

Be a Part of our Holiday Gift Drive

Each Christmas, volunteers and staff come together to ensure that children receive a gift at Christmas, despite the often difficult financial instability in their households. We hold several evenings of gift wrapping events to organize and wrap donated toys. A separate date is set to distribute the wrapped gifts.

2015 Gift Wrapping Events:

Wednesday Dec. 16th • 6:30-8:30PM

Thursday Dec. 17th • 6:30-8:30PM

2015 Gift Giveaway Event:

Saturday Dec. 19th • 12:00-3:00PM

Please contact [Yvonne Roman](mailto:yvonne@childrenofthecity.org) at yvonne@childrenofthecity.org to find out how you can become a **VOLUNTEER** or **DONATE A GIFT** for the holiday drive!



Children of the City
740 40th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11232

Children of the City Newsletter

- December 2015 -

Odell Beckham Jr. shows his support for Children of the City at the 3rd Annual David Tyree Charity Bowl with the NY Giants!

This year's Charity Bowl took place on Tuesday, June 2, 2015 and was one of the most successful events in COC history. This year at Lucky Strike Bowling, COC guests made once-in-a-lifetime memories with more than 40 players from the NY Giants. Smiles spread across the entire venue as special guest Odell Beckham Jr. arrived to snap photos, sign autographs and share a bowling lane with happy COC supporters and their families.



Crowds gathered to hear COC's founder and Executive Director, Joyce Mattera, give an inspirational speech about the thousands of lives that have been changed in Sunset Park, Brooklyn since Children of the City was founded more than 30 years ago.



Proceeds from the evening will benefit disadvantaged children and their families living in Southwest Brooklyn who depend on the supportive services and after-school and summer programming that Children of the City provides year-round.

Children of the City would like to thank the official event sponsor, **Generoso Pope Foundation**, as well as each of our generous lane sponsors: EastGate Equine Sanctuary, Route 22 Nissan, Route 22 Honda, AIG, Krislen Management Company, Censtar Energy, Ellington Management Group, NY Giants, Guy Carpenter, Tomorrow's Office, Morgan Stanley, Wealth and Legacy Group and Loeb & Loeb LLP.



EAST GATE
EQUINE SANCTUARY
A Forever Home for unwanted, neglected, and abused equine.



COC's 2nd Annual Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway

Many families in Sunset Park are living below the poverty line and are unable to provide for their children, creating tremendous stressors that make it hard for a child to learn. Thanks to a partnership with Staples and the generosity of individual donors, boys and girls in the COC Create Success program returned to school with backpacks filled with the supplies they need to succeed in the classroom.

COC was packed with eager youngsters as they lined up out the door to receive pens, pencils, binders, folders, backpacks and all of the necessary tools they need to start off the new school year prepared, excited and happy to learn. With Summer Program academics fresh on their minds, COC's students have never been more ready to excel in the classroom.



COC's Champion Season

Children of the City's Summer Program hit it out of the park once again this summer by helping students raise their reading and math scores. Instead of the usual loss of retention that students experience over the summer months, children that attend our unique summer program showed considerable increase in their reading levels. Living in a community that is plagued by failing grades and a 50% drop out rate, we are consistently encouraged by the outcomes of our summer program. 85% of the children enrolled increases their reading and math levels, with many of them moving up an entire grade level.

We are the only organization in the community that offers underserved children academic support during the summer months. Local teachers noted that COC students have achieved a significant increase in academic confidence, mathematical reasoning skills and English Language conversation over the summer months.



Meeting the Needs of the Underprivileged

Yousra E. is an animated 3rd grader. She proudly announces, "I love Children of the City. I like the things that I learn here. They always tell us things that we need to hear."

Yousra looks forward to the Super Saturday events that she attends with her younger brother and sister. Her mother also attends COC events to help make ends meet. The family relies on Children of the City to acquire school supplies, obtain clothes for the kids, receive healthy meals and celebrate Thanksgiving with Boxes of Love. Yousra looks forward to Christmas and hopes Santa will bring her another warm coat and boots and toys for her siblings.



A Photographer is Born

Yuki had never held a camera before. The shy nine-year-old didn't ask to join Photography Explorers, because she didn't know what the word photography meant. As the child of two non-English speaking parents, Yuki often found herself isolated and struggling to understand her teachers. During recess she would sit on the steps and watch the other kids take pictures until someone offered her a beautiful pink camera. "I never thought taking pictures was so hard," she commented after her first lesson. Within a week, Yuki was correctly



using words like "focus," "composition," and "perspective" as she decided which of her photos to print each day.

Yuki was beaming with pride at the end of August when several of her favorite photographs were on display at Children of the City's photo exhibition in Sunset Park. She now understands how to communicate effectively in the classroom and has found a hobby that inspires her.

Give a gift that changes a life this holiday season.

This holiday season, the boys and girls at Children of the City need your help. Please make a contribution now that will help our local children find paths to success, both inside the classroom and beyond. To donate to Children of the City and help build a brighter future for our kids, fill out the enclosed pledge card and return it to Children of the City or visit:

<http://www.childrenofthecity.com/donate-now/>

