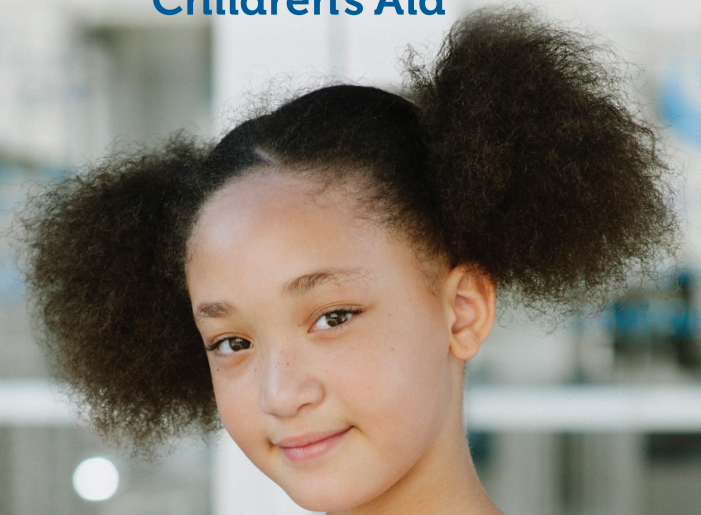




Children's Aid



Welcome to
Milbank!

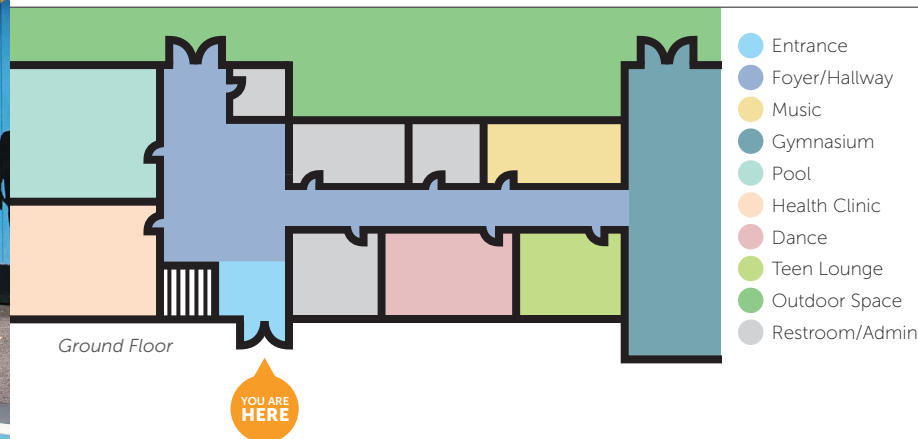


Join Us for a Tour!

See how our community centers make a difference.

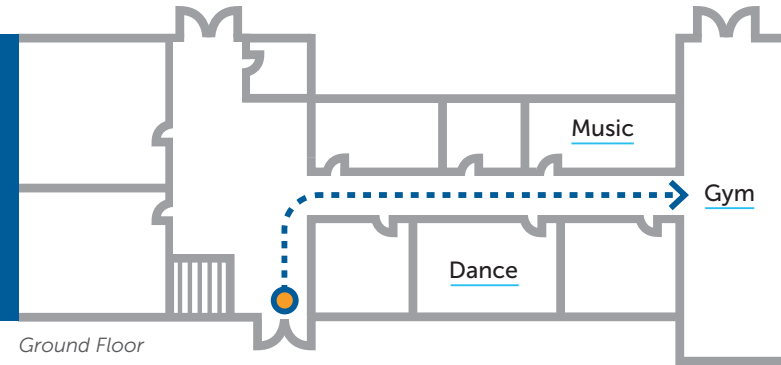
Take an in-depth visual tour during a typical day at one of our community centers, and learn why these locations are so vital to local families. **As one of our most generous supporters, you enable these centers — which rely on private funding — to continue serving the young people who attend.** *Thank you!*

Dunlevy Milbank Community Center 118th Street, Manhattan



Dunlevy Milbank in Harlem is one of our largest community centers in New York City.

Each day hundreds of children arrive from nearby schools, ready to step into their safe and structured oasis where learning has no limits and creativity abounds. All-day programming is offered on weekends and summers, too.



It's 3:30 p.m. on a school day, and you just stepped into Milbank. You see children, brimming with excitement, bustling into the dance studio, the music room, and the gym for enrichment activities.

Dance Studio

For some, dance is a creative form of expression and an artistic outlet. For others it's a calling — a future career path and a life mission. At Milbank, immersive dance programs provide dancing instruction to budding artists. Our centers have trained famous dancers and artists such as Teyana Taylor.

Music Room

Other young people deepen their interest in the arts through musical instruction and singing. They gain valuable experience under the instruction of seasoned music teachers. Youth bands perform at local events, and children can audition for Madison Square Garden's annual youth talent show.

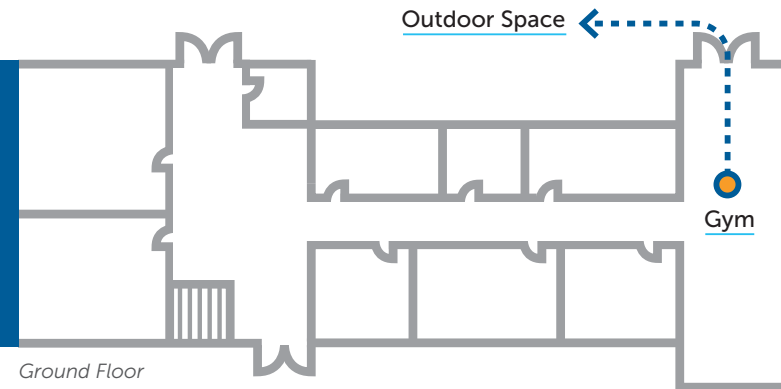
Gymnasium

Structured athletic activities foster a sense of teamwork and discipline and improve physical and mental health for the participants. The Milbank Flyers, a collection of six teams for boys and girls in middle school, compete against other teams in a local New York City league.





You then walk through the gym to the outdoor field and you see a basketball court, a soccer field, and recreation areas spanning a large portion of a city block where tens of thousands of children have played over the years.



Outdoor Field and Basketball Court

During after-school and weekend hours, children get to run around and play on a large outdoor field, letting their energy out and forming new friendships. This large outdoor space allows for soccer games, tricycle riding, and any other group activities taking place that day.

Milbank also frequently hosts visitors utilizing the large space for events, combining the outdoor space with the indoor gym by pulling up the retractable walls. The United Nations, NYPD, and other organizations have hosted community forums, and we've held carnivals, Olympic torch handoffs, and other events.



Food Box Program

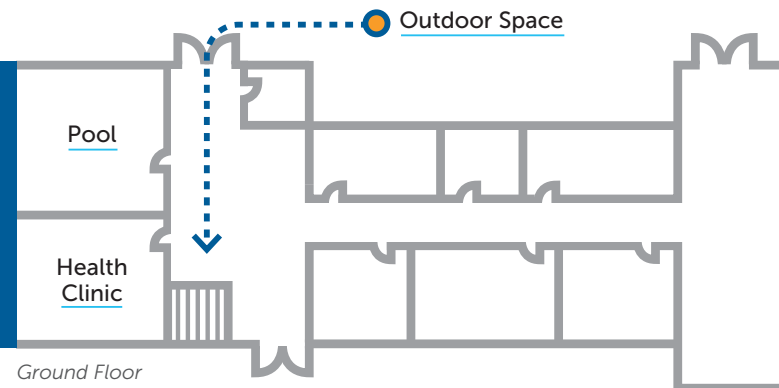
Health and nutrition take center stage at Milbank once a week at the edge of our field. Our Food Box program sells discounted local produce from farmers markets to neighbors with the aim of increasing neighborhood access to healthy foods.

Families receiving SNAP (food stamp) benefits are offered a 50% discount, and attendees of our health and nutrition classes receive Health Bucks coupons. Children also attend nutrition classes and activities and can compete in our year-end "Iron Go!Chefs" healthy foods competition with other Children's Aid sites.





You then turn around and head back to the front entrance area and you see a newly renovated indoor pool to your right, and a state-of-the-art community health clinic just after that.



Swimming Pool

A swimming pool, a rarity in New York City, provides swimming instruction to the center's youth. Countless young people have learned to swim here for the first time — an important survival skill and a fun form of exercise.

Our Stingrays competitive swim teams compete locally and offer the same benefits of sportsmanship, teambuilding, and exercise that the basketball teams provide. The program attracted a visit from Olympian Michael Phelps a few years back. He recognized how important this swim team is to the local community.

Health Clinic

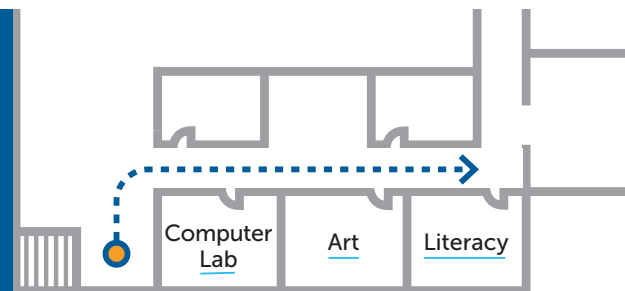
A health clinic providing medical, dental, and mental health care is available to children and youth up to age 21. If patients don't have insurance, we still provide care, and we work with patients to enroll in health insurance if they are eligible. Last year, 328 patients received care.

Our "Just Ask Me" Peers program trains teens to be peer educators on the topic of teen health and safe sex practices, providing important leadership training and opportunities for teens.





You then head downstairs and you realize the upstairs was just the beginning of what Milbank has to offer. Downstairs, a computer lab, an art room, and a literacy room foster a supportive learning environment and unlock artistic creativity for countless young people.



Lower Level

Computer Lab

Academics is a primary focus at Milbank. Homework help, tutoring, and job training experiences take place in the computer lab and in other rooms at Milbank. On Saturdays, our "Study Now, Play Later" program welcomes large numbers of K-8 students who finish their homework and are then rewarded with playtime afterward. Additional STEM and computer programming for students cultivate important career skills.

For our older youth, college and career prep and college scholarship opportunities are available to help plan for the next steps in their education.



Art Room/Literacy Lab

A room dedicated to the fine arts lets children develop their artistic skills and learn to express themselves creatively. Artistic instruction develops talents in a structured and supportive environment. Art projects often incorporate current events, infusing education into the art curriculum in an engaging way.

In the literacy lab, students develop their reading skills and take learning to the next level with the help of caring tutors and academic instructors.





Join Us for a Tour!

*I invite you to come visit Milbank in person
so I can give you a tour of the incredible work
being done every day.*

I'm Casper Lassiter. I attended Milbank in the 1980s, where I was surrounded by adults who helped me and my friends believe in the power of our own potential and introduced us to a new way of thinking about ourselves. After graduating college in 1994 and completing a master's degree in social work, I began working as the director of Milbank. I'm so honored and proud to work at this community center that provides a safe and structured space for children to learn, lead, and grow into happy and successful adults.