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VISIONS Reception Honors Summer Work Program for Blind Youth

Nearly 100 blind or visually impaired youth who successfully completed summer youth employment assignments and the employers who provided work will be recognized at a graduation reception on Friday, August 19, 2011, at the VISIONS at Selis Manor center at 135 West 23rd Street in Manhattan, from 10 am to 1 pm.

The VISIONS 2011 Summer Youth Work Experience Training Program offers opportunities for blind youth to obtain internship experience with a variety of employers throughout New York City. In addition to identifying matches between blind youth and businesses, VISIONS also provides training on workplace protocols and the use of adaptive equipment on the job. Weekly seminars help blind and visually impaired youth succeed in their job placements.

Over 40 employers provided work experience across the City, from Yankee Stadium in the Bronx to Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn to the Attorney General's Office in Harlem. One employer, the Brooklyn Center for the Independence of the Disabled, utilized blind intern Toni-Marie Rhone on a cross-walk project to make it safer for disabled people to walk through

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neighborhoods in Brooklyn. Daniel Bernstein, Deputy Executive Director at the Fordham Road Business Improvement District, said he was “enthusiastic about bringing these youth back to the BID.”

VISIONS Youth employment Coordinator Gia Venturo said, “Once again we have been able to find productive placements where the kids can get meaningful work experiences that will prepare them for future employment. Year after year we get remarkable cooperation from our employment partners to find real work for our visually impaired youth, and we are very grateful to all of them.”

Following is a listing of the employers involved with VISIONS Summer Youth Work Experience Training Program

- AFB - American Foundation for the Blind
- Asylum Tattoo Studios
- Attorney General's Office - Harlem Office
- Baruch - The Computer Center for Visually Impaired People
- Business Enterprise Program (BEP)
- Best Western Plus Arena Hotel
- Bottomless Closet
- Brooklyn Children's Museum
- Brooklyn Center for the Independence of the Disabled
- The Carter Burden Senior Program
- Chelsea Recreation Center
- CIDNY - Center for Independence of the Disabled
- Creative Music Therapy
- Faber Recreation Center
- F.E.G.S.
- Floyd Bennett Field
- Fordham Road: Business Improvement District
- Forest Hills Hospital - LIJ
- Graham - Windham - BX
- IPRHE/ Bronx River Senior Center
- JASA - Far Rockaway Commissary
- JASA - Luna Park Senior Center
- JASA - Rockaway Park Senior Center
- Morningside House Nursing Home
- New York Institute for Special Education
- New York Life Insurance
- New York State Senate
- Pet Resources
- Queens Botanical Garden
- Selis Snack Bar
- Services Now for Adult Persons (SNAP)
- Spanish Speaking Elderly Council - RAICES
- Split Rock Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center
- Staten Island Children's Museum
- SUNY Downstate Medical Center
- Tompkins Senior Center
- VISIONS
- Westchester Community Opportunity Program - St. Peter's Childcare Center
- Xavier Society for the Blind
- Yankees Stadium

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