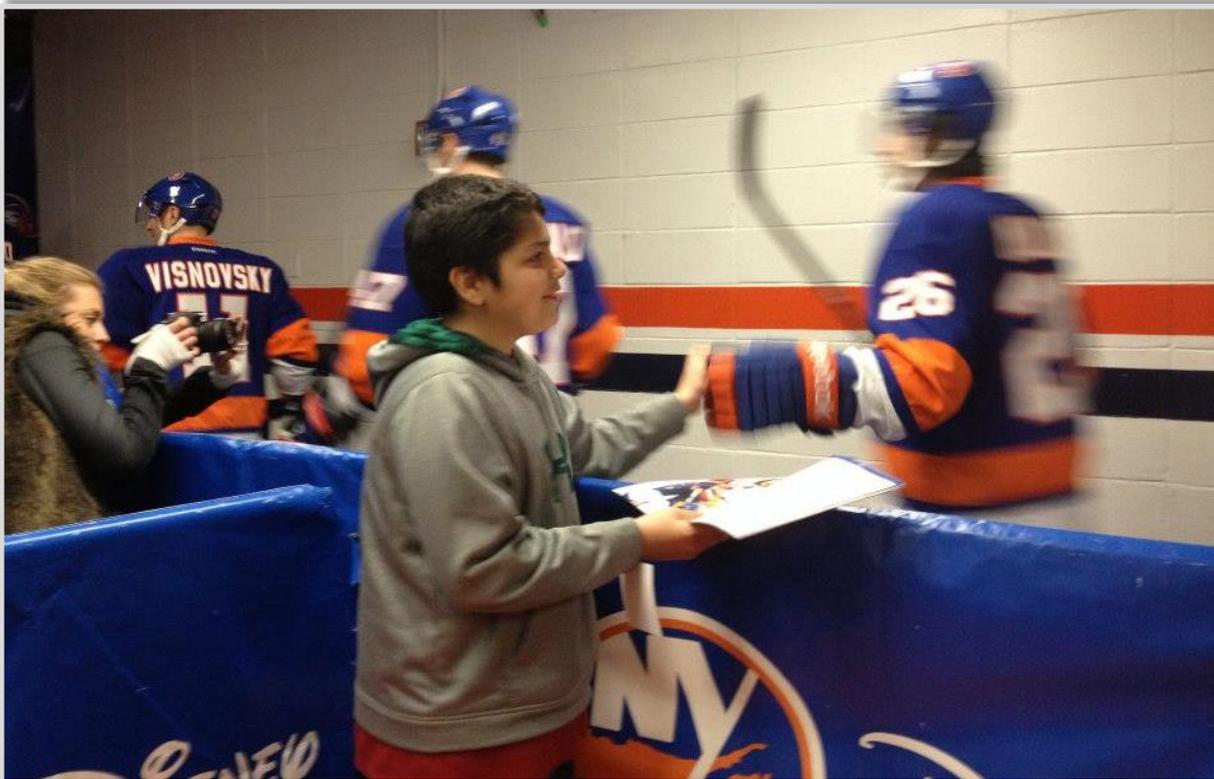
NYC Schools – Office of Postsecondary Readiness



Thank you MVK for this once in a lifetime opportunity for our Club House member.

Having the ability to reward children making positive decisions in less than desirable situations is the link to keep them connected to the programs that serve them.

— *Boys and Girls Club of Glen Cove*





Dear MVK, I lined up some of the students after the game for a picture in front of a picture of Jackie Robinson receiving his diploma in the Jackie Robinson Rotunda.

Jackie Robinson embodied all of the values I want to instill in my students, so I thought he was a perfect backdrop for the picture.

— Andrew H.



“Thank you so much for enabling our children from the South Bronx the opportunity to experience a performance of the New York Philharmonic at Lincoln Center... None had ever had the opportunity to experience the magic of Lincoln Center and actually a few had never been to Manhattan at all.”

Without the generosity of MVK our children would never receive the opportunities your organization offers them. It opens whole new worlds and experiences for our population.”



The ticket incentives have been AMAZING! At the beginning of the period, we announce that we have a special incentive—either Yankees tickets or Mets tickets—and automatically the energy in the room changes. There is more focus, more engagement, more hands raised in the air, more students chomping at the bit to earn those tickets. We see an increase in work production and an increase in exit ticket scores. It's fantastic.

— Dan Vazquez, 7th grade Special Ed -The Equity School



Many thanks for everything, we are grateful from the bottom of our hearts. My children were very happy and we would have never expected to be at the new Yankee Stadium, let alone to have been given such an amazing treatment by everyone at the stadium. Again, thank you so much.

— Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Support Services



This group of Fiver kids were rewarded for academic success in their summer school programs.

The ability to offer unique and quality incentives has proven to be a strong motivator with our young people who struggle to find internal motivators.

— Chris Chavez, Fiver





Dear MVK,

Mom and daughter attended their very first Yankees game with MVK tickets. They had great seats and some fans bought them popcorn when they heard she didn't have any money.

They were both very grateful.

— *Bruce Campbell LCSW*
Social Worker
Morris Heights Health Center



One year ago today, Rehanuma started her first day of school in America. One year later, she is college bound!

This evening, Rehanuma and her friends took in the New York Philharmonic at Lincoln Center.

— *Project Rousseau*

An April 26, 2013 'Thank You' letter to MVK:

PART 1:

So here is the story...

Kevin has been coming to our clinic since he was 6 y/o (he is now 13). He comes from a very POOR family (he didn't get anything for Christmas). His mother has her own mental health issues, but he has an older brother (who is now 20) who has become a 'father figure' to Kevin. He has learned, over the years, to advocate for himself (if a therapist wasn't working out for him, he followed the process to change them) and to learn how to eat healthier (he gained 60 lbs on his medications, but has been able to maintain his weight and begin to lose some of that excess weight). He has begun bringing himself to therapy b/c mom is very forgetful and he finds the value in therapy.

So, we invited his mother, brother and him to our offices on Wednesday night and presented him with the tickets and explained why we chose him. We presented it as a 'brother's night' so that both the boys could go to the game; Mom cried, and the older brother said "see Kevin, hard work pays off" and "you earned this and I get to come with you". It was a very proud moment for the family. Here is a picture of them 'getting the tickets'. I can't wait to hear all about their adventure. Thank you again for thinking of us!! Our kids would NEVER be able to have this experience without you and MVK.

PART 2:

I received a phone call today from Kevin's mother stating her son had the greatest time. She stated her son stated he felt like they were "rich." Both sons had a great bonding experience and were excited when they arrived home. She also stated her son also met Spike Lee and said it would be a day he would never forget.

She also expressed her gratitude for choosing her son.

I also express my gratitude for choosing Kevin as it was well deserved.

Thank You

June 6

Dear Rae Anne,

Regina Residence would like to THANK YOU and Most Valuable Kids (MVK) for always thinking of us and providing our residents with fun activities to do. Regina Residence includes several aspects into our program to encourage the residents to have positive attitudes towards themselves, staff, and other residents.

The Behavior Bowl is a system we incorporate in which the residents are given tickets whenever they are seen doing a selfless act for staff or another resident in the house. At the end of each month the tickets are counted and the residents with the majority are rewarded with a special outing. Similarly, we have a Parenting Points System where the residents are encouraged to have positive interactions with their children in the form of outside play, mommy & me time, music play, or tummy time. Our Book Club is another tool to encourage residents to read, improve their language and grammar, and develop their love for literature.

For those of you involved with MVK and not familiar with the program, Regina Residence houses parenting pre-teens & teens ages 11-17.

Having these types of incentives can be extremely motivating and we appreciate being able to provide our residents with fun activities such as going to Mets/Yankee games, attending Good Morning America Concert Series, Disney on Ice at the Barclay Center and Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus.

Sincerely,
Linda Jones
Program Supervisor, Catholic Charities Regina Residence



Dear MVK, Thank you for the VIP access to see Selena Gomez in Central Park. These Friday morning concerts are a great way to reward our summer school students for attendance and participation. We appreciate all you do to help us help them.

— M. Mendoza, Bushwick Impact

Contact Information



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