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Over 700 NYC Kids Boost Literacy and Healthy Living Through Innovative “Book Fair”

Network of Local Doctors, SOMOS Community Care, partnered with Get Focused to Inspire Summer Exercise & Summer Reading

PHOTOS: Available [HERE](#) (Photo credit: SOMOS Community Care)

WASHINGTON HEIGHTS – On Friday, July 20, over 700 kids took to the field at George Washington Educational Campus to learn about healthy living through reading, exercising, and eating well through an innovative “book fair” sponsored by SOMOS Community Care. The book fair empowered elementary and middle school students from seven summer camp programs across Manhattan and the Bronx by having them “purchase” their favorite books by completing fitness challenges guided by certified trainers from youth resources organization Get Focused.

“This book fair is a one-stop shop for the next generation to build healthy and productive lifestyle habits. We want to make sure young people across New York City have access to the resources and support they need to stay active and sharpen their minds all summer,” said **Dr. Ramon Tallaj, Chairman of SOMOS Community Care.**

SOMOS Community Care – a nonprofit, physician-led network of over 2,500 physicians serving over 650,000 patients in lower income, immigrant-rich communities – works in the most underserved parts of New York City with culturally competent care that reflects the diverse backgrounds of their patients and doctors. This book fair is part of SOMOS’ broader effort to transform health care at the community level by educating residents on preventive health.

The book fair brought together students from seven different summer camp programs including Compass 132, Compass Rangel, Dyckman Cornerstone, La Plaza Beacon, and Saturday Night Lights in Manhattan, along with Highbridge Cornerstone and Mosaic Beacon in the Bronx.

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About SOMOS Community Care:

[SOMOS Community Care](#) is a nonprofit, physician-led network of nearly 2,500 health care providers serving over 650,000 Medicaid beneficiaries in New York City, launched in 2015 as part of New York State’s Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment Program (DSRIP).

SOMOS' network includes providers delivering culturally competent care to patients in some of New York City's most vulnerable populations, particularly Latino, Asian, African-American and immigrant communities throughout the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens.