



**NURTURING CHILDREN. STRENGTHENING FAMILIES.**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 11, 2010**

**Queens Kids “Clean up ” at The Amsterdam Theater on Broadway**

***The Child Center of NY’s Beacon Center Team Wins Second Place in Competition***

On June 7<sup>th</sup>, Ozone Steppers—the official dance team of the Beacon Center Program at MS 226 in Jamaica—took second place in the citywide finals of the Step It Up competition held at the Amsterdam Theater on Broadway.

The Ozone Steppers team of ten middle and high school students performed a skit with an environmental message that opened with trash thrown on a stage, followed by up a clean up, and then an exuberant percussion performance that relied on dancing, clapping hands, stamping feet and makeshift drum sticks—inspired by STOMP. A thousand people watched and cheered.

They were one of 10 finalist teams in annual competition and walked away with a second-place prize of \$2500 and \$1000 of equipment from Nike, which sponsors the event with the Global Youth Leadership Institute and the city’s Department of Youth and Children Development.

Judging was based not only on the four-minute performance but also a required community service project. The Ozone Steppers cleaned up Jamaica parks, did a two-hundred person-plus pollution survey of residents, started a recycling program, and created a public service announcement to stop littering and pollution and promote a healthy environment for all. (Video Clip and Photos Below).

**About The Child Center of NY**

The Ozone Players are part of the Beacon Center at MS226, which is run by The Child Center NY, a dynamic 57-year-old nonprofit whose mission is to nurture and strengthen children, adolescents, and their families. We offer a range of mental health, family intervention, early childhood, and afterschool reaching 17,000 at-risk children at 80 clinic, school, and community locations all over Queens

To see the winning performance: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84rOSg1GWjI>

For photos and information about the Ozone Steppers and the Competition:  
<http://www.youthnoise.com/playcity/stepitup>

### **About The Ozone Steppers**

The Ozone steppers come from Ozone Park, Queens where they've been working to clean up litter and prevent pollution. They are:

Ariel Lopez

Summer Daniels

Dominique Stubbs

Shaaza Baily

Nyeema McFarlane

Jered Benton

Donovan Martin

Michelle London

Chanae Woodyard

Mark Fraser

*Choreographer-* Adam Barnes

Assistant Coach Tiffanie Hawes-

Coordinator- Saher Mahmood

Beacon School Director- Angelika Peacock