

The Bronx Charter School for Better Learning
Public Relations Office

For Immediate Release

September 9, 2016

The Bronx Charter School for Better Learning 2 Awarded The Dollar General Literacy Foundation Grant

The Bronx Charter School for Better Learning 2 (BBL 2) has been awarded a \$4000 Dollar General Literacy Foundation Grant. This local grant is part of \$4.5 million in youth literacy grants that Dollar General donates to approximately 1,000 organizations across America. These grants are distributed at the beginning of the school year, and aim to support teachers and schools so they can strengthen literacy instruction.

“By awarding these grants, the Dollar General Literacy Foundation demonstrates its commitment to making a meaningful impact in our local communities,” said Todd Vasos, Dollar General’s chief executive officer. “These grants provide funds to support youth literacy initiatives and educational programs throughout the communities we serve, to ensure a successful academic year for students.”

Teachers at BBL 2 will use the funds to create a robust leveled reading program for first-grade students. A leveled library allows teachers to match a student’s individual reading level with an appropriate level of text. This enables students to increase their vocabulary and comprehension skills, and promotes a sense of self-efficacy. The library will include texts on a variety of subjects in both fiction and non-fiction. The array of choices will allow our students to select titles that interest them. As part of our broader literacy training, we expect the Dollar Literacy titles will help children further develop their love of reading, as well as their engagement with individual stories and academic subjects.

About The Bronx Charter School for Better Learning

The Bronx Charter School for Better Learning (BBL) is a Pre-K through 5th Grade Elementary School founded in 2003 by teachers and school administrators who had extensive experience serving in challenging communities with large populations of low-income students. Our founders sought to improve the educational experience of struggling communities by demonstrating the value of an educational approach known as the “Subordination of Teaching to Learning.”

The “Subordination of Teaching to Learning” pedagogy was developed by Dr. Caleb Gattegno throughout the 1950s. Dr. Gattegno believed that mastering all traditional subjects begins with awakening the learner within,

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which means that students draw on a learning process based on the self-education that they developed since infancy. As a result, learning in school continues to be joyous, instead of the conventional drudgery students might otherwise encounter.

We are delighted that our students have performed well, and we have been repeatedly recognized for achieving academic success. The Bronx Charter School for Better Learning is listed as a Substantial Progress School by the New York State Education Department (NYSED), recognizing our students' consistent improvement for the past three years on state assessments. Additionally, NYSED designated us as a Reward School for the 2015-2016 school year, in recognition of the school's achievement in "leading New York State toward the accomplishment of educational excellence through an increase in student achievement and closing the gap in student performance."

BBL currently has two elementary school locations in the Northeast Bronx, and serves nearly 700 students in the community.