

Seussville at CORA

April 2017

In honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday, CORA partnered with LEADERSHIP Philadelphia to promote literacy with a memorable Seussville celebration that included activities, Seuss-themed snacks and the movie *Horton Hears a Who!* 80 students from CORA's afterschool programs at Loesche, Pollock and Thurgood Marshall were welcomed to CORA's building on 8540 Verree Road with balloons, books and smiling faces by the LEADERSHIP Philadelphia team and CORA staff members.

In the fall of 2016, CORA was chosen for a service project aimed at addressing one of Philadelphia's most pressing issues; literacy. Studies have proven that afterschool programming can significantly improve a child's overall study skills and attitude regarding school. LEADERSHIP Philadelphia, an organization designed to mobilize and connect the talent of the private sector to serve the community, reached out to CORA to help them create this literacy initiative. Stacy Leonard, CORA's Director of Intervention, coordinated with the LEADERSHIP Philadelphia team, to organize a book drive which enabled them to give each child at the Seuss party an age appropriate book. Each of the team members brought their creative juices and rolled up their sleeves, to make the topics of Dr. Seuss' books come to life. The students cycled various stations that included, making their own "Cat in the Hats," and journaling about their talents at the "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, You Fish" station. The food station was a big hit with the kids too – they enjoyed a variety of healthy snacks at the "Green Eggs and Ham" section. Even the infamous "oobleck" slime was created at the science spot. "A great time was had by all that attended, and CORA greatly appreciates organizations such as Leadership Philadelphia, that volunteer their time to be with our students" commented Kyle Rouse, CORA's Afterschool Services Supervisor. "We are grateful for professional networks willing to connect with our programs and enhance the work we do with children every day."

LEADERSHIP Philadelphia created the Connectors and Keepers program in 2015 in an effort to recognize, engage, connect and retain the City's millennial leaders. To learn more about Leadership Philadelphia, call Molly Chnelich, Director of Alumni Engagement, at mollyc@leadershipphiladelphia.org. For more information on volunteer opportunities for you organization, email CORA at caring@coraservices.org.

