

INSIGHTS

A MERCY WORKS NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2022

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Strong Start Signals Increasing Demand for STEAM Programs

MercyWorks facilitates programs that focus on Personal Development, Professional Development and STEAM Enrichment. Weaved into every program offered at the Clarence Jordan Vision Center (CJVC) is vision. And the reason is very simple: vision changes everything!

We have experienced a steady increase from the previous year as more students re-engage with local programs. In the first quarter of 2022, we have reached 64 young people with our iCAN Robotics, CSD Code, Digital Music Lab and Vision Velocity young men's mentorship program. We've seen a year over year increase of participation which makes for an exciting opportunity to serve more students this year.

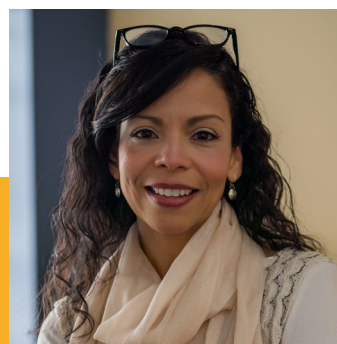
Investing in our youth is critical. Young people represent our future physicians, artists, engineers, chefs, politicians, lawyers, designers, astronauts, fire fighters, tradesmen, civic leaders, future parents and more. It is their generation that will continue to advance technology, redefine the way we do life, and cultivate a brighter future for our community.

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Inside this newsletter, you'll discover the generational impact your support is making. You'll meet Maya and Jazzy, a powerful story that confirms the great benefits of youth programs and the vital lifeline they are for our families. You'll also get an inside look at upcoming programs and events at the CJVC and ways you can participate in our annual Golfless Tournament.

To continue our important work, we need full support and involvement from our MercyWorks community. We are in need of mentors, coaches, facilitators, and volunteers who have a heart for young people and want to see them thrive right here in Syracuse. We also need your continued financial support to keep up with demand for the important programs that shape the future for local youth.

Thank you for doing your part to support us and to keep our community of students and families vibrant and growing. We look forward to the growth and stories of impact in 2022.



NATIVIDAD TORRENCE
MercyWorks Program Director

Generational Impact:



In 2010, Maya McCullough was just 14 years of age when she participated in our entrepreneurship program. Through Teen Tech, Maya developed a relationship with the Clarence Jordan Vision Center that has come full circle.

In 2017, Maya returned to the Vision Center and successfully completed Synergy, a paid summer internship and leadership development program. She first heard about the program through her advisor at Onondaga Community College. She was placed with one of our worksite partners where she gained exposure and experience in her field of study.

Fast forward to January 2022. As we are welcoming students for our iCAN Robotics program, 10-year-old Jaz'Mine Boatwright approaches Mercy Works Program Director, Nati Torrence and said, "My mom took classes here a long time ago!" Much to Nati's delight, she learned it was Maya's daughter. They hugged and had a great conversation catching up on MercyWorks' impact on their lives.

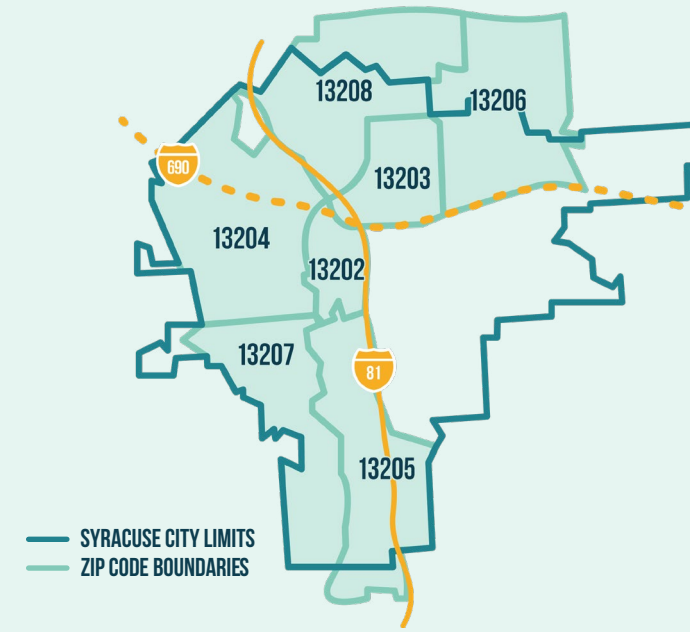
Nati learned just how much the entrepreneurship program inspired her. Maya shared, "At the time there were no programs quite like Teen Tech in the community." She continued to share that Synergy also had a great impact in her life because the training she received in time management, networking and professional development were the very things she drew from to launch out as an entrepreneur. Finally, she shared how blessed she is that her daughter will have the same quality of care through new and expanded programs.

"I want to expose Jazzy to Vision Center programs at a young age," said Maya. I want her to know that whatever she decides to do as she gets older is her choice. I want her to be familiar with the Vision Center as the place where she can receive the care and training she needs to succeed. The programs that you offer here like coding, entrepreneurship and Synergy will open a lot of doors for her that I want her to explore."

“ The programs that you offer here like coding, entrepreneurship and Synergy will open a lot of doors for her that I want her to explore.”

Impact by the **NUMBERS**

Our partnerships with the Syracuse City School District, local agencies, local leadership and worksite partners bolster our efforts to effect change at a local level with vision-based programs. In just the first quarter of 2022, we have reached 64 young people.



Making an impact where it's needed most

64% of the students reached this quarter come from the Syracuse City School District

57% are local and live in the city of Syracuse



19

Vision Velocity Students

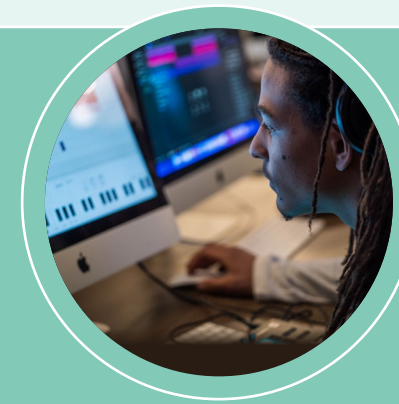
Monthly mentorship program for young men in the 7th, 8th, and 9th grades.



19

iCAN Robotics Students

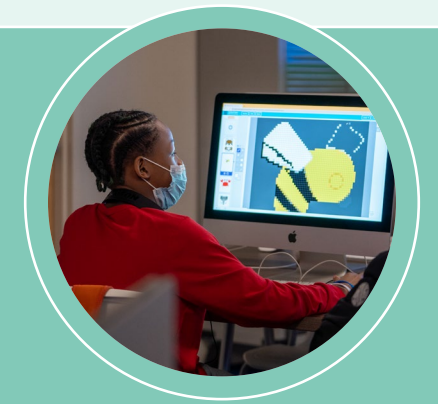
Robotics programs for students ages 10-16.



10

Digital Music Lab Students

Music production lab for high school students.



16

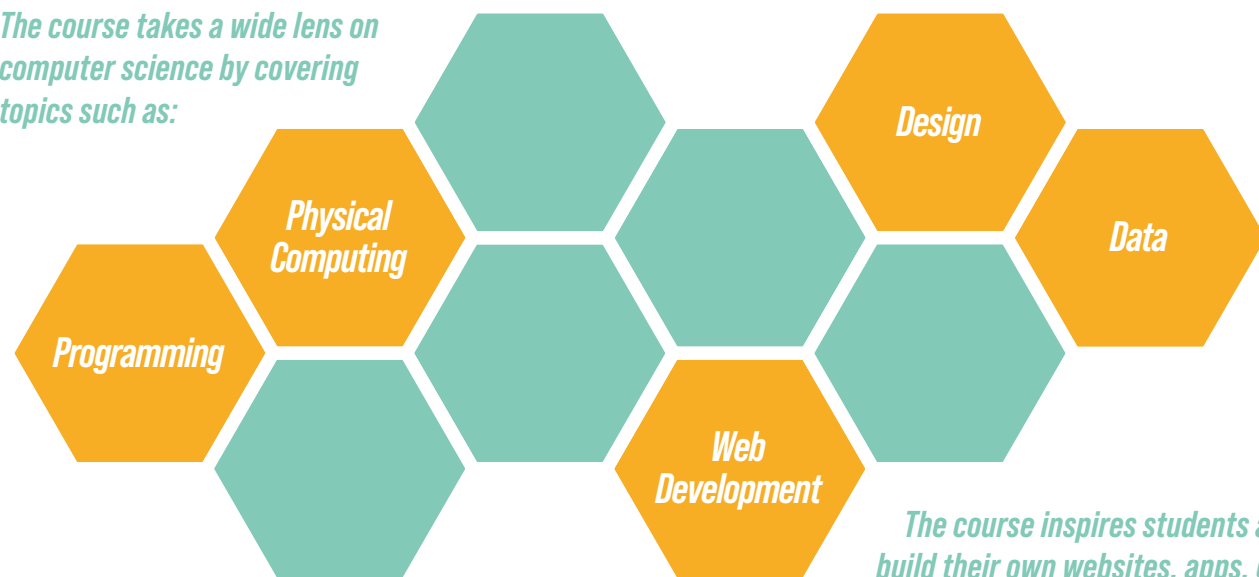
CSD Code Students

Coding program for youth from the 7th-12th grades.

Program Spotlight: *CSD Coding*

Every 21st-century student should have the opportunity to learn computer science.

The course takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as:

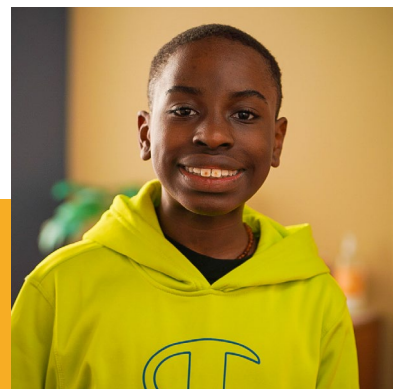


The course inspires students as they build their own websites, apps, games, and physical computing devices.

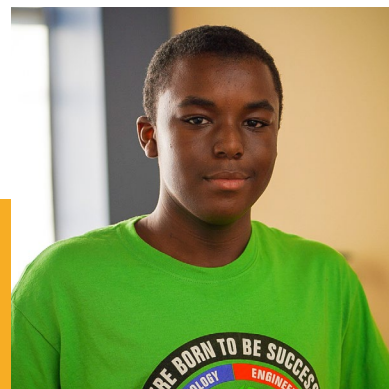
CSD Code is a five week program. Our most recent group of CSD students met from March 7th until April 6th.



JAZ'MINE BOATWRIGHT
7th-grade CSD Coding Student



XAVIER ROWSER
7th-grade CSD Coding Student



MIKELL HOLLYWOOD
7th-grade CSD Coding Student

Volunteer Opportunity:

Vision Velocity



Our STEAM programs and personal development programs are reaching young men with the message of **HOPE** and **VISION**. We are in need of volunteers with a professional background in **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS** and the **ARTS** to mentor bright young men with a vision for the future.

Did you know that
84%
of the students we serve are young males?

Please visit www.vcsyracuse.com/volunteer or connect with Nati Torrence, MercyWorks Program Director at ncabrera@mercy-works.org for more information about volunteer opportunities.

Upcoming Programs & Events

Ongoing

Vision Velocity Young Men Mentorship

Vision Velocity is a monthly mentorship program designed to engage young men with a vision approach to setting goals for their lives. The approach includes understanding that we all have a purpose and have been created to fulfill that purpose. Vision Velocity meets once per month and is available to young men in 7th, 8th, and 9th grades.

Learn more at www.vcsyracuse.com/vision-velocity

5/31
-
8/5

Synergy Internship & Leadership Development

Synergy is a 10-week leadership development and paid internship program for college students from the Syracuse area. This program is designed to cultivate strong professional skills and build an exceptional work ethic based upon four main pillars: professional development, financial literacy, service growth, and health & wellness.

Learn more at www.vcsyracuse.com/synergy-internship

7/5
-
8/11

First Real Entrepreneurship Starts Here (#FRESH)

College students are not the only ones seeking substantial work experience and leadership training. Today, self-motivated high school students are also looking for opportunities to get real professional experience and mentorship. #FRESH helps high school students develop excellent work skills, fine tune and build their resume and develop great work etiquette.

Learn more at www.vcsyracuse.com/fresh

8/22
-
8/27

Passport to Vision

A weeklong life-changing experience for high school girls that fosters positive self-image, vision and focus for them to develop a strategy to realize their dreams. Designed as a personal journey and group experience with an intimate feel, the program addresses topics that are relevant to young women during a time when they need it most. The program engages young women ages 14-18 in safe and open conversation about topics that are relevant to this generation.

For more information, visit www.vcsyracuse.com/passport-2-vision

9/12
-
11/11

BMB Vision Ventures

Formerly Teen Tech, BMB Vision Ventures presents an expanded version of Teen Tech that will meet twice a week for 10 weeks. BMB Vision Ventures encourages students to take a philanthropic approach to entrepreneurship. Open to ages 10-16.

Learn more at www.vcsyracuse.com/bmb-vision-ventures

9/13
-
11/29

Digital Music Lab

In partnership with Syracuse University, the Music Production Lab meets every Tuesday, from 4 to 6pm during two 12-week semesters. Students develop music composition and production skills. At the end of each semester, students present a finished product that includes their finished tracks and a brief abstract about the meanings that underlie their compositions.

For more information, visit www.vcsyracuse.com/digitalmusiclab

We are especially in need of volunteers for all of our programs. Please visit www.vcsyracuse.com/volunteer or connect with Nati Torrence, MercyWorks Program Director at ncabrera@mercy-works.org for more information about volunteer opportunities.

Digital Music Lab Student Spotlight

Meet Que'ni Crawford

Que'ni is a high school student learning music composition and production from undergraduate and graduate students from Syracuse University. Student's compositions range in genre from electronic music to hip hop to pop, are the culmination of the 12-week Digital Music Lab, a partnership between Syracuse University and Mercy Works.



Ways to Support

1

Give Online

Visit www.vcsyracuse.com/donate. You can make a one-time donation or set up monthly giving to support a specific program or all of our programs.

2

Through the United Way

If your employer participates in the United Way campaign, go to your Human Resources Department and fill out a form for the donor. Option Program, designating MercyWorks, Inc. as the recipient.



3

Donate Your Excess Vehicle

Do you have a surplus vehicle that you've been meaning to get rid of? No matter the make, model or year of your surplus vehicle, you can donate your vehicle to support our programs. Learn more at www.vcsyracuse.com/donate

4

Mail a Check

Do you prefer sending a check? You can mail checks payable to MercyWorks, Inc. at 1221 South Salina St., Syracuse, NY 13202.

5

Shop at Smile.Amazon.Com

Make online purchases through smile.amazon.com where 5% of your purchase will be donated to MercyWorks, Inc. when you designate your giving to our organization. Amazon.smile is the same as Amazon: Same products, same prices, and same service!



6

Estate Planning

You can't choose the legacy you receive. But you can choose the legacy you leave. We accept legacy gifts that include contributions from retirement plans, life insurance, real estate, securities or bequests.

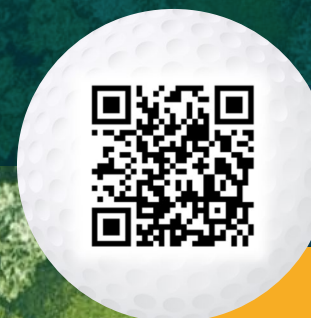
Giving Campaign:

GOLFLESS

Tournament *Fundraiser*

Since 2012, the Golfless Tournament has been the primary fundraising effort for Synergy, a 10-week leadership development and paid internship program for 50+ college students from the Syracuse area.

Unlike a traditional golf tournament sponsorship, our Golfless Tournament gives every sponsor at every level the opportunity to promote their brand while supporting a great cause. No golfing required.



Our tournament goal is \$150,000. Explore sponsorship levels and the impact you can make on the lives of our students.

Learn more about the Golfless Tournament by visiting www.vcsyracuse.com/golfless.

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Senior Pastor of Abundant Life

LISA CARTER

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Board Member



mercyworks

Mercy Works is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that operates the Clarence Jordan Vision Center.

PHONE

315.435.6934

ADDRESS

1221 South Salina Street
Syracuse, NY 13202

WEBSITE

www.vcsyracuse.com