



## DEVELOPING READERS & LEADERS

*Adventures Ahead graduates invest in the next generation*

Thirty-six children packed the Adventures Ahead facility for our 8<sup>th</sup> annual full-day Summer Camp. Six college interns worked with these students from 9am-3pm, Monday through Friday, and they were wonderful. But even more wonderful were the twelve junior staff who worked alongside them. These were all graduates of Adventures Ahead who now attend local middle and high schools. Our students loved being led by these energetic teens, and immediately fell into line whenever Coach Abner or Coach Rogelio blew their whistles. For those of us who knew these emerging leaders “back in the day,” their maturity, confidence and compassion left us deeply humbled and fiercely proud.

Our theme for the summer was Lift Every Voice, and activities focused on empowering kids to become change-makers in their community. The central learning experience of the summer was a protest march asking the city to close an oil drilling site one block away from our center.

Our students prepared for the march by studying the challenges of environmental stewardship. They toured a water treatment plant and watched a documentary about oil drilling. They also prepared by exploring the bold leadership of young people during the Civil Rights movement. The students read and discussed Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom by Linda Lowry and visited a photo exhibit of the famous Selma march. In addition, they did a series of art projects focused on self-expression, reflected on what makes a good or bad neighbor, and composed letters addressing the oil company.

The march was covered by local print and broadcast media, raising public awareness and forcing elected officials to pay attention. Even more significantly, our students got a taste of what it takes to make themselves heard: Hours of sign-painting, sore arms from sign-holding, careful editing of written statements, overcoming shyness to speak in front of cameras, and marching onward despite sweltering heat. They rose to the occasion beautifully.

Your prayers and support helped these young people lift their voices in a powerful way!

it's coming!...

the  
**cradle**  
to College  
*campaign*



*Help us create a safe, healthy, opportunity-rich community where children can thrive.*

*Join our campaign this December to keep our programs operating throughout the year.*

Look for the red envelope!



*Selfie time! Kids and Junior Staff strike a pose for a photo scavenger hunt in Exposition Park.*

## Adventures Ahead Students Take A Stand Against Neighborhood Drilling



July 20<sup>th</sup> was the day our students marched from our center to a nearby oil drilling site, dressed as canaries in a coal mine. Along with many parents and siblings, they held handmade signs, chanted, sang, and took turns posing in a giant birdcage. While news cameras rolled, several children read letters they composed during class time:

*"I live on Kenwood Avenue, about 800 feet from the oil drilling site. I like to play soccer in my front yard. I go to John Mack Elementary where I play about 1000 feet from the oil drilling site. We do our laundry right next door to the oil drilling site. I have many good neighbors. They knock on my door so we can play. They buy me stuff from the store. They give my ball back when it goes in their yard. Bad neighbors sometimes drink and smoke a lot and make a lot of noise. I think this oil company is a bad neighbor. I disagree with you guys pumping chemicals into the earth. I think you guys should move out because look at it this way: What if I, Diego, was the manager of this and you heard that I was pumping chemicals into the ground? What would you do?" (by Diego)*

*"I have many good neighbors. One neighbor invites people to dinner and gets to know people. Some of my neighbors carry stuff for people if it is too heavy. The oil drilling company is not a good neighbor. They are causing cancer, asthma and throat pain and they are not doing anything about this. They are selling houses for people to live in close to the oil drill. I feel mad. Your oil company is causing innocent peoples' flowers to die. People are getting annoyed of the horrible sounds you are making. Some married couples are planning to have kids but they are really scared. These are reasons you oil company needs to do something!" (by Rosa)*

*"I want to take away the oil company because people love their children and really want to take care of their children. The oil company puts chemicals underground and in our air. We can never see the chemicals but we breathe it and it hurts us. We need our health and our lungs need to be healthy and strong. I want to have fun with my family and go to parties and hang out with my little brother. I want to have a job and travel the world and play softball. For this I need to be healthy." (By Gabriella)*

## THE JEFFERSON DRILL DOCUMENTARY

"The Jefferson Drill" is a 25 minute documentary produced by a recent USC graduate. The film chronicles many harmful impacts of a drill site just a few hundred feet from our tutoring center. It also tells the story of our efforts to defend the health and safety of our neighborhood. We have named our local coalition STAND, "Stand

Together Against Neighborhood Drilling." You can stand alongside us by spreading the word about the dangers of urban oil extraction. Find the film at [redeemercp.org](http://redeemercp.org) or the Redeemer Community Partnership facebook page. "LIKE" it, COMMENT and SHARE it to raise awareness!

