Celebrations & Successes

DISCOVERING A NEW WAY TO NAVIGATE SCHOOL & LIFE

Focusing on pregnant and parenting teens and “at-promise” youth.

EmpowerGenerations.org
Illuminated Journals Project

Learners began the project with a visit to the local Museum of Art and History to journal about unique and interesting art pieces. They diligently worked on increasing their writing stamina through a variety of creative journal prompts. In addition, learners explored artistic techniques and styles to express themselves through an acrylic paint medium. The outside of the canvas represented how people see them, and the inside of the canvas represented the qualities they see in themselves.
We know finding child care isn’t easy, so we offer a safe and fun co-op space for our Empowered Babies to play while their parents receive academic support in their workshops and social-emotional support through our advisory program. A cooperative-style child care area gives learners a safe place to bring their children, relying on each other to build relationships and trust, and provides opportunity for expecting parents to gain confidence. Guides and learners work to create a village culture, where everyone works together to balance academics with positive, effective, and safe parenting. In addition, all lactating teens are given access to a private and secure room to express breast milk or breastfeed an infant child.

We believe the highest form of learning comes from play. We encourage our Empowered Babies to explore using their five senses to learn about the world around them. We believe in fostering autonomy and independence, even at the youngest age, with opportunities to make simple decisions, problem-solve, collaborate, and creatively express themselves.

Our curriculum covers healthy pregnancy, labor and birth, infant care basics, lactation and feeding, adolescent development of life skills as they approach adulthood, parallel development needs of teens and their infants/young children, the important role of the father – whether or not he is in a relationship with the child’s mother – positive parenting strategies, and other topics learners identify as important. Guides use the curriculum as topics and talking points for advisory sessions and in personal meetings. Learners incorporate elements from this curriculum into their learning portfolios and Presentations of Learning.
What’s Wrong With Kareem?

Learners conducted research about one system of the body, which included a virtual conference call with a doctor and a nurse. Learners were able to ask relevant questions in order to diagnose the fictional Kareem, who suffered from multiple symptoms. To represent their diagnosis, learners created both 3D and 2D models.

Foodie Friday

Every Friday our learners have the opportunity to explore a variety of culinary experiences. Some of their ideas are unique, and some require only basic cooking skills. Some dishes include pancakes, chicken, fresh fruit smoothies, Canadian crepes, fruit spring rolls, and many more! We hope to expand our resources and upgrade our servery next year. We are also working on including culinary opportunities for our Empowered Babies where they can explore food sensory activities and practice food autonomy, and our parenting teens can make homemade baby food.
Sports and Clubs

Go Green Recycling Club
We worked with our property management company to develop a landscape plan for our outdoor space. We also raised money by recycling cans and bottles on our site.

Cheer
Our cheer squad has been practicing cheers all year. They performed in the Lancaster Holiday Parade and are hoping to be participants in local cheer competitions.

Basketball Team
This is the first year we’ve had a sports team. We are working on being part of CIF next year, and in the meantime, our learners practice twice a week and put their skills to the test in local scrimmages against other high school teams.

Volleyball Team
Our volleyball team has been practicing a few times a week. We are looking forward to participating in some volleyball matches this year!

Leadership Council
Our Leadership Council collaborates with staff to make on-site improvements, start new learner-led clubs, run events, represent Empower Generations during VIP tours, and more!
Mindfulness

We begin each day with 15 minutes of mindfulness. We offer quiet spaces, yoga, doodling, music, and more. We also set daily intentions, knowing that when a plan is set in motion, learners are more apt to be successful throughout the day.

Econ/Deez-Tees

Some of our seniors started their own T-shirt company, DEEZ Shirtz, for their Economics class. The project included learning how to use new equipment, designing a logo, creating a website, developing a marketing plan, managing their startup costs and finances, and then creating their first T-shirts. You can email deezshirtz661@gmail.com to order your own custom-made T-shirts.

Giving Celebration

Our site partnered with the local El Nido and Toys for Tots to celebrate our young families. There were toys for parents to choose from, a gift-wrapping station, a hot cocoa station, and Santa himself showed up to take photos with all the families!
Life in Isolation Photo Series

The pandemic has been a new and difficult time for a lot of us, but we are a resilient bunch! This year all Advisory groups participated in a mini project called My Life In Isolation. In this project, we emulated the work of Depression-era photographer Dorothea Lange. Lange’s work chronicled how people survived and changed due to the traumatic event, and this was the springboard we used to explore our own stories of growth, survival, and change during COVID-19.

Throughout the project, learners explored such topics as surviving vs. thriving, collective trauma, photo composition, and how primary sources affect future generations’ perspectives. Our final products were five photo series that showcased how the COVID-19 pandemic changed our lives.
iPERFORM is our brand-new arts program that allows learners the time, place, and freedom to explore creativity, to heal from trauma, and to develop performance skills that could support them and their children in the future. Our club is focused on building emotional resiliency through the arts and is led by three professional performers and three learner ambassadors.

The program is off to a strong start. During our first week, we jumped right into the Artist’s Toolbox and experimented with how the body, voice, and imagination can work in conjunction to create new and unusual performance experiences. We can’t wait to see what our learners create as they take charge of their own stories!
Art Club

Art Club is on Fridays at noon. The Creation Station is a place to learn artistic techniques and media while expressing oneself through both guided and free-form activities.

In addition, the Art Club is preparing for their second annual Winter Gala. Last year’s gala featured work from 13 learner artists, including one guest artist and two staff artists, as well as seven guest musicians. The gala sold 23 pieces of art and raised $550 profit, which went directly to the learner artists and musicians.
With deepest gratitude, we thank our community partners for their dedication and commitment to our learners and their families.