

**NEWS RELEASE**

for immediate release

*event photos available July 15*

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**NOT YOUR AVERAGE SUMMER FUN**

***The Partnership for After School Education and Harlem RBI Celebrate  
Summer Learning Day 2005 on July 14***

**NEW YORK CITY – July 14, 2005:** To engage New York City’s young people, out of school time learning can’t simply be “more school” – and this is never more true than in the summer months.

The Partnership for After School Education (PASE) and Harlem RBI will celebrate the season’s possibilities for kids with **Summer Learning Day 2005** on **July 14** with an open house at Harlem RBI’s **REAL Kids** (Reading and Enrichment Academy for Learning) from **9:30 to 11 a.m.** PASE and Harlem RBI will demonstrate how summertime activities that support academic school-year learning can be fun, engaging and inspiring for youth and adults.

According to research by Johns Hopkins University, summer learning is key to the growing academic achievement gap between affluent and low-income students. All students experience learning loss during the summer, but low-income students fall further behind and do not have opportunities to make up the difference.

In 2005, Harlem RBI was named a finalist for the John Hopkins University Center for Summer Learning’s “Excellence in Summer Learning Award.” Harlem RBI will show off this model program on June 14<sup>th</sup> at **Junior High School 99**, located at 100<sup>th</sup> Street and First Avenue. The morning segment of the REAL Kids program engages more than 200 youth ages 9 to 12 in fun reading and writing activities, followed by Team Clubhouse sessions that integrate the literacy activities and the afternoon’s baseball/softball activities.

“With one in four New York City youth living in poverty, the issue of summer learning loss is a pressing one for the city’s educators and youth workers,” explains PASE Executive Director Janet Kelley. “So we created the **Summer Learning Initiative** to work with youth agencies to explore effective ways to infuse summer programs with fun, educational activities that support young people’s school-year learning.”

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Through Summer Learning, PASE works with 70 agencies to provide:

- training sessions for summer program coordinators and line staff
- ongoing technical assistance to ensure the development of excellent curricula
- model curricula and resource materials, and a project evaluation system
- trained and selected college student tutors to support summer program staff

Representatives from each of the Summer Learning Initiative's participating agencies will attend the Summer Learning Day celebration on July 14, observing REAL Kids as a model summer learning program.

Harlem RBI is a 501(c)3, community-based, youth development organization located in East Harlem, New York. Harlem RBI's mission is to use baseball and softball and the power of teams to provide inner city youth with opportunities to play, to learn, and to grow, inspiring them to recognize their potential and realize their dreams.

Since 1991, Harlem RBI has evolved from a small group of community volunteers who transformed an abandoned garbage-strewn lot into a baseball field into a model community-based youth development organization. After several years of offering a summer baseball league, the organization expanded its services to respond to the critical needs of its participants – at-risk boys and girls in East Harlem. Today, Harlem RBI prides itself on being a community-based organization that is much more than a place to play baseball. In addition to baseball and softball programs for over 500 participants ages seven to eighteen, Harlem RBI offers a range of year-round, developmentally appropriate activities including an after-school program, internship opportunities, a counseling and referral service, The REAL Kids (Reading and Enrichment Academy of Learning) summer program and Team Enrichment, a group-based educational and enrichment activities program for adolescent participants.

The Partnership for After School Education (PASE) fosters quality afterschool education for youth throughout New York City, particularly those from low-income communities, enabling them to identify and reach their full potential. Within this mission, PASE's goals are to build the capacity of afterschool programs, promote high standards in the field of youth development, advocate for increased resources for afterschool programs, and increase the visibility of afterschool education.

For more information about Harlem RBI, please visit [www.harlemrbi.org](http://www.harlemrbi.org). For more information about PASE, please visit [www.pasesetter.org](http://www.pasesetter.org).

The PASE Summer Learning Initiative is generously supported by a three-year grant from the New York Life Foundation. Additional funding for the project is provided by the Picower and Taconic Foundations.

**Photos from the open house will be available immediately following the event.**

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