



## Caldwell Enrichment Program, Inc.

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Yolanda Hardy – Director, Barbara Castro – President

Re: DOT Testimonial

April 25, 2023

Until recently, programs for our youth were not just scarce but inaccessible for our youth. We see the Caldwell Enrichment Programs Inc. as being strategically located nestled in a buzzing residential neighborhood. We have found that it is not those youth like to be unguided on the corner, but they like engagement and with working families and single parent and other “non” traditional family types some are unable to always provide the supervision and engagement and support for the youth after school hours.

The Caldwell Enrichment Program Inc. recognizes this need and has opened the Open Streets program during the crucial period during after school and out of school time hours creating a place in which youth can feel safe and be engaged with positive and enrichment opportunities. It not only helps our youth grow but gives them character and motivation to do better.

We include parents and community members in many of our programs. We have been able to offer sports, jazz music, dancing, planting flowers, community service projects, arts and crafts and so much more.

These programs and projects are geared toward having an inclusive community. Decreasing bullying and fighting while increasing responsibility and respect. Our volunteers support the day to day by bringing their skills to continue to engage with the community.

The South Bronx community was also deeply impacted by Covid-19. Our non-profit organization is one of many small CBO's that has been negatively impacted by COVID and need financial assistance to be able to help those in need "The Bronx, which has long grappled with lower-than-average life expectancy and high incidence of chronic health conditions like asthma and diabetes, those infected with coronavirus die at a rate three times higher than those who live just a river away in Manhattan."

<https://www.amny.com/new-york/bronx/bronx-residents-twice-as-likely-to-die-from-covid-19-in-nyc/>. This is a neighborhood which is in great need, is enjoyed by the community who attend the Open Street on Jennings Street Program.

The city, especially in this area has a high rate of asthma which is attributed to the exhaust from vehicles, trucks and buses, our small block has made a large positive impact on the community. I'm pleased that the Open Street Program takes people into consideration instead of parking of cars.

We hope that positive and financial support from DOT/TA, etc. continues to reimagining every evolving city.

Sincerely,

Y. Lonnie Hardy, Director  
Caldwell Enrichment Program Inc  
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