



Respond, Inc.

Serving Camden and Neighboring Communities Since 1967

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*Wilbert Mitchell,
Executive Director,
Respond, Inc.*

A Message from Executive Director Wilbert Mitchell

Respond, Inc. has had a wonderful summer. The fourth annual Shalom Community Health and Wellness Fair was a great success. Our summer youth programs coached children in healthy eating and exercise, encouraged teens to volunteer and express themselves, and placed high school students in internships and career workshops, positioning them for future success. Our Automotive

Technology Training Program graduated its third class and is celebrating a number of former students who are now employed in the automotive industry.

These programs, which make such a difference in the lives of Camden residents, would not be possible without the help of friends like Bill Fox, Sr., who was a staunch supporter of Respond's work. We will remember Bill at the *Hands of Hope* benefit on December 8 at the Crowne Plaza in Cherry Hill, and hope you will join us in honoring his life and philanthropic legacy.

We are so grateful to you and to all of our supporters for continuing to help us build a better community. **Thank you.**

Wilbert Mitchell
Executive Director
Respond, Inc.



SAVE THE DATE

**Lend a Hand of Hope at the Crowne Plaza
in Cherry Hill on December 8, 2011**

Prudential Fox & Roach/Trident is proud to present *Hands of Hope* honoring the memory of Bill Fox, Sr., realtor and philanthropist. The event will be held Thursday, December 8, 2011 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza in Cherry Hill, N.J. All proceeds raised through ticket sales, auction, and sponsorships will support the programs of Respond, Inc. We are currently seeking auction donations and sponsorships. For more information, please contact Nancy Williams at nwilliams@respondinc.com or (856) 365-4400.

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Shalom Community Health and Wellness Fair

On Saturday, August 13, Respond hosted its fourth annual Shalom Health and Wellness Fair. Children participated in physical activities including hula-hoop and jump rope contests, and adults joined in healthy cooking demonstrations and health screenings.

“The Shalom Community Fair brought Camden residents together in a celebration of peace, health, and wellness,” said Wilbert Mitchell, Respond’s Executive Director. “Respond, Inc. was very proud to be a part of this inspirational annual event. We thank ARAMARK and our other community partners who helped us make it happen.”

ARAMARK *Building Community* (ABC) is ARAMARK’s signature philanthropic and volunteer program, created to enrich the lives of families in need by strengthening local community centers.

ARAMARK recognizes the important role community centers play in addressing the comprehensive needs of individuals and families and is providing a range of resources, including grants, volunteers and in-kind contributions. ARAMARK creates long-term partnerships with centers to help them be successful.

Other supporters of the Fair included local clergy as well as Campbell Soup Company, the Camden Children’s Garden, the Camden County Health Department, St. Luke’s Catholic Medical Services, Greensgrow Farm, the New Jersey Partnership for Healthy Kids, PNC Bank, Rutgers University, Save Our Waterfront, Sysco, Catholic Partnership Schools, Lutheran Ministries and Hopeworks, and the New Jersey Tree Foundation. ▮



Auto Tech Program Helps Students Make New Start

The Automotive Technology Training program at the Sayre Training Complex isn’t just about helping students find employment. It’s about helping them make a new start in life.

The course runs for 22 weeks, and students spend approximately 400 hours in the shop gaining valuable experience with state-of-the-art equipment and computer-based service technologies. Beginning with general safety and shop cleanliness, the curriculum covers the fundamentals of:

- Automotive Maintenance
- Brake Systems
- Steering and Suspensions
- Engine Performance
- Heater and Air Conditioning
- Engine Mechanics
- Transmission and Drive Axles
- Basic Electrical Systems

But the greatest work of the program doesn’t happen under the hood. Students learn the importance of teamwork and good communication. They also learn how to build a resume, fill out job applications and interview successfully. The program goes beyond engines and service lights, focusing above all on helping students achieve success and independence in the future.

The third Auto Tech class graduated in July 2011—and several of these alumni are now awaiting callbacks from interviews. Former student Evan Paynter is currently attending Camden County College and working toward his Associates Degree in Automotive Technology. Jose Morales, the very first student to walk in the door of the Sayre Training Complex to interview for the program, is now employed by Respond, Inc. as an instructor’s assistant.

As these success stories demonstrate, the Auto Tech program is working, and it will continue to work—as long as it takes—to help participants change their lives for the better. ▮

A New Green

If you are a resident of North Camden, or a recent visitor to the area, you may have noticed many new "greened" areas. These lots have gone from liabilities to assets in the neighborhood due to support from the Wells Fargo Foundation and others that provide funding to train workers and provide landscaping.

In the past few months, more than 40 lots have been cleaned and greened in the Camden Towne area of North Camden. An additional 40 lots have been brought back to life west of 4th Street, and work is continuing throughout the neighborhood.

The program includes not only classroom and hands-on training in lawn repair and landscaping, but also in employment skills, classes for a high school diploma and preparation for obtaining a driver's license.

At the end of the training period, students who have completed the program will receive a certificate in lawn repair from Camden County College. ▮



Auto tech instructor (middle) teaches students Josue Cortes, Kathleen Anderson and Michael Shone (pictured from left to right).

What's Happening at Respond's Childcare Centers?

- **The Summer Enrichment Camp** was great fun this year! Children participated in physical activities from the CATCH program and received nutrition education from Rutgers Cooperative Extension.



Summer Enrichment Campers

- **Respond Kids Cook!** Respond children throughout Camden donned their chef hats this summer to participate in the Cooking Matters program, a cooking and nutrition education program by the Food Bank of South Jersey and Share Our Strength. In these six-week courses, summer participants learned how to choose healthy foods and to prepare their favorite meals and snacks with a healthy twist.

"I made my mom the chocolate strawberry French toast and the oatmeal pancakes this weekend," said Jazmine Robinson, a budding chef at Respond's Summer Enrichment Camp. "She loved them!"

Thank you to Liz Gartlan and the Cooking Matters staff for making summer so yummy!

- **Wonder Chefs:** Preschoolers in the **Linden** and **Fairview Childcare Centers** also participated in the Food Bank of South Jersey's Wonder Chef program, making their own Oatmeal "Letter" Pancakes, Veggie Bagel Faces, and homemade tomato sauce.

"My favorite part was "smooshing" the tomatoes with my hands," said 4-year-old Jay'senia O'Neal, "and making pizza!"

Some might think preschoolers are too young to cook. But Respond children are not your average preschoolers! They measured, chopped, stirred and mixed, participating in almost every part of the cooking process.

The Cooking Matters and Wonder Chefs programs are generously funded by the Campbell's Childhood Obesity and Hunger Initiative, which aims to reduce childhood hunger and obesity in Camden. ▸



Chef Angel Carrion proudly displays a Veggie Bagel Face.

CATCH Program

As part of the Campbell Soup initiative to reduce childhood obesity in Camden, the YMCA of Burlington and Camden Counties is bringing the CATCH program to Respond's childcare centers. CATCH is a coordinated approach to child health that uses exciting physical activities and games to teach children and families the importance of living healthy lives.

In July, the YMCA piloted CATCH at Respond's Summer Enrichment Camp and Linden childcare center. Staff introduced various CATCH games and activities to children between the ages of 3 and 13. Each morning, participating children engaged in 30 minutes of physical activity and play in the name of good health.

This month, the first phase of CATCH—showing children and staff the benefits and joy of physical activity—will be implemented at Respond's Pyne Poynt Center. ▸

Market Day

This summer children from the Linden Childcare Center visited the Greensgrow mobile market, which offers farm-fresh fruits and vegetables throughout Camden. All the children had a great time eating grapes, bananas and peaches and learning about the nutritional value of fresh produce. ▸

Volunteer Corner: 20 Teens Volunteer in Respond, Inc. Programs, Attend IDEA Theatrical Arts Camp

Respond ran a volunteer program this summer for 20 teens, ages 13 to 15. They lent a hand in Respond's childcare centers, and helped out at the senior program and central office.

The program wasn't all hard work, though: the teens also went on field trips and participated in peer counseling sessions. Each Wednesday, they attended workshops in professional theatre and performance poetry at the Theatrical Arts Camp of IDEA, a local arts education nonprofit. At the end of the six-week program, each volunteer received a stipend. Two outstanding teens were awarded scholarships: Julian Perez was able to attend Camp Jill Scott in Philadelphia and Michelle Rivera was awarded an internship at IDEA. The volunteer program's activities were supported by a grant from Campbell Soup Foundation. ▸



Teen volunteers Julian Perez, Rudy Underdue, Amy Loyola and Aneris DeJesus on stage at IDEA's Performing Arts Center.

Respond In the News

Philadelphia Inquirer columnist Kevin Riordan featured our very own Chef Galal Moin of the Culinary Arts program in a July column entitled "Chef gives parolees in Camden a new course in life." ▸

Spotlight on Success:

Brianna Ramos and the Summer Career Exploration Program

Brianna Ramos, a student at the Medical Arts High School in Camden, participated in Respond's Summer Career Exploration Program this year. She interned for six weeks in Cooper University Hospital's nursing education unit, where she conducted patient surveys and analyzed data.



Brianna Ramos at her desk in Cooper University Hospital's nursing education unit.

"As I approach my senior year in high school, I am repeatedly being asked what I want to do in the future," said Brianna. "This summer I was able to explore a career in the field of nursing. This aspect of the health field was very new to me, but also insightful."

Insight: that's what the Summer Career Exploration program is all about. The program gives young people hands-on experience in their career fields. Participants also attended weekly workshops that help them learn how to choose a college or technical school, apply for student grants and loans, explore career options, and learn basic workplace skills.

Respond and several other participating agencies have offered the Summer Career Exploration Program for more than 26 years. Respond's work alone has helped more than 3,000 local high school students discover their paths to future success.

This summer, 56 students completed assignments at 25 worksites.

Core funding for the Summer Career Exploration Program is provided by the William Penn Foundation and by the Campbell Soup Foundation, which supports summer programs for children and young adults in the city of Camden. ▶

Dollars for Doers

The Campbell Soup Foundation recently presented Respond, Inc. with a Dollars for Doers grant in the amount of \$500. The Dollars for Doers program recognizes and encourages employee volunteerism by providing monetary grants to non-profit organizations with which Campbell employees are actively involved as volunteers. ▶



Campbell Soup Employee Volunteers at Respond, Inc.

Fall Happenings

Greensgrow Farm Market

Thursdays

10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. 9th and Pearl Streets

1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Northgate II Apartments

Greensgrow Farms is now operating mobile markets in North Camden offering farm-fresh fruits and vegetables on Thursdays in front of the proposed Respond, Inc. Bake Shop at 9th & Pearl streets from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. They will also operate at the Northgate II Apartments from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Come by and see all of the great produce that is now available in your neighborhood.

Respond Culinary Program at Local Farmers Markets

The Respond Culinary Program is now participating in the Haddonfield Farmers Market every Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon and in the Westmont Farmers Market on Wednesdays from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Hope Mobile Food Distribution (North Camden Residents Only)

4th Saturday of every month

1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

203 Vine Street

Call Respond at (856) 365-4400 to register.

Cooking Matters for Families

Cooking Class for the Entire Family!

Wednesdays from October 5 through November 9

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Linden Street Childcare Center

9th and Linden Streets

Call Respond at (856) 365-4400 to register. ▶

How to Give to Respond, Inc.

When you make a donation to Respond, Inc., you support programs that make a real difference in the lives of Camden's most vulnerable community members. You provide quality childcare for children whose parents work hard every day. You provide affordable homes for individuals and families. You teach valuable skills to at-risk teens and adults—and you get them that much closer to finding a sustainable job.

Make a donation today. You may contribute to a program of your choice or to our general program fund.

Checks can be made payable to:

Respond, Inc.

Attn: N. Williams

532 State Street

Camden, NJ 08102

Or you can donate online through Pay-Pal, at

<http://www.respondinc.com/fund.htm>

Respond, Inc. is a not for profit

(501) (c) (3) agency.

Visit us on the web at www.respondinc.com