



CITY YEAR CLEVELAND

E-NEWSLETTER

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October 2010

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Upcoming Events

An Open House has been planned for anyone to visit our offices, meet current corps members and find out more about City Year Cleveland anytime during normal business hours on November 1. Please RSVP to danderson@cityyear.org.

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City Year Cleveland by the numbers*

Currently, 50 City Year Cleveland corps members work up to 40 hours a week in five Cleveland schools as mentors, tutors, role models and directors of after school programs. The five schools are Glenville, East Tech and John F. Kennedy High Schools, the Thomas Jefferson Ninth Grade Academy and the Franklin D. Roosevelt PreK-8 Academy.

*As of October 15, City Year Cleveland has provided tutor training/orientation sessions to more than 130 business volunteers who will tutor in Cleveland schools throughout this school year.

Secretary Duncan Highlights the Value of National Service in Helping Students and Schools Succeed

On Friday, October 15, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan addressed the City Year Boston corps of young adult leaders at the organization's national headquarters in Boston.



Speaking on the role of national service in addressing the nation's dropout crisis and turning around low performing schools, Secretary Duncan told the City Year corps, "You fill the gap, a unique need that no one else can meet....You are part of a grand experiment that I think is going to change education in this country forever."

While City Year Cleveland's 50 diverse young leaders serve in five Cleveland schools, the 140 member strong Boston corps serves in 10 Boston public schools. All members work in schools to improve **A**ttendance, **B**ehavior and **C**ourse performance in math and English, the early warning indicators that are highly predictive that a student is likely to drop out of high school. The City Year Cleveland and Boston corps are part of a national corps of 1,750 City Year AmeriCorps members serving in high-poverty schools in 20 U.S. cities nationwide.

Pointing out that a relatively small number of high schools generate half of all dropouts and 75% of the minority dropouts nationwide, Secretary Duncan said that the nation's high school dropout rate is "academically unacceptable, morally unacceptable and economically unsustainable for our country."

Praising Boston Public Schools and City Year for their innovative school turnaround partnership, Secretary Duncan said, "All of us have to step up together, it has to be a collaboration, a wrap-around of services, 12, 14, 15 hour days, 7 days a week being with children, in communities who haven't had those opportunities....You are demonstrating to the country what's possible."

Secretary Duncan engaged City Year's young leaders in a lively conversation on their role and the needs of American education, and challenged them to do all that they can to help students and schools succeed. City Year Boston corps member Paul Willis highlighted City Year's dedication to meeting that challenge: "Our commitment is to helping students stay on track to graduate so that they are on a path to succeed."

City Year CEO and Co-Founder Michael Brown reflected the sentiment of the corps and City Year's commitment to helping students and schools succeed: "Mr. Secretary, when it comes to helping to address the dropout crisis - and turning around low performing schools - City Year is all in."

Shout Outs

This month we would especially like to thank...

... Fifth Third Bank, Tower City Center and The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum for graciously providing in-kind contributions to our programming over the last two months.

In closing, speaking directly to the young leaders of City Year, Secretary Duncan said, "Thank you for your work, thank you for your commitment. Most importantly, thank you for your encouragement, not just for the children of Boston, but the children of America. They are lucky to have you in their lives."

Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino and Frank Barnes, Boston Public Schools Chief Accountability Officer, also participated in the event.

[Read](#) *The Boston Globe's* online coverage of Secretary Duncan's talk with City Year corps members.

In August, the U.S. Department of Education awarded a \$30 million Invest In Innovation Fund (i3) grant to the Diplomas Now collaborative, a school turnaround initiative that unites City Year, Communities In Schools, and Talent Development of Johns Hopkins University to provide comprehensive school reform and enhanced student support services to low performing schools. For more information on Diplomas Now, please [click here](#).

For more information on City Year's national scale plan to reach a majority of the off-track students in the 20 U.S. cities where it serves, see [In School & On Track: A National Challenge](#).

City Year unites young people of all backgrounds for a year of full-time service, giving them the skills and opportunities to change the world. As tutors, mentors, and role models, these young leaders make a difference in the lives of children and transform schools and neighborhoods across the United States and in South Africa.

Founded in Boston in 1988, City Year has established programs in Boston; Chicago; Cleveland; Columbia, SC; Columbus; Detroit; Little Rock/North Little Rock; Los Angeles; Louisiana; Miami; New Hampshire; New York; Greater Philadelphia; Rhode Island; San Antonio; San Jose/Silicon Valley; Seattle/King County; South Africa and Washington, D.C. City Year is a proud member of AmeriCorps.

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