

# WHAT'S AT THE CAT

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Say hello to Jada Jones. Jada came to ConnCAT in 2014 looking for a new opportunity. Not sure where it would lead her, Jones enrolled in the Phlebotomy Technician Program, after learning about ConnCAT through a friend who completed the Medical Billing and Coding Program. Jada did so well during her externship at Bridgeport Hospital that they offered her a position; where she is currently still employed. Jada has her sights on a few more goals. This year she launched VampireontheGo, a mobile phlebotomy service offering home blood drawing to patients in the comfort of their home. And if that doesn't keep her busy enough she is currently a student at Central Connecticut State University with plans to enroll in their Physician Assistant Program.



## ConnCAT's Daytrip to the Capital

This year the Summer Arts Youth closed out the program with a day trip to Washington, D.C. First stop was to see the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, the first memorial to an African American on or near the National Mall. Students and Staff gathered in front of the 30-foot high granite statue of Civil Rights Movement leader MLK, for a group photo. From there the trek was made to the Lincoln Memorial walking past the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool.

Our Final stop was to the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC). The four-level museum is the only national museum solely dedicated to the documentation of African American life, history and culture. Students pointed out a shawl given to Harriet Tubman by Queen Victoria, a training aircraft used by the Tuskegee Institute suspended in the air, a tribute to Trayvon Martin, and a photo of Motown's Jackson 5.







# THIS IS OUR NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY

Every year ConnCAT parents and staff look forward to the Summer Arts Program Showcase. This year we thought we would share the great talents of our youth program participants with the community. This Is Our Neighborhood Block Party was held at the old Q House site on Dixwell Avenue. Invitations for the community block party were left with residents and business owners inviting them to join ConnCAT to enjoy some fun and entertainment before the showcase. A perfect summer day filled with activities like potato sack races, cotton candy, popcorn, and sand art all while New Haven DJ, DJ Tootskee, got down on the

1s and 2s. Activities kept block party attendees entertained until it was time for the showcase on the main stage.

Still in the Motown era with the help of Summer Arts Program music instructor, students performed songs like Please Mr. Postman by The Marvelettes and Mustang Sally by Wilson Pickett with commercials from the 1960s re-enacted by theater students in between performances. Program participants strutted their talents in song, dance, and acting on a stage right in our very own neighborhood.



# GROWING OUR OWN

President and CEO, Erik Clemons believes, "At ConnCAT, we plant seeds of hope that yield flowers of possibilities. Very much like our children's efforts in our agriculture classes, the power of transformation is demonstrated when nurturing the very best in people, thereby yielding their dream fulfilled." The Staff at ConnCAT is home grown and flourishing. The Growing Our Own series on ConnCAT's Youtube Channel tells the very personal stories of journeys, obstacles, and perseverance of once students and now leading instructors and Director of Programs.

## BACK AT WEXLER-GRANT

ConnCAT has been collaborating with Wexler-Grant Community School offering enrichment programming to help supplement the current curriculum. Gearing up for the school year ConnCAT staff helped Wexler-Grant welcome back students on their first day.