

St. Stephen's Youth Programs Update

Fall 2009

Counting on B-SAFE: Summer 2009



This past summer, the Bishop's Summer Academic and Fun Enrichment (B-SAFE) program returned to five Episcopal churches and the Epiphany School to serve 530 young people living in Boston and Chelsea. In total, B-SAFE offered 6 elementary school programs, 3 middle school programs, and 1 (large!) teen CIT program for six weeks.

Undeterred by summer rains, 85 program staff, 89 teen

CITs, 44 partner churches, and 850 volunteers again joined forces to create a safe, fun, nurturing, and challenging summer program.

Learning continued to be the primary focus of B-SAFE. In groups named for college mascots such as the Iowa State Cyclones, the B.C. Eagles, and the Brooklyn Polytech Blue Jays, students participated in six hours of

academic time per week, daily reading time, and weekly art, technology, and music classes.

There was also plenty of summer fun: Kids enjoyed electives such as knitting and science, playing outdoor games, and exploring the city and suburbs on lots of field trips. Destinations included places like Hingham's Weir Farm, the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston, and Worcester's Ecotarium.

B-SAFE's teen CITs had great summer jobs and much more. In addition to ongoing training and skill building, teens also enjoyed activities like a college campus visit to MIT (hosted by MIT's Lutheran Episcopal Ministry) and the second

(Over)

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TIM CRELLIN, VICAR,
ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

What It Takes to B-READY: 2009-10 School Year

Building

Resilience

Enrichment Opportunities

Academic Skills and

Dynamic Leadership in

Youth and Young Adults!

Our newly christened B-READY after-school program has a big new name and a big job to do during the school year, and it's ready to meet the challenge!

Entering its tenth season, the B-READY program opened at two locations in the South End and Roxbury on September 21st and is currently serving

more than 150 children and teens.

B-READY works hard to help young people successfully navigate their school years from kindergarten through high school.

Explains After-School Program Director Christina Brown, "In my three years here, I have grown with the program as it has become stronger and more cohesive. Young people are growing and learning in new and exciting ways with certified teachers in art and technology, a math curriculum, science classes, school choice campaigns, college and ca-

reer planning, and more extensive social and emotional support."

She adds, "I meet with families twice year. On a recent home visit, a fifth grader excitedly showed me her bedroom, sparsely decorated save for a wall of awards. Upon closer observation, I realized that all of the awards were from our after-school program!"

What's new and exciting in the after-school programs this fall:

- The year kicked off with successful group

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An after-school program counselor celebrates Halloween with one of his students.

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St. Stephen's Youth Programs Update



Young partner church volunteers pitch in to help bring in the food for a B-SAFE lunch.

"I AM SO VERY PROUD OF THE GROWTH OF THIS PROGRAM AND THE YOUNG PEOPLE WE SERVE."

CHRISTINA BROWN,
AFTER-SCHOOL
PROGRAM DIRECTOR



A Generations, Inc. volunteer spends time reading with an after-school program student.

ST. STEPHEN'S YOUTH PROGRAMS
419 SHAWMUT AVENUE
BOSTON, MA 02118
617-262-9070

B-SAFE Summer Program, continued

annual B-SAFE basketball tournament, with B-SAFE @ SASM emerging victorious!

The summer finished up with an optional 4-day overnight experience at the Barbara C. Harris Camp & Conference Center in New Hampshire for children in grades 5 and up. 130 young people experienced all the fun and traditions of summer camp — from ropes courses and canoe dodge ball to friendship

bracelets and campfires.

Visiting the program that bears his title in August, Bishop Tom Shaw remarked: "I am so deeply impressed by the commitment of the staff in these places; the creativity of the staff. If I had a child and I was living in the city, I would entrust my child to this staff. They are extraordinary, and those kids are getting so much out of the summer. It's a safe place."

B-READY After-School Program, continued

meetings, attended by 95 parents and caregivers, kids, and staff.

- B-READY @ the Church of St. Augustine and St. Martin (SASM) is entering its second year and hopes to grow to serve 40 elementary children this year.
- The middle school program at B-READY @ St. Stephen's is evolving and growing with the introduction of two single gender groups to better meet the needs of these young teens.
- This year's curriculum is focusing on values such as teamwork, kindness, and community. Each value is tied to a place and an

area of history — October and November, for example, focus on appreciation, Massachusetts, and Native Americans.

- The 15 mentors on our College and Career Support team have been matched with our high school seniors and are providing them with personalized support as they seek admission to colleges, vocational training programs, or transition year programs.

We always welcome new after-school program volunteers. To learn more, visit www.ststephensbos.org/getinvolved or contact Liz Steinhauser, Director of Youth Programs, at (617) 262-9070 ext. 11.

SSYP Enjoys Good Service!

This past summer, more than 850 volunteers from 44 partner churches provided over 15,000 healthy meals for the B-SAFE program, spent 5,000 hours reading with the children, and planned and hosted 35 all-day, Friday field trips.

As part of September's 9/11 Day of Service, 36 volunteers gathered to clean and spruce up St. Stephen's in preparation for the opening day of the B-READY after-school program.

This school year, six service corps members and fellows from service organizations including the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, the Micah Project, and the Massachusetts Promise Fellows (among others) are working full-time in after-school program positions



such as Lead Counselor, Academic Coordinator, and Volunteer Coordinator.

More than 80 after-school program volunteers are tutoring and mentoring students weekly, ranging from college-age students to seniors who volunteer with Generations, Inc. to provide literacy tutoring. Throughout

the year, volunteers from partner churches help create special moments and events, like the upcoming Thanksgiving Turkey Wahoo.

Thanks to all who dedicate their time, energy, and talent to St. Stephen's Youth Programs. You make it possible for all of us to "feel safe, feel big, and feel connected!"