

Thursday Keynoter: Geoffrey Canada President & CEO Harlem Children's Zone



In a 97-square-block area of what was once the toughest neighborhood of New York City, Canada has created a national model of catching kids at birth and nurturing them through obtaining a college degree. He understands rate of return on investment on social outreach and devised a pipeline of services that are envied. <http://www.hcz.org/programs/the-hcz-project> to read more and see video

Harlem Children's Zone Project

In 1997, the agency launched the Harlem Children's Zone Project, which targets a specific geographic area in Central Harlem with a comprehensive range of services. The Zone Project today covers 100 blocks and aims to serve over 10,000 children by 2011.

The New York Times Magazine said the Zone Project "combines educational, social and medical services. It starts at birth and follows children to college. It meshes those services into an interlocking web, and then it drops that web over an entire neighborhood....The objective is to create a safety net woven so tightly that children in the neighborhood just can't slip through."

The work of Mr. Canada and HCZ has become a national model and has been the subject of many profiles in the media. Their work has been featured on "60 Minutes," "The Oprah Winfrey Show," "The Today Show," "Good Morning America," "Nightline," "CBS This Morning," "The Charlie Rose Show," National Public Radio's "On Point," as

well in articles in The New York Times, The New York Daily News, USA Today and Newsday.