When Hasan Davis, former Commissioner of Juvenile Justice for Kentucky and Ann E. Casey Foundation Fellow, was in third grade, he discovered his social studies textbook had just one image of an African American. It was a photo of a beaten, elderly man, and the caption read, “American Negro.”

“When I saw that photo,” Davis says, “I thought, ‘This is all there is to my story.’”

Davis never wants children of color to feel that way. He sees his life’s work to get stories of young people. Most recently, he’s written the children’s book, The Journey of York: The Unsung Hero of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. In April, Davis took a powerful reenactment — followed by a special performance — of York’s life. This presentation was part of the traveling exhibit at the St. Louis Science Center. There’s just something about walking into one of our community centers, located in what some people might call a “poor” neighborhood, and seeing the children there enriching their lives in so many ways — playing with friends, getting homework help, getting involved in activities, from sports to STEM, that help them find their strengths. But there is also something special about seeing the adults, too, enjoying the success of the famed journey. In April, Davis took a powerful reenactment — followed by a special performance — of York’s life. This presentation was part of the traveling exhibit at the St. Louis Science Center.

When I walk into a community center or afterschool program or Head Start classroom, I love knowing that we are helping the children there to grow up in a place that can support them as they strive to reach their full potential. I know that understanding how much we value the community they call home, filling them with pride instead of shame, possibility instead of resignation. And I love knowing that this is why so many of our kids become adults who give back to their communities, making it stronger for generations to come.

From the Chief Executive Officer

Barbara and Elaine are active in the Senior Program at our Redfern Cornerstone Community Center in Red Bank. They also work with the food pantry that distributes food to the Redfern community.

Children’s Book Author Inspires Students through History

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Recording Studios

When David Dadon, 19, stepped into the legendary Quad Studios in Manhattan this spring, he saw a new side of himself as an artist. “I was in the booth recording, and in no way was I on stage, it was a dream come true.”

Dadon is a student at Young Adult Borough Center (YABC) at flushing High School. YABC is specially designed for over-age and under-credited students who are unable to remain in the standard school diploma. Eight music inclined YABC students were selected to participate in the Quad Studios field trip this spring. This was an extraordinary visit. Any equipment at our annual gift for new visitors to our events.

Students recorded their own work, had it mixed on the spot, and received a copy to take home.

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In Their Words: Daniel's Story

Daniel is a client of The Child Center’s school-based mental health clinic at Richmond Hill High School and our Healthy Housing Program, which serves medically-eligible youth who suffer from multiple chronic conditions. Our staff ensures coordination of care so that services are not duplicated or neglected and the client has access to the resources that will help him lead a healthy, fulfilling life.

I came to The Child Center because my mom made me. I was getting into trouble, fighting, and getting kicked out of school. I was a real knucklehead. My mom took me to her student counselor at school and I started therapy. I thought it was weird, and I was made the decision without me, but my mom didn’t have a choice.

Therapy was weird at first, but after a while, I started learning what was going on with me. I learned that my mom was right all along. It was really difficult. I learned how to be a young adult, and finally I learned to deal with depression and PTSD.

It was a long journey, but I didn’t know it at the time, but I left with anxiety, depression, and PTSD. I was always thinking someone was going to kill me and I had to talk to myself. I tried to do things that I knew were dangerous. I was always thinking that I was going to die. I had a lot of problems with my parents, and I didn’t want to talk to them.

Daniel says that his therapist, Ms. Anderson Sungmin Yoon, has been a great support regarding what he wants to be in the future. She helped him access resources that will help him lead a healthy, fulfilling life.

Saran’s institutional knowledge has been key in leading the board toward new opportunities, and sets a hard-to-follow example of engagement," says Dick Jay, Board President. CEO Traci Donnelly, who oversees CNR’s “Reading is The Key” initiative, has kept the board on its collective toes, Sam says. “It’s very exciting to see how we’ve grown from a sort of ‘more pop up shop’ to something more sophisticated,” I have learned. I came to The Child Center because my mom made me. I was getting into trouble, fighting, and getting kicked out of school. My mom took me to her student counselor at school and I started therapy. I thought it was weird, and I was made the decision without me, but my mom didn’t have a choice.

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