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Our Vision

For every child from the Astoria and Long Island City Zones of Promise to graduate from high school and achieve the post-secondary education needed to thrive in a 21st Century world.

Dear Zone 126 Supporter,

More than 20,000 families in Astoria and Long Island City are living in poverty. Even as new development comes to our neighborhood, thousands of children and parents are struggling to meet their most basic needs. The root causes of poverty are complex and involve a wide range of factors, from lack of access to healthy nutrition, to few educational resources in high-poverty schools.



Zone 126 began as a Promise Neighborhoods project in 2011, designed to provide Cradle to Career programs and services to families living in poverty in zip codes **11101**, **11102**, and **11106** - our *Zones of Promise*. While Promise Neighborhoods did not come to fruition in New York City, Zone 126 has remained. We remain committed to our *Zones of Promise* and to breaking the cycle of poverty.

In 2013, we embarked on an improved strategic direction to lead the organization to impact and sustainability. I had the pleasure of joining Zone 126 in May of this year, and with the Zone 126 team, laying the foundation for a significant year of impact ahead. As a backbone organization, we drive Zone 126's mission within a Collective Impact framework, in which we secure partnerships committed to serving our children and families. **In 2014, by uniting a host of holistic programs and interventions for our children and families, and purposefully evaluating progress and outcomes, we will begin to eliminate the achievement and opportunity gaps in Astoria/LIC.**

Together, we can work to make poverty in our neighborhood a thing of the past. With the support of our community we can truly support our neighbors in need. From Cradle to Career.

Warmly,

Zone 126 Executive Director



Unite: A Common Vision of helping all Children in our Zones of Promise graduate

2013 Accomplishments

Community Engagement

- Hosted the Zone 126 Collaborative Baby Shower to discuss the importance of prenatal care and connect first time mothers with the Nurse Family Partnership program.
- Provided workshops at Zone elementary schools to prevent summer learning loss, introduce the Core Curriculum workshops, and provided techniques to engage parents in student's education.
- Held the District 22 Educational Forum which united nearly 100 residents with political candidates to discuss educational issues and the future of our children.

Community Programs & Partnerships

- Partnered with City Harvest to promote the mobile market and help 700+ residents gain access to fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Secured partnership with Queens Library & the Astoria Houses Tenants Association and co-coordinated a 10 week Early Learning Family Literacy program for 3-4 year olds and their caregivers.
- Secured partnership with ERDA and Strive for College and co-coordinated a 7 week college exploration and mentorship program for high school juniors.
- Secured partnership with Building Educated Leaders for Life (BELL) in which over 250 students were enrolled in grades K-8 to provide the 5 week BELL Summer Learning Program.

Advocacy Initiatives

- Held 5 Advisory Councils to connect local leaders and partners to create awareness and discuss issues impacting Astoria and LIC.
- Convened monthly Principal's Councils with Zone schools to discuss educational issues and advocate on their behalf.
- Represented our Zones of Promise and advocated for educational reform at the national America's Promise and Strive Network conferences.



Commit: Support our Schools and Communities,
Our Children and Families

Looking Ahead

We are pleased to announce an exciting year ahead. In 2014, Zone 126 plans to:

- Launch at least 10 Cradle to Career programs within Zone schools that offer a comprehensive array of services including literacy, adult education, mental health, nutrition, and postnatal classes.
- Provide more than 700 children and families with the holistic support they need to improve academic outcomes, physical and emotional health, and access to vital services.
- Evaluate the efficacy of the programs we bring to our Zone, and begin a longitudinal data collection and analysis process for the Cradle to Career pipeline.

Join Zone 126

Share: Let others know about our work, follow us on Facebook and Twitter

Give: Consider making an online donation to Zone 126 at www.zone126.org/donate

Volunteer: Contact us for ways to get involved at info@zone126.org

Thank You to Our Supporters

The Thomas and Jeanne Elmezzi Foundation

The JPMorgan Chase Foundation

America's Promise Alliance

New York City Council

The Laura B. Vogler Foundation

First Book



Impact: Programs for Children and Families from Cradle to Career to Raise Graduation Rates