



# Please Help!

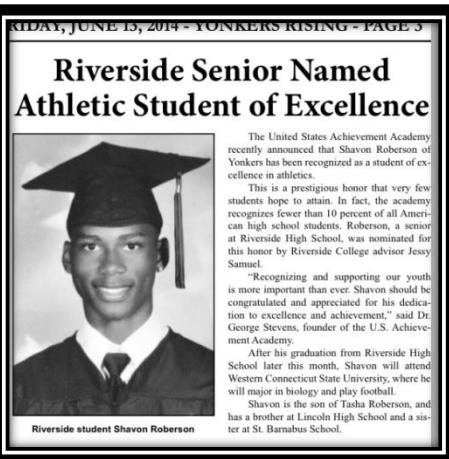
## Study Buddy Program in Jeopardy

**We need your help.** The Study Buddy Program, which performs a crucial community service, is in danger of being eliminated due to a deep cut in local government funding.

Over the past 15 years, CLUSTER's Study Buddy Program has helped almost 1,000 high school students prepare to go to college and to enter the work force. Amazingly, over the past seven years, 100% of the students who have completed the program have graduated high school and have been accepted by colleges such as Bucknell, New York University, Northeastern University, SUNY Binghamton, Westchester Community College and many more.



The Study Buddy Program serves young people, ages 14 – 18, who live in Southwest Yonkers. The program focuses on leadership development, college and career readiness and life skills training - skills that include decision-making, public speaking, health and wellness awareness, pregnancy prevention, and community service. These teens are also trained to mentor and tutor younger children in CLUSTER's after-school program and summer day camp. Our Program has received national recognition as a model gang prevention program.



Westchester County, through the County Youth Bureau, has been providing 75% of funding for the Study Buddy Program since 1998. That's why we were so surprised and devastated to learn in January that the \$45,000 in funding for this essential program would be eliminated, even though it has always received excellent evaluations and was rated by the County as a high-performing program.

**We simply cannot let this happen.** With your support, together with our Board and the backing of a key donor, we can save this important program.

**Let me repeat - we need your help.** But we have a plan! One of our generous patrons, Greg Werlinich (of Werlinich Asset Management) has pledged to match every dollar we raise, up to \$15,000. And at the same time, our Board of Directors and Advisory Council have agreed to do the same. Therefore, we will actually receive \$3 for every \$1 you contribute!!!



With your help we can raise the \$45,000 we need to keep the Study Buddy Program going. **So please, help us ensure that our teenagers have every chance to succeed by making a contribution by April 30<sup>th</sup>. Designate your contribution to: Study Buddy.**

**DONATE NOW!**

Click this link to contact county officials and advocate restoring funding for this program.  
<http://www.wca4kids.org/take-action/one-click-advocacy/>

All of us here at CLUSTER thank you in advance for your generosity.

Sincerely yours,

Toni Volchok  
Executive Director

If you would like further information, please contact me at [TVolchok@clusterinc.org](mailto:TVolchok@clusterinc.org) or 914-963-6440 ext. 209.