

Welcome & Introductions

- Bruce Baker-ED CHEER
- Denise Jone-Carpe Diem Arts
- Aisha-Community Bridges
- Matthew Ratz-ED P4L
- Jacob Ahnen-Identity
- SS Regional Services Center
- 7th grader Eastern Middle School (A.A.)
- 8th Eastern Middle School (K.M)
- 9th grader Blair HS (S.T.)
- 10th grader Blair HS (B.M)
- 10th grader Blair HS (S.A.)
- Caty Angel-Long Branch Director
- Samia - Community bridges
- Vanesa Pinto -CHEER's Empowerment & Leadership Director
- Lisa Buttner -CHEER's Neighborhood Gardening Program Director
- Cara Honzak -Ward 5 City of Takoma Park Councilmember

Youth Participatory Action and Research (YPAR)-Youth Presentation

- Don't Pollute is a group led by CHEER, Nature Forward, Montgomery Parks, & Defensores de la Cuenca that focuses on teaching youth about environmental health and advocacy. Ultimately, the group is using YPAR to come up with their own project to address issues surrounding environmental health. For example, pollution.
- Youth Participatory ACTION (YPAR) YPAR is a tool that Don't Pollute uses.
- Since January, Vanesa Pinto (CHEER's Empowerment and Leadership Director) and Lisa (CHEER's Neighborhood Gardening Director) worked on this project with youth.
- Youth were the researchers. They gathered data and analyzed the results.
- Don't Pollute youth had their final presentation yesterday. CHEER can send out and post the results of the presentation soon.
- Youth went to the community and gave out surveys discussing plastic bags and trash by the stream
- YPAR can be about other topics as well.

After School Exploration Club (Fall 2023)

Program Introduction

- Seble (CHEER's new LBCAY Program Manager) has been present at the LBCAY meetings for a few sessions prior to this one. During those meetings, we found that college and career readiness and financial literacy were the topics that youth themselves wanted more of in an after school program.

- Passion 4 Learning's Executive Director, Matthew Ratz, will be doing the financial literacy sessions on Tuesdays from 3:30-5:30 at the Long Branch Community Center.
- This program will start on Sept 26th. The financial literacy portion will be 6 sessions.
- The final six sessions of the club will be led by Identity. This portion of the club will focus on college and career readiness. This will take place on Thursdays from 3:30-5:30 starting on November 9th.
- Seble says we will take about 20 students in the Long Branch area

Club Presentation Introductions (P4L led by Matthew Ratz & Identity led by Jacob Ahnen)

- Matthew Ratz-Financial literacy is not a topic that a lot of people are super excited about. However, in a capitalist society, it is important. In this club, we will be looking at our mindsets around money to be aligned with our values. We will look at wealth beyond just spending but also what that money will allow us to let us do. We will also look at money management as well.
- Jacob Ahnen- Identity will be doing college and career readiness. We will be looking at things like getting ready for college no matter what stage you are at. We will also speak on more general leadership themes like how to lead a community.

Break Out Groups/w Youth and Stakeholders (Led by P4L and Identity)

P4L Session

- Matthew starts off his presentation by asking the audience to put up their number of fingers for a series of 3 questions (0=completely unsatisfied...5=everything I need). Those questions include
 1. How would you rate your satisfaction currently with your relationship to money?
 2. How would you rate your comfort level when it comes to speaking about money?
 3. How confident are you that you can change your relationship with money?

Matt then brings out two boards to write on. He uses the first board to write answers to the following 2 questions.

1. What comes to mind when you think about money, business, and finance?
 - Structure-Youth
 - Budget-Youth
 - Stocks-Youth
 - Investments-Youth
 - Taxes-Youth
 - Retirement-Adult
 - Management-Youth
 - Accounts-Adult
2. What about emotional words?
 - Anxiety-Adult
 - Broke-Youth
 - Sad-Youth
 - Happy-Youth

- Stress-Adult
- Service (being able to give back)-Adult
- Gratitude-Adult

Matt then uses a 2nd board to ask 1 question:

1. Words and phrases when you think about your values?

- Family-Youth
- Friends-Adult
- School-Adult
- Churches-Youth
- Security-Adult
- Home-adult
- Success-Youth
- Community-Adult
- Relationships-Adult
- Cars-Adult
- Houses-Adult
- Kindness-Youth
- Gratitude-Adult
- Satisfaction-Youth
- Flexibility-Adult

- Matt then brings the two notepads together and asks: What are the similarities and differences between what we think about money and our values?
 - People want more but aren't able to put the work into it-Adult
 - If you have feelings like kindness, satisfaction, and gratitude...you can give back (service)-Youth
 - In order to get the things we value, money becomes a tool-Adult

Matt then explains the program:

- The goal of money management is to align money with your values. You want what you spend money on to reflect your values. Ex. Having stocks gives you flexibility. Having investments allows you to achieve success and security.
- We will understand what money is, what it is for, and make sure we use it to advance what things are important to us
- How you think about money is the thing that will determine how successful you are
- Who is rich is the one who is happy with what he has
- Matt asks if any of the youth can earn enough money to live independently? None of them can
- You can do money management or you can be financially literate.
- Previous president said rich people are better & that is not true.-Adult commenter
- Matt's response to the commenter: The whole concept of economic scarcity is fake. There is enough to go around. Some people despise the wealth they have or others with wealth. They feel it is unfair and unjust for people to have 400 million dollars and some

people live on the street. We need to understand that money is made to circulate. We are not going to focus too much on budgets or compound interest calculations. We will talk about what money can do & what it gives the power for you to do.

- Seble- Brings up how there are so many things she could have done when she was younger to see her money grow. More than savings or retirement accounts. She never knew this info. Your life can change based on what you can do with your money starting now.
- Matt- Brings up an example about how his kids give him money to get Roblox. He is trying to teach his kids that you can use the money to save for a vacation and get an experience or get something tangible in their hands instead of just spending money on things like Roblox.
- Vanesa -This program is an opportunity for youth to start earlier than us. You [teens] can also teach other teens and your family/friends money management skills. We would like you to spread the word on how to improve your relationship when it comes to money. That is the goal.

Identity Presentation

- Identity offers services at Crossroads
- College and career readiness portion of the club starts in November
- The workforce stage talks about what you will do after high school. We will talk about things like the pathways available to you and where you can talk about the pathways available to you
- Jacob brings out a board and asks 1 question to write down answers:
What are some characteristics a leader has?
 1. Leader-
 - Optimism-adult
 - Dedication-adult
 - Organization-adult
 - Creativity-adult
 - Hard work-youth
 - Goal oriented-adult
 - Visionary-adult
 - Good listener-adult
 - Compassion-youth
 - Determined-adult
 - Humility-adult
- He then follows up with: Do you think leaders are all natural?
 - You can learn to become a leader. -youth
 - Jacob- you can become a leader even if you are not ready right now or if it is not natural to your personality. You can develop yourself into one.

- Vanesa-Leaders promote more leaders. They do not promote followers. They will help you develop.

Jacob then asks: What are some questions you have about leadership?

- Do you have to be a leader to go to college?-Adult
- What motivates you?-Adult
- What steps should I take?-Adult
- We didn't have any specific leadership clubs when I was a kid-Adult. Another adult seconds that

Jacob then continues the presentation with a general discussion. We want to inspire youth to become a leader in the community. In the longer version of the program, we typically have students develop a leadership plan for the community towards the end of the program. We will try to do that in this program.

- Seble- This group (points to the group of teens that joined today's meeting) has been doing leadership work for 2 years with me. For example, helping to facilitate meetings. I am hopeful that they can do more. Also, there is always a role for everyone when it comes to leadership. People can inspire people in different ways.
 - Jacob- Musicians, politicians, artists are some examples of how people can inspire in different ways. We will also be hitting on self care for leaders in this program. It is also important to take care of yourself in this program while taking care of others.
- Board 2. Jacob asks these 4 questions without gathering responses about after high school:
 - What are you looking for to prepare after high school?
 - Do you know the career pathways interesting to you?
 - Do you know how to build a resume?
 - Do you know where to look?

He then asks these questions to get responses from the youth:

- What are your plans for after high school?
 - Go to college. Looking at GWU, Towson, UMD
 - College
 - Go to an HBCU
 - College- Georgetown

What are some steps you need to take to go to college?

- Join clubs-Youth
- Find and apply for scholarships-Youth *When asked about FAFSA none of the youth knew what FAFSA was though*

- Vanesa- we should start talking about this in middle school because by the time it is HS, adults and teens are clueless and worried about how they will pay for everything
- Lisa-Asks the youth if they are getting info from their counselors or schools?
 - One student says they are helpful. The counselor is helpful. Last time they met with their counselor was when they were in 9th grade to pick classes for their 10th grade year. Met with them 5 times.
 - Other student-never talked to their counselor before.Knew about dual enrollment opportunities at Montgomery college though. Did not know about ACES at all.
 - Seble says there will also be a college field trip to MC. Where dual enrollment and aces will be brought up.
 - Vanesa emphasizes that we would like also like to learn from teens in the program too versus just teaching the teens things

Announcements

- There will be a silver spring block party Sept 22nd, 2-7pm at Veterans Plaza in Downtown Silver Spring.
- Bruce is stepping down as ED from CHEER. There will be an announcement on the new ED soon. He will continue to be a part of CHEER in a different way going forward though.
- Doing a pinata event on Sept 29th at the Long Branch Community Center. There will also be games. This will be open to all ages. Children under 8 need to be with parents. Please share info! They will need to register, but they can also register when they get there!
- Ward 5 Councilmember Cara Honzak- She has been working a lot on the minor master plan recently. She is happy to talk to anyone about that! A ward 5 resident is also doing Tuesday mornings children series at Toatley Fraser Park at 10:30 am. Sept 30th is the last day of the event.

LBCAY Small Grants Opportunities

- We are offering small grants to partner orgs or groups that want to learn and implement youth led programming.
- Between \$1,000-\$2,000
- We will be developing a process for this. We will share with partners soon.
- We have full details and an application soon!