

SUMMER 2018



"Increasing the love of learning beyond school hours"

What's the HYPE all about?

HYPE Freedom School, Inc. (HYPE) formally known as Waymaker Life Strategies, Inc. has provided the CDF Freedom Schools summer literacy programs for nearly 18 years. The mission of HYPE is to **empower people with knowledge for successful living by providing education enrichment services to children and families beyond school hours**. As the first greater Houston-area site and the oldest CDF Freedom Schools site in Texas, HYPE was launched in the summer of 1999 in the Sunnyside area of Southeast Houston. Over the years, the strength of HYPE has enabled the program to run each summer and has touched the lives of over 700 children and families.

What are CDF Freedom Schools?

Created by Children's Defense Fund (CDF), CDF Freedom Schools provide summer and after-school enrichment that help children fall in love with reading, increase their self-esteem, and generate more positive attitudes toward learning. The program offers nurturing learning environments using a curriculum that supports children and families around five essential components: **(1)** high quality academic enrichment; **(2)** parent and family involvement; **(3)** civic engagement and social action; **(4)** intergenerational leadership development; and **(5)** nutrition, physical health and mental health.

What does HYPE offer?

At HYPE, children ages **5-14** are exposed to a six-week, high-quality education and social enrichment. We employ college student leaders to help participants understand, through the weekly themes and books, that they can make a *difference in themselves, their family, their community, country, and world through hope, education, and action*.

HYPE Dates of Operation and Locations June 18 - July 27, 2018

***Blue Ridge United Methodist Church → 2929 Reed Rd, Houston, TX 77051
Cullen Missionary Baptist Church → 13233 Cullen Blvd, Houston, TX 77047
Greater St. Matthew Baptist Church → 7701 Jutland St, Houston, TX 77033
North Side Location #1 TBA
North Side Location #2 TBA***

Why is HYPE different from other summer programs?

Unlike other more recreation-based programs, at HYPE children read high quality books and are engaged in learning activities that are appropriate to their developmental needs and interests. Each child also takes a book home each week in the summer program for their personal library. Trained adults provide daily on-site supervision for each of the classrooms, staffed at a 1:10 intern-to-child ratio.

Why is HYPE so important?

In Texas, 70% of public school fourth graders read below grade level. HYPE serves children who most need and yet can least afford summer learning opportunities. Research shows that most students, regardless of socio-economic status lose more than two months in reading achievement.¹ More than half of the achievement gap between lower- and higher-income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities. During HYPE, students are engaged in daily conversations about the text and experience the kind of enrichment scaffolding that researchers say matters.

We believe EDUCATION is the single most effective prevention against poverty.

¹ http://www.summerlearning.org/?page=know_the_facts