

# The Epoch Times

## All Star Project Gives Motivation to Learn

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January 20, 2009

NEW YORK-African American, Latino and Jewish youth, part of the All Stars Project's (ASP) newest initiative Together and Giving Back, performed a special presentation in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's birthday.

One hundred New York City youth performed original dances, rap songs and poetry as part of a special cultural celebration of the life of Reverend Dr. King.

The All Stars Project, now in its 28<sup>th</sup> year is privately funded and builds partnerships with philanthropists and foundations and brings outside-of-school educational opportunities to thousands of inner-city youth in New York City and New Jersey. This year ASP expanded to Chicago, Ill., and the San Francisco Bay Area, CA.

All Stars youth programs include the All Stars Talent Show Network, the Joseph A. Forgione Development School for Youth, The Production of Youth by Youth and Youth Onstage!.

According to a statement on the ASP website, Mayor Bloomberg has been able to draw support from success of their programs. In mid September 2006, Mayor Bloomberg and the city of New York approved \$12.5 million dollars in tax-exempt bond financing for the ASP. The website says that youth development and social and cultural enrichment have become central themes in the Mayor's overhaul of after-school programs.

There is an epidemic of students, particularly in low income inner city areas who are not learning in school. This is not because they lack intelligence, but because they lack the motivation to learn.

ASP's website says that they have developed a way to bring entire groups out of the plague of chronic poverty and its effects. It says they have built a new kind of community consisting of ten of thousands of young people, donors, volunteers, parents, artists, performers, and business professionals.

The way ASP works is not about the acquisition of knowledge but about the acquisition of development tools which might make the attainment of knowledge interesting. In this theory, community performance and creativity are all important.