



Vol. 4, Issue 1, June 2011

In This Issue

- Youth Voice! The Results Speak for Themselves
- YouthWorks: Summer Jobs for Youth
- Ready by 21: The Shift
- Just Kids: Reducing Youth Prosecution & Incarceration
- Congratulations Class of 2011!
- Celebrating CLIA Mentoring: City Council President Jack Young Provides Keynote Address
- Harlem Park Community Garden: Finally taking root...
- Law and Leadership Academy: Spotlight on NAF

### Youth Voice! The Results Speak for Themselves

Founded in 1998, Community Law In Action (CLIA) creates interactive educational and community based initiatives to engage young people as advocates and active citizens. Through these real-world initiatives, CLIA fosters youth and adult collaborations leading to sustainable social change, while promoting youth voice and positive youth development. Each year, CLIA youth complete hundreds of hours of community service and advocacy projects to improve their schools and communities while preparing themselves for personal and professional success.

### YouthWorks: Summer Jobs for Youth

YouthWorks is a citywide initiative to secure jobs for young people between June 27 and August 5, 2011.



YouthWorks is back and better than ever with a reorganized selection process, and this year CLIA is expecting to have 22 students as YouthWorks participants. Approximately 20 of the students are a part of CLIA's Ready by 21 initiative and will be placed at off-site locations in line with their career interests. Data shows that employing young people in challenging jobs is key to long-term success.

### Ready by 21: The Shift

Ready by 21 is an innovative set of strategies developed by national experts with decades of youth policy experience to help communities improve the odds that all children and youth will be ready for college, work and life. CLIA was awarded a grant from Family League to operate a Ready by 21 program. Staff and youth have called it "THE SHIFT" because we are extremely focused on work readiness and life skills, and when YouthWorks starts on June 27th the entire SHIFT is participating. They are truly UNSTOPPABLE!



Please contact Ana Abram at [ana@cliyouth.org](mailto:ana@cliyouth.org) for more information about Ready by 21.



COMMUNITY LAW IN ACTION

520 WEST FAYETTE ST. SUITE 140 BALTIMORE, MD 21201  
O: 410.706.3875 F: 410.706.0041 CLIA YOUTH.ORG



### Just Kids: Reducing Youth Prosecution & Incarceration

CLIA has been a lead partner in the Just Kids Partnership to End the Automatic Prosecution of Youth in Adult Courts, bringing the voice and input of youth involved in the criminal justice system to the debate about youth in adult courts and jails, for over a year. Recently, Just Kids made two important strides in the effort to reduce youth prosecution and incarceration.



Just Kids leads a large group of Baltimore youth-serving organizations, which demanded that the State reconsider its plan to build a new pre-trial detention center for Baltimore youth charged as adults and find more effective ways to serve at-risk youth. The alliance met with hundreds of community residents to determine fair and just alternatives to the construction of the jail that would produce revenue for the City, generate unity within the communities, and ensure a return on the investment that would promote a safer, better Baltimore.

Last month, a study completed by the independent, non-partisan National Council on Crime and Delinquency, showed that the building planned by the Governor was much too large for the need. In addition, the Council demonstrated that even small policy or practice changes made by the courts and legislature would significantly reduce the number of youth that would need to be detained by the jail. Just Kids continues to push for the Governor's administration to stop construction of this jail, make the policy changes outlined in the Council's study to reduce the need for a jail, and to spend the money currently earmarked for the jail on more efficient, better community programs.

CLIA also reached out through a Mother's Day Outreach card campaign, which gave incarcerated youth in Maryland's adult jails and prisons the opportunity to send Mother's Day messages to members of their families and invited these family members to join the effort to stop youth from being charged as adults. CLIA sent out 48 cards to families all over Baltimore and has already heard from families who want to become involved and planned a similar campaign for Father's Day. Engaging youth and families in the campaign is necessary to accomplish the goal of stopping the automatic prosecution of youth as adults in Maryland and is CLIA's primary focus.

Please contact Kara Aanenson at [kara@cliayouth.org](mailto:kara@cliayouth.org) for more information about Just Kids.



COMMUNITY LAW IN ACTION

520 WEST FAYETTE ST. SUITE 140 BALTIMORE, MD 21201  
O: 410.706.3875 F: 410.706.0041 CLIAYOUTH.ORG





### **Congratulations Class of 2011!**

Congratulations to the Law and Leadership Academy Seniors! This group, with students from Patterson, RF Lewis, Mervo, Northwestern and NAF High Schools, represents CLIA's first class of students that have completed all three years of the curriculum. Most participated in mentoring, received Peer Mediation Certificates, and will receive a special honor cord for graduation in recognition of their achievement.



If you would like to find out more about CLIA's Law and Leadership Academies please contact Raquel Rodriguez at [raquel@cliayouth.org](mailto:raquel@cliayouth.org).

### **Celebrating CLIA Mentoring: City Council President Jack Young Provides Keynote Address**



On Wednesday, May 11, 2011, nearly 150 guests joined Community Law In Action, Inc. (CLIA) for its annual Corporate Mentoring luncheon to recognize the accomplishments of those high school students and their mentors from various legal agencies around Baltimore who participated in the mentoring program. The event took place at the University of Maryland, Baltimore's Campus Center.

Guest speaker City Council President Jack Young shared with the students his pride over their hard work and ambition as shown through their participation in mentoring. An alumnus of one of the high schools represented, he reminded mentors of their unique role in students' lives and encouraged them in their efforts.

Aid, and private law firms Miles & Stockbridge and Saul Ewing. This program gives nearly 100 high school students the opportunity to learn experientially about working in the legal field. During the two years of monthly mentoring sessions, students view trials, visit the state assembly in Annapolis, tour college campuses and receive academic and professional training.

The mentor sites for the 2010-11 school year included: the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the City Solicitor, Maryland Legal

CLIA also provides a wide range of educational programs, workshops and mentor programs that promote advocacy by and for youth. To get involved with CLIA as a mentor, volunteer or supporter, or for further information, contact Raquel Rodriguez at [raquel@cliayouth.org](mailto:raquel@cliayouth.org).





### Harlem Park Community Garden: Finally taking root...

Students from CLIA's Law, Social Justice and Youth Advocacy course at Baltimore Talent Development High School, are creating a beautiful new community garden, as well as promoting a school-wide conservation initiative. Students decided that they wanted to help start a community garden in the Harlem Park neighborhood. Partnering with students and faculty at the Harlem Park Elementary and Middle School who had the same idea, and parents and neighbors, the team broke ground on May 24 with the assistance of Parks and People Foundation and a grant from the Baltimore City Schools Sustainability Challenge.

Students developed the logo for the project, worked on publicity, helped write the grant applications, and of course did the actual gardening! Community members hope to start raising some vegetables this year and in the future, add more permanent raised beds, a hoop house green house, rain barrels, street mural, environmental and health educational programs and a garden that commemorates community members who have passed away.



The effort was spearheaded by our own Russell Spinney, who has worked tirelessly with everyone concerned, inspiring at least one teacher to start using the logos and messages in the hallways and classrooms to save energy. The project also involved the science teacher who set up a solar recharging device for cell phones, and the art teacher who supervised the design elements.

If you would like to find out more about the Community Garden contact Helene Luce at [helene@cliyouth.org](mailto:helene@cliyouth.org).

### Law and Leadership Academy: Spotlight on NAF

Articulation at the National Academy Foundation (NAF) is the process through which freshmen decide what pathway they will pursue over the next three years. The Law and Leadership Academy competes against hospitality, IT, engineering, and business and finance pathways, but with the help of CLIA partners, including mentors from the office of the Attorney General, law students from the University of Maryland and several volunteers, the law academy was well represented at the annual Law Academy Articulation Day.



In the morning, almost 100 freshmen heard about the Law and Leadership Academy, CLIA's partnership with the school, and the corporate mentoring program. CLIA provided activities to show students how



#### COMMUNITY LAW IN ACTION

520 WEST FAYETTE ST. SUITE 140 BALTIMORE, MD 21201  
O: 410.706.3875 F: 410.706.0041 CLIA YOUTH.ORG





beneficial the law academy could be, not only for those interested in the legal profession, but for any college-bound student.

In the afternoon, students participated in a law-themed scavenger hunt that included stops at the Public Defender, the Federal Courthouse, and City Hall, learning about what goes on in buildings they see every day and their role in the legal community. The great mix of participants showed students what they could look forward to if they joined the Law and Leadership Academy.

If you would like to find out more about this particular event or CLIA's work in schools please contact Raquel Rodriguez at [raquel@cliayouth.org](mailto:raquel@cliayouth.org).



Our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual *Power to Spare* coming this Fall!

Stay tuned for next month's newsletter! In the meantime, visit our website at [www.cliayouth.org](http://www.cliayouth.org).



COMMUNITY LAW IN ACTION

520 WEST FAYETTE ST. SUITE 140 BALTIMORE, MD 21201  
O: 410.706.3875 F: 410.706.0041 CLIAYOUTH.ORG