



## 2015-16 YEAR IN REVIEW

July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

Dear FYI Family,

Kudos to all of our supporters - your generosity has made possible the accomplishments of the past twelve months that are outlined in this annual brief.

As you will read, FYI expanded services and numbers of children served by creating a continuum of programs starting in Kindergarten straight up through college. We are working hard to increase children's academic success while fostering their give-back to the community *and* their college-going mindsets.

Strengthening our organizational capacity in order to sustain growth constitutes a top FYI priority. Our skilled and enthusiastic board of directors is bolstering our infrastructure-building and fundraising efforts.

Thank you again for joining FYI in making a difference in the lives of the children and families we serve.

Sincerely,

*Eileen Lyons*, LMSW  
Executive Director

### DIRECT SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

- Rolled out a full-scale Kindergarten through fifth grade summer camp and school year program serving 120 low-income immigrant and bilingual children (an expanded Welcome Program)
- Conducted a **Summer of Service Day Camp** for 45 middle school students, decreasing summer learning loss
- Mentored 35 teenaged summer youth employees, improving their work readiness and youth leadership skills
- Served 120 middle school students daily at two sites throughout the school year, increasing their cognitive and non-cognitive skills so that they make healthy decisions and succeed in school



*Building STEM skills (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) with hands-on projects.*



*Developing literacy skills in emergent bilingual students using puppetry and theater.*

FYI EMPOWERS IMMIGRANT, FIRST GENERATION AND BICULTURAL YOUTH WITH THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO ACHIEVE LIFELONG SUCCESS.

## ORGANIZATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Received two new government grants to support programming for 100 high school students
- Designed a blueprint for FYI's community-wide College Access and Persistence Program addressing an unmet need in the Washington Heights community
- Strengthened infrastructure through strategic hires, and service grants from Taproot and Youth I.N.C.
- Received a Four Star rating from **Charity Navigator** recognizing our commitment to fiscal responsibility



Girls Lit Club at the elementary school Summer Day Camp

## THE BIG PICTURE

- Implemented a literacy-driven program model to improve FYI'ers fluency and reading skills, a significant need in the school district
- Forged relationships with school personnel and parents to meet the needs of the whole child
- Established the **Panel for Immigrant and Bi-cultural Children** led by Dr. Jennifer Collett to identify best practices for achieving excellent reading outcomes
- Introduced new activities, e.g., drumming, self-defense, STEM and art to cultivate children's multiple intelligences
- Exposed youth to new experiences – college tours, camping, baseball games, museums – to nurture healthy independence and fun
- Opened FYI doors for Saturday programming making maximum use of our beautiful building, six days a week

## FYI BY THE NUMBERS

### 445 Total Youth Served

Average # of *intensive academic and social-emotional* **hours** added to the school year for FYI participants:

- ✓ Welcome Program: **1,000**
- ✓ Middle School Programs: **720** hours
- ✓ High School Programs: **200** hours

**9,000** Total # of community service hours volunteered by FYI'ers

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS June 2015 - May 2016

**Edward Lehmann**, Chair  
**Lewis Schiff**, Vice-Chair  
**Steven Elkes**, Treasurer  
**Rebecca Sale**, Secretary

**Yuriy Boykiv**  
**Billie Gibson**  
**Jeff Haber**  
**Amit Jain**  
**Glenn Pagan**  
**Claudell Pressa**

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