



Issue 4

December 2014

TELEM CENTER FOR THE AFRICAN CHILD

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Now, more than ever, Telem matters...

Telem exists to celebrate children of African descent.

To support them as they shape their identities here in NYC, as they straddle two cultures and make choices about how to express their truest selves.

We work hard to make sure our children know they are cherished.

Our heritage comes with rich layered histories, traditions and cultures. We help children take pride in this.

Today our children are being bullied and taunted with shouts of Ebola.

Now more than ever, Telem is a space where they can come to discuss their shared struggles, learn how to respond and continue to nurture pride in their heritage.

Our children matter. You matter.

Thank you for your support.



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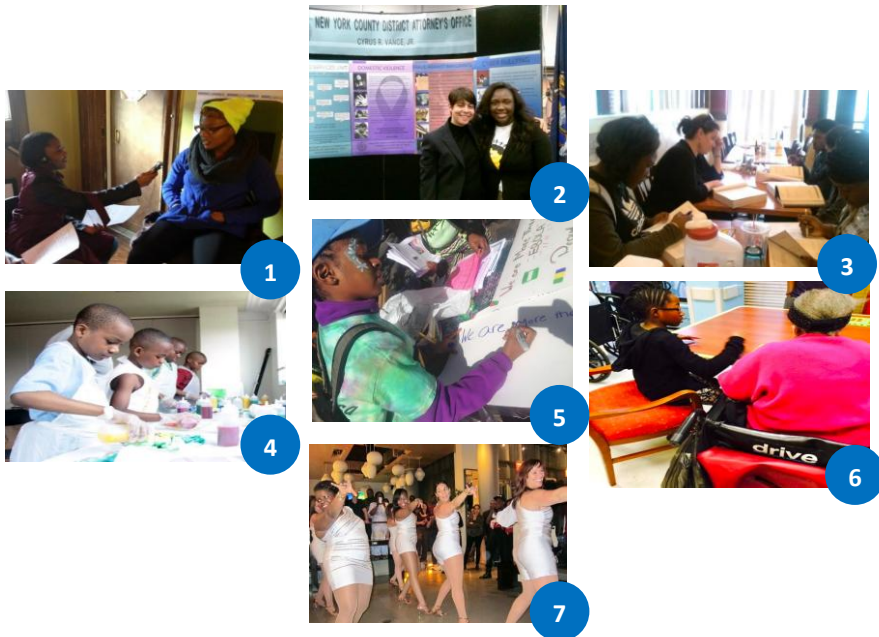
Matilda Weekes

Spotlight on Telem Camp 2014!

Telem Camp 2014 took place at Manhattanville College in Purchase, NY from July 25-27 and was attended by 91 people (70 campers and 21 workshop leaders). This year's theme, ***Innovate Africa***, allowed campers to creatively explore Africa through a variety of workshops and activities, including:

- **Batik** with Debbie Farrugia – Campers explored the art of batik.
- **Beat of Your Voice** with Fatumata Fofana – a creative poetry workshop that offered campers the opportunity to discuss challenges facing different African countries.
- **Bike riding** with Waiming Cheung, Fred Hawthorne and the Westchester Cycle Club – Campers successfully learned how to ride a bike for the first time.
- **Cooking Jollof Rice and Cassava Leaves** with Samuella Brewah – Travel to West Africa and you'll find most countries have their version of Jollof rice and Cassava leaves. Campers in this workshop learned how to create these sumptuous dishes from scratch.
- **Digital Photography** workshop with Soumaila Adigun – Campers explored the basics of digital photography and were guided to take unique photographs. Student photographs were presented in the Family Day Gallery.
- **First Resume** with Haig Chahinian – Campers left this workshop with impressive resumes they can use to secure their first paid jobs.
- **Galimoto** with Delroy Wright and Debbie Farrugia – Campers in this workshop learned how to create toy cars using recycled wire hangers and bottle caps.
- **Healthy Choices Discussion** with Leeann Rizk – Older campers asked questions in a supportive space and discussed how to protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections.
- **How to become a millionaire** with Fred Hawthorne – a financial literacy workshop for our campers. We want our future leaders to manage their wealth responsibly.
- **Innovation Requires Vision workshop** with Veralyn Williams – Campers in this workshop created vision boards of their dreams, aspirations and inspirations.
- **Mural and mask making** with Marilyn Alfred – Campers worked on a mural commemorating the life of Nelson Mandela and created African masks with raffia.
- **Sewing** with Wanda Bruno – Campers converted pillowcases into dresses and made tote bags using African fabrics.
- **Soccer** with Naziru Deen – the world cup continued at Telem Camp 2014 with the youngest campers competing.
- **STEM Innovations** with Cathy Beasley – Campers explored art, design and science concepts as they made soap from scratch using all natural ingredients and created the packaging for the lovely scented soaps.
- **Tie dyeing** with Sue Coleman – Campers prepped, tied and dyed their own Telem Camp t-shirts.

Happenings and Events!



Telem had a busy 2014! Check out our news and event notes below!

- 1. Radio Workshop (February 2014)** – Telem offered a one week radio workshop in Central Brooklyn. Teen reporters learned interviewing techniques, recording and editing while exploring views on street harassment. The workshop was done in partnership with the Brooklyn Movement Center and funded by Citizens Committee for NYC.
- 2. "Building Strong Families: Forging Pathways to a Stronger African Community" forum (March 2014)** – Telem participated in a forum held at the NY County District Attorney's Office in Harlem.
- 3. Telem SAT prep class (April 2014)** – Telem held a seven week SAT class in Harlem for high school students. The class was taught by Test Prep Tutor, Alexandra Zabriskie.
- 4. Telem Camp (July 2014)** – Telem held its fourth annual Telem Camp, Innovate Africa, at Manhattanville College in Purchase, NY.
- 5. Ebola Awareness Campaign (October 2014)** – Telem partnered with the Medical Reserve Corps at the African Day Parade to provide information about the Ebola. Telem youth also created and displayed posters to address the stigma faced by our West African youth.
- 6. Teensgiving (November 2014)** – Telem teens and chaperones volunteered at a nursing home and rehabilitation center in Manhattan. The volunteers led a rousing bingo game, helped to transport clients with mobility challenges, participated in a concert and created crafts to provide cheer for the elderly residents.
- 7. Telem's Autumn Party (November 2014)** – Telem held its 3rd annual dance party at Aloft Hotel Harlem. DJ VPNW kept the party going with a mix of Afrobeat and Salsa. Dance performances by salsa troupe Elegancia and TNT were explosive!

Our Programs

Telem Camp, our annual three-day camp provides a fun and safe haven for children of African descent to connect with each other, celebrate their shared heritage, and embrace their African values in a multicultural context.

Community Building Programs provide information, access to resources, and an environment where African families feel a sense of belonging through picnics, volunteer opportunities and other events.

Cultural Events Programs promote and celebrate African cultures through storytelling, childhood games, dance classes and African cuisine tastings. Telem also plans outings to cultural institutions to expose children to a diverse array of traditions and experiences.

Educational Enrichment

Programs provide referrals to tutoring and mentoring programs and connect volunteer tutors with families seeking academic assistance for their children.

Leadership Development

Programs empower youth to become ambassadors and agents of change in their communities by teaching them radio journalism and communication skills to address issues that concern them—such as: immigration, identity, environmental justice, economics and education.

Special Thanks to our 2014 Partners and Supporters!

Bema Music Corporation	Khadidiatou Dia	Andrea Mingola
Citizens Committee for New York City	Ebrima Dibba	Mpepuoa Moeletsi
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation	Jessica Fabian	Diana Musa
Nah We Yone	Adama Faty	Linda Musa
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Amy Davies	Bendark Mazi	Gloria Witherspoon
Kris Davis	Jules Mbogi	
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