

## From T-rex to Trampolines...



Last month 50+ students with developmental disabilities took a break from school and explored New York. From the American Museum of Natural History to Aviator Sports, [City Access New York's](#) respite project led outings to places that sparked imaginations. And while our young people were out and about, their families took a break, too. In

just one week, CANY provided more than 1,400 hours of respite to families who need it.

"He had a blast. He came home talking about squids! As for the respite aspect, it was truly a blessing because my father was in NYU Medical for most of the week. I had to handle things on the home front while my mother was at the hospital."

- K.B., mother of a respite participant

## ...to New York Aquarium



"The words 'hands on' took on new meaning for me when I learned we would be doing a series of programs with visually impaired students. The programs were done in collaboration with City Access New York... Some of the children we would be working with are totally blind and others can focus on objects held within six inches of their eyes. In the weeks before the programs I found myself closing my eyes and handling biofacts, attempting to see things as the children would."

- Melissa Carp, [New York Aquarium](#) educator

We hope you'll read all of Melissa Carp's [wonderful article](#) on developing new skills to teach students with visual impairments, just published in [Current: The Journal of Marine Education](#)

## Reader's Digest Partners for Sight Foundation



Since 2003, CANY has partnered with Educational Vision Services (EVS) to provide the Adapted Arts & Science project. The project delivers yearlong instruction in social studies and science, adapted to the needs of EVS students. It improves students' academic and social skills by tying community resources to classroom learning.

What does that mean? Well, if you don't know much marine biology, a seal watch will help. Suspension bridges and pneumatic caissons don't interest you? A touch tour of the Brooklyn Bridge may change your mind. Adapted Arts & Science takes teaching out of the classroom and makes the city the school.

We'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you to **Reader's Digest Partners for Sight Foundation** for adding its support to the support of the **Lavelle Fund for the Blind**, the **Joseph Leroy and Ann C Warner Fund**, and **The Independence Community Foundation**, for Adapted Arts & Science for EVS Students.

## From the Vantage of Universal Design

RAF Models, Inc. has designed and fabricated accessible exhibits nationwide for more than 25 years. With a reputation as one of the country's leading experts in the design of accessible exhibits, RAF specializes in exhibits for the growing population of people who are blind or have low



vision. With a recent grant from the US Department of Education's National Institute for Disability Rehabilitation Research, RAF began testing different methods of representation, using various sculptural shapes and forms to further improve exhibit accessibility.

Please join the Museum Access Consortium on Monday, May 12, from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. at The Metropolitan Museum of Art for a presentation by William Watkins and Rebecca Fuller, founder of RAF Models. They will describe RAF's groundbreaking technology and techniques, and the data they have collected through their work with over 50 exhibit users of all ages and abilities.

The event is free, but reservations are required. Please rsvp to Cathy White at 212.879.5500 ext.3561 or [access@metmuseum.org](mailto:access@metmuseum.org).

"We design from the viewpoint of universal design. We find that when thinking about how to provide information for the blind, we end up also providing more information for the sighted audience."

- Rebecca Fuller, founder of RAF Models

## With Your Support

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