



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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Contact: Alyson Grant, 917-776-7060, [granta@ujafedny.org](mailto:granta@ujafedny.org) or  
Anthony Ng, 917-723-4607, [ang@unhny.org](mailto:ang@unhny.org)

### **Hundreds Rally to Protest Radical Cuts to Youth Services**

New York, NY – On Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, over 750 young people from across New York City rallied together in City Hall Park to urge the restoration of dramatic budget cuts to after school and youth development programs.

New York City families are facing the end of after-school programs for 15,000 youth, in addition to deep cuts to Beacon schools, services for runaway and homeless youth, Summer Youth Employment Program jobs for teens, GED and adult literacy services for disconnected youth, and other programs that help youth succeed.

“The proposed City budget disproportionately impacts New York’s children and families,” said **Anthony Ng, Deputy Director of Policy and Advocacy at United Neighborhood Houses**. “Without after school and youth development programs, there will be fewer opportunities for youth to engage in positive, enriching activities and develop skills necessary for success. Cutting youth programs also unfortunately increases the likelihood that we will see more youth on the street, greater instances of youth violence and delinquent behavior, and more parents struggling to both maintain their jobs and look after their children.”

**Robert Kleppel, a parent from Queens**, doesn’t understand why the Department of Youth and Community Development proposes to eliminate Out of School Time programs in certain zip codes. “We don’t have less need than anybody else,” he declared. His son Justin, a long-time OST participant, explained “The Samuel Field Y after school program means so much to me. Without it, I would go back to the usual – going home and just sitting there.”

“Without my after school program, I also don’t know what I would do,” added **Everett Sparkes of the CAMBA KidsWorld Out of School Time program** which is slated to be closed in July. “There’s so much you can learn and do in the program.”

The long-term impact of these cuts was front and center on the minds of many. “People can always be heard saying ‘our youth, our future,’ so why not invest in their growth and development now?” asked **Marlena Starace of Queens Community House**, which runs a Beacon program at JHS 190. “Budget cuts to Beacons greatly impact our ability to properly prepare youth with the positive skill set they need to succeed in life.”

**Robert Nuxoll of the Sports and Arts in Schools Foundation’s Champions Club program** at PS 70 listed all of the things that young people will have to do without next year if the cuts go through. “Kids won’t have access to hands-on science, sports, dance, computers, multicultural literacy, and arts programming. They will no longer be able to go on wonderful trips to institutions in and outside of the city. Our youth are going to miss out on critical learning and enrichment opportunities that help them develop.”

Parents and concerned community members called on the Mayor and City Council to restore important programs at risk in the proposed FY 2011 City Budget, including:

- ▶ **\$12.2 million for Out-of-School Time Programs**
- ▶ **\$8.5 million for Beacons**
- ▶ **\$6 million for Runaway and Homeless Youth Services**
- ▶ **\$3.8 million for the After Three Program (The After-School Corporation – TASC)**
- ▶ **Summer Youth Employment Program Jobs for Teens**
- ▶ **Full Funding for City Council Youth Services Initiatives, including: the Council After School Adventure (CASA), Dropout Prevention Initiative, YMCA Y After School Program, Teens Take the City, Institute for Student Achievement, Sports and Arts in Schools Foundation, New York Junior Tennis League, Intergenerational Services, Neighborhood Youth Alliance and Street Outreach, and Councilmember Discretionary Youth Services Initiatives.**

The event was organized by the:

***Members of New York City Youth Alliance:*** The After-School Corporation ▪ Citizens’ Committee for Children of New York ▪ Coalition for Asian American Children & Families ▪ The Dryfoos Group ▪ Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies ▪ Human Services Council of New York City ▪ Neighborhood Family Services Coalition ▪ The New York Immigration Coalition ▪ Partnership for After School Education ▪ UJA-Federation of New York ▪ United Neighborhood Houses of New York ▪ YMCA of Greater New York