



Dancers from Emmanuel Baptist Church in Brooklyn celebrate Black History Month at Crossroads.

Crossroads Juvenile Center Celebrates Black History Month

On Sunday, February 24th, Crossroads Juvenile Center commemorated Black History Month with a visit from members of Brooklyn’s Emmanuel Baptist Church, who performed song, dance and short stories for youth and staff at the facility.

Accompanied by an orchestra, the Emmanuel Baptist Church choir sang “Negro Spirituals” and African songs while additional church members simultaneously displayed African dance steps for attentive Crossroads residents. Church members also involved the Crossroads’ youth in a Black History Month activity titled “Who Am I?” where performers dressed up as key contributors to Black History, describing their contributions for the audience to guess who was being described. Crossroads residents, up to date on their facts about key figures in Black History, quickly raised their hands to correctly identify Sojourner Truth and Shirley Chisholm as the demonstrated Black historical figures.

The event culminated with a voluntary song and prayer for those wishing to participate, which happened to be a vast majority of the attendees.

DJJ staff and Emmanuel Baptist Church members discussed opportunities for future collaborations to build on the positive momentum gained by the inspiring program. DJJ’s Director of Programs Sonia Galarza said, “As soon as I saw the Emmanuel Baptist Church’s inspirational soul stirring performance at Lincoln Center, I knew I had to have them come to DJJ and help us inspire our kids.”

