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**KNOX GATES
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION**

3418 Gates Place
Bronx, NY 10458
(718) 405-1312

www.COVEbx.org

December 27, 2013

Dear COVE Alumni,

Hard to believe, but this year The COVE celebrates a 25th birthday! 25 years?! Inspires us to ask: What's YOUR best memory of The COVE?

Is your favorite the early teen-organized parties? Or those hours with friends painting the rock walls? Maybe an overnight leaders trip to the Poconos stands out, or building a model house with electricity and then turning on the lights? And don't forget the campaigns to support our friend upstate, TV appearances to press the Parks Department to make the path down to Clinton safe, or stop the City's "filtration" plant in Van Cortlandt? Were you a pro with a pool stick? Or in the Knox vs. Gates football challenges? Or creating a business plan for your own small business? Maybe you are one who in more recent days enjoyed the teamwork with friends and learning the skills to create your own first video?

Whether your best memory of The COVE is hanging with friends and learning all kinds of things in safety off the streets, or volunteering or writing a check to support these good and useful times for our neighborhood's young people, let's CELEBRATE!

Know that the good times continue. Each school year and during summer program, our talented and experienced Teaching Artists – Program Director, Aisha Norris and her assistant Jamal Hodge – guide at least 40 neighborhood teens through the demanding, creative and cooperative effort of making videos. We hope this year you will come see their finished projects at the Showcase they present end of each session for family, friends and neighbors.

Mark your calendars now! Save the Dates and please attend our two fun-filled 25th Birthday Celebrations:

- Saturday, August 9th – our Grand Ol' Summer Block Party on Gates Place,
- Thursday, November 6th – our fancier, cocktail gathering to toast the actual day The COVE opened its doors.



Here's another invitation, especially for COVE graduates: put those leadership skills you learned at The COVE to work and help us make our block party the largest COVE reunion ever! One report has it that some of the first group of COVE teens got together recently, and had such a good time, they're planning a monthly meet-up. While a COVE Reunion is too much for our busy present Board and our part-time staff to organize – it would be ideal if a few alumni from each "COVE generation" would assist us by gathering together contact information. Our Grand Ol' Summer Block Party (or shall we call it Harmony Day II?) will be a perfect central event for a grand COVE Reunion. Are you feeling it? If so, let us know you are willing to help us organize a reunion as part of the celebration. Contact Lyn Pyle (yes, she's still around) via email at baylalyn@earthlink.net, or call Aisha Norris (now COVE Program Director) at (718) 405-1312.



And do let your friends and family know that we have launched a new website and a Donate a Dollar Campaign. Each dollar donated helps keep The COVE doors open and our staff providing a lifeline to young people who follow in your footsteps. So please, visit www.COVEBx.org and push that button to send your love and support.



With thanks to each of you whose financial, professional, and hands-on volunteer contributions made these 25 years at The COVE possible!

Wishing ALL a happy, fruitful and peaceful 2014!

*Aisha, Jamal, Ebony, Justin,
Jessica, Josh, Leo, Lyn & Zoraida*

