

July 28, 2015

NEWS LETTER



The Children We Serve, The Future We Produce

-Mikela Dockery

As Forrest Gump once said, "Life is like a box of chocolate, you never know what you're going to get"; and it is candid that Auburn Gresham's Gold Camp validates this statement. Working as a camp counselor with this community has exposed the separateness of children. Others rarely apprehend the magnitude of a counselor's responsibility. In order to make this camp operate as smoothly as possible each counselor has to be flexible and teachable to fit the needs of every child. I've learned that each child behaves, learns, and reacts differently to their situations.

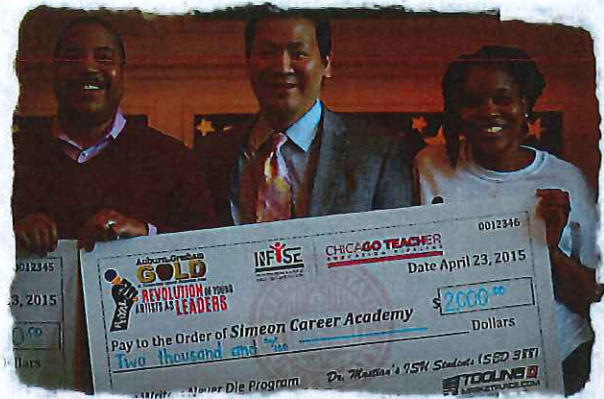
Though it has been a challenge, we love each and every child in their own special way. Each day I observed the children learn a new lesson, I was astonished at the participation by the children. Even though I was very proud of the students there was one student who stood out. This student stood out because he was the exact opposite of the other students. He always raised his hand wanting to participate, but the words never seemed to come out the way he needed them too. He was not the most eloquent speaker, but I could see his desire to participate in class. As the days

dwindled, I was able to witness this student speak up more in class. Though it was a struggle sometimes to get him to understand that he couldn't always get the spot light he slowly started to accept it and continued to participate regularly. All in all, this experience has affected my life positively and emotionally. I have learned patience and now understand the importance of our participation in our communities.

The Importance of Community Partnership

Shenita Robinson AG Gold Camp Coordinator

As a parent of four, I have witnessed the range of quality educational opportunities and access of schools in Chicago. As a family, we have experienced a variety of schools and the quality of education in each school we encountered. Our journey included charter schools, neighborhood schools, selective enrollment which comes with mandated tested and home schooling. We decided as a family to search for options in education that provides equity, community and a better quality of life for our children. With the understanding that too many of our children and families not receiving equal access to opportunities and support that are critical for their success. Because school is a public democratic institution, supported by tax dollars, the hope is that schools can be a place in neighborhoods that affords all children and families with equitable life chances. Being at the mercy of testing and "lottery" selection- if a student is lucky enough to be chosen from the lottery, tested in, or live in an affluent community they receive support,



services, extra curricular activities, enhanced curriculum such as music, art, dance and other resources. As a parent, quality education and opportunities should be accessible and available to every family and student. This is why community school partnerships are critical in all school settings. Community school partnerships allows intentional, aligned and results driven relationships that maximizes the success of our future. The Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation in partnership with Illinois State University offers an inter generational approach to community school partnerships. Each partner shares a passion for academic excellence, community connections and parental involvement; all that produce measurable results in an effort to support the community school model of student success.

The Tiger's Den

-Sensei Danielle Roberts, 2nd Dan-LFT

Martials Arts is needed to help improve disciple, awareness, confidence, focus, and support Academic Excellence. We are proud to say that since we have started the AG Gold Camp we have seen the following traits displayed in the following students:

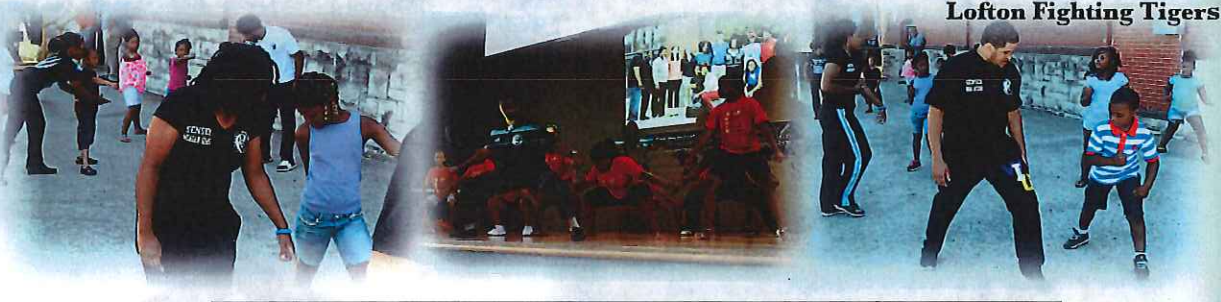
Jailyn Hart
Jayden Hart
Dakota Oneal
Rachel Robinson
Sinniah Robinson
Adrian Waddler
T'nyah B.C. Ware

Kon'nichiwa in
Greetings, we
would like to
welcome you to
AG Gold Camp
for Martials
Arts.

De'Aries Arhold
Daniyah Bonner
Genesis Brown
Tayah Cawthon
Dantrell Frazier
Naveah Harris

The Lofton's Fighting Tigers Martial Arts Academy would like to thank the entire AG Gold Camp program for allowing us the opportunity to teach such unique, bright, optimistic children. These children taught us the true meaning of being great instructors. Through the ups and downs and test of patience, we say everyone has grown greatly. We want everyone to remember that they are strong and they can do everything if they put their minds to it.

We love you, enjoy your summer and see you soon.



Lofton Fighting Tigers



A Tribe
Called Alex
Soccer
Program
773-255-4443

Impacting A Teen Volunteer

-Samuel Robinson

As I came to the AG Gold Camp, I thought I was coming to a bunch of rowdy, rude, and rambunctious kids. I thought that because I was one of those kids. I never wanted to listen to the teacher. Their approach was dry and drawn-out. I hated coming to most of the camps because they were not challenging me enough.

At AG Gold Camp, I noticed that a lot of the students are as I described but they were very anxious to go to camp and learn. All of the students were raising their hands to answer and all of the students wanted to lead in something. The teachers were even better than I could have fathomed, and I was glad to say I was a part of that, even though I not getting paid.

The teachers connected to the students immediately. I tried to connect to most of the students but it was harder for me because I came in to the camp with the same stereotype about African-American youth.

So, as I progressed in the camp I thought, "If I'm going to do this without getting paid, I might as well give the camp and the students, all I have!"

When I started focusing on the students as a whole instead of the stereotype attached to their name, I saw them for who they are: playful, curious, and intelligent children. One of the kids in the camp, labeled as one of my "troublemakers", was in the Chinese class I assisted in. We taught them numbers 1-10 in Chinese the 1st day for only 30 minutes. The next day, that student could tell me all the numbers flawlessly.

This camp was a new experience for me. It helped me destroy the African-American youth stereotype and see us as we are. I feel good about being a volunteer at the Gold Camp!

Embracing New Culture

-Jonah Douglas

At Auburn Gresham Gold camp we feel it's important to not only teach the kids about their own heritage, but to also open their eyes to different cultures that affect them everyday. We decided learning Chinese was the perfect way to give the kids an experience with a language that is quickly gaining on English as the dominant language worldwide. Although we live in America, a quick look through most households will reveal that China's fingerprint is found throughout our homes. Kids are surprised when they find out that their favorite toys and even the clothes on their back are all made in China. China's influence is so strong that there is a whole section of Chicago that is dedicated to their culture, which also happens to be where I attended grammar school. I took Mandarin Chinese for three years at St. Therese Catholic school in Chinatown and four years in high school.

I quickly found out that learning and teaching are two different things, especially when it comes to 1st graders. Initially it was difficult for the kids to comprehend everything stated in the previous paragraph which made my job harder but also more important. I asked the kids if they liked Chinese food and Kung Fu and they all answered yes. I then asked if it would be awesome to order their Chinese food in Chinese, or be able to imitate their favorite Kung Fu star and once again they all answered yes. Teaching them was easy after that. They were incredibly receptive and eager to learn which rekindled the fire that I once had when I was learning Chinese. Although my time with them was short, I am sure that the class made a lasting impression on most of them; which is all I can ask for. So if you're ever at a Chinese restaurant and happen to see a young kid ordering a meal in Chinese, ask them where they went to summer camp, and don't be surprised if they say Auburn Gresham Gold Camp.



Save the Babies

-J. Harris- AG Gold Camp Safety and Security

The community I serve has it's challenges, from sustaining an economy to providing adequate roll models. Auburn Gresham has a variety of gems in the form of landmarks, architectural and cultural history and good food! In the midst of all the gems, stand the structures that literally carry the rhythm of the heartbeat of this arriving community, the beloved children of Auburn Gresham.

The AG Gold Camp is an eye opener to say the least! I have encountered some of the most strategic thinkers with the ability to navigate through tough choices and ambiguous situations, (I'm speaking of the children in the camp.) I have witnessed some social issue that should and in some cases do, arrest the development of any demographic.

This summer has thoroughly exposed me to the promise of greatness in the campers. Being a father, patience is an virtue that I strive to demonstrate. As a staff member of AG Gold, I was exposed to our future, and the why behind the patience that I demonstrate as a

parent beyond my own family structure. Enlightened through my time with these brilliant minds that respond positively to the slightest bit of sincere concern and attention for their well being, my focus for a specific outcome can be applied with more precision.

Our children love to be constructive. When our staff consciously show our youth that they matter, the children bring their A Game! I'm talking about high energy, ingenuity, adaptability, and ownership!

The best part of my whole experience is knowing that we have a choice in how the future of our community will be shaped. It has given me great joy and pride to be a part of the Auburn Gresham Gold Camp for 2015, and I look forward to serving our children in any capacity that I'm able moving forward.

I'm sold on the old saying "Whatever you put into a situation is what you will get out of it." Our young campers, our young scholars, our young leaders, are an investment that is as solid as GOLD!



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Greater Andrew Johnson
Development Corporation



cleanslate



10th Annual 79th Street Renaissance Festival



10am - 7pm

Sept 12, 2015

@79th & Racine

City of Chicago



Bank of America



Bank of America

Save the date for the 10th
Annual 79th Street Renaissance
Festival on Saturday,
September 12, 2015 from
10:00am to 7:00pm on 79th
Street between Racine and
Loomis.