

## UNITED WAY OF BROOME COUNTY



Agency Name: Broome County Urban League, Inc.

Program Name: Summer Program

Program Success Story:

In keeping with our tradition of celebrating diversity, our youth summer program is designed to incorporate youth from various backgrounds and life experiences. Our programming during summer 2009 was yet another success. As always, we pride ourselves in being able to define our successes not only by numbers but also by the quality of our children's experiences.

The summer 2009 program gave our youth another opportunity to learn more about themselves as well as a chance to understand the unity that continues to grow in their community. Out of the many great memories we have of summer 2009, we will never forget the ways in which our children have taught us about the meaning of compassion and understanding. Isaac, one of the children who participated in our summer program in 2009, was one of the most memorable for us. Through his friendship, kindness, and humor, he taught our children that though we all come from different life experiences and may have differences in appearance, we still share common goals, aspirations, and joys in life. Whether it was during our daily activities or on field trips, the children would always look forward to their interactions with Isaac. Without a doubt, they were always checking to ensure that his wheelchair would be accommodated no matter the location or activity. While the use of a wheelchair made Isaac different from them in one area of life, the children never allowed this to become a barrier between them.