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**NYC Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD),
Schools Chancellor Walcott, Brooklyn Nets Join Fathers and Father Figures for
Citywide “Dads Take Your Child to School Day”**

NYC Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) Commissioner Jeanne B. Mullgrav, NYC Department of Education Chancellor Dennis M. Walcott, Brooklyn Nets CEO Brett Yormark and University Settlement joined more than 500 young people, fathers, father figures and families in Brooklyn to celebrate the seventh annual Dads Take Your Child to School Day. Events were held at schools and community organizations throughout the five boroughs.

Following a breakfast and speaking program at University Settlement’s Ingersoll Community Center, young people and their fathers walked to nearby MS 265 and PS 46. At MS 265, students attended a rally and received a Brooklyn Nets drawstring book bag and school supplies distributed by Nets players Jason Terry and Mason Plumlee. Entertainment was provided by Nets Super Hero BrooklynKnight and Scholastic’s Clifford the Big Red Dog.

“When education matters to fathers, it also matters to their children,” said DYCD Commissioner Jeanne B. Mullgrav. “By walking their children to school and interacting with teachers and staff, dads and father figures teach our young people responsibility through example. It is also a time to learn more about what’s going on in their child’s life, how they are doing in school, who their friends are, and their daily struggles and accomplishments.”

“The involvement of a father or male role model in a child’s life plays a significant part in their development—emotionally and academically,” said New York City Department of Education Chancellor Dennis M. Walcott. “When parents are involved in a child’s education they are more likely to succeed in school, that is why the DOE is thrilled to once again participate in the annual Dads Take Your Child to School Day.”

“NYC DADS, The Mayor’s Fatherhood Initiative, is excited to support New York State’s seventh annual Dads Take Your Child to School Day,” said Alan S. Farrell, the City’s Fatherhood Services Coordinator. “New York City’s participation in this effort continues to grow because fathers are increasingly seeing the value of being involved in their children’s education while schools are also working to be more welcoming to dads. DYCD’s commitment leading this effort with partners in government and local communities has been critical in making that a reality.”

“We were proud to join with hundreds of young people and their families today to promote the importance of education,” said Brooklyn Nets and Barclays Center CEO Brett Yormark. “Since becoming a part of this great community, the Brooklyn Nets have been committed to inspiring young people and focusing on the four pillars of the Brooklyn Nets Assist Program: Education, Athletics, Health & Wellness, and Community Development. As we head into our second season in the borough, we will continue our mission to help the Brooklyn community thrive.”

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“We are honored to have been chosen as the site for this event for the second year in a row,” said Tameeka Ford Norville, Director of University Settlement After-School Programs and the Ingersoll Community Center. “Our number one priority is strengthening our community here in Fort Greene, and that starts with supporting and strengthening our families. Seeing so many dads come out today to take their sons and daughters to school, and seeing the support that comes from the City and from organizations like the Brooklyn Nets, truly shows how important this is to all neighborhood stakeholders, and we feel so proud to be considered a resource and a hub for this community.”

Seven years ago, the New York State Office of Children & Family Services and Office of Temporary & Disability Assistance began the Dads Take Your Child to School campaign at just one school in Brooklyn. This year, the effort expanded to more than 415 educational sites across the state, including more than 130 NYC public schools and dozens of DYCD-funded programs in New York City.

Studies have shown that children with involved fathers and parents are less likely to get into trouble at home, school, or in the neighborhood, and that an active and nurturing style of fathering is associated with better verbal skills for infants, greater patience for toddlers, and intellectual functioning and academic achievement among adolescents.

Scholastic Inc. donated 5,000 children’s books to DYCD-funded programs, while Modell’s continued its longstanding support of DYCD by donating 10,000 coupons that provide young people with a 15 percent discount at any Modell’s store in New York City. Breakfast was generously provided by Healthfirst.

“Scholastic is happy to support the Fatherhood Initiative for another year,” said Greg Worrell, President of Scholastic Classroom and Community Group. “Family and community engagement is so important for student achievement, and this program goes a very long way in empowering fathers to spend that extra time with their kids and to get involved with their literacy development to ensure their student’s success.”

“Fathers are an important fabric of a young child’s life, and this connection is just the example that binds our communities together to show that every aspect of a child’s life is important, especially education,” said Modell’s Regional Recruiter Greg Hambric. “Modell’s is proud to support such an initiative that fosters the importance of strengthening family relationships and setting a great example in the community.”

“This day represents more than fathers taking their children to school. It encourages the involvement of fathers in their children’s daily life and their education,” said Al Simmons, Healthfirst Director of External Affairs. “We are proud to support this important DYCD program that fosters positive reinforcement and strong family ties in the communities we serve.”

About DYCD and its Fatherhood Initiative

DYCD is committed to enhancing children’s development through programs that encourage fathers to become personally involved with their children and relate to their co-parents. DYCD’s Fatherhood Initiative actively partners with NYC DADS, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg’s fatherhood initiative.

DYCD supports New York City’s afterschool and youth workforce development programs throughout the five boroughs. The agency also oversees funding for anti-poverty programs, such as adult literacy and immigrant services. For more information, please go to www.nyc.gov/dycd or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).