

Mary Jane Underwood Stryker  
Institute for Service-Learning

# Community Advocates for Parents and Students (CAPS)

2010 Kalamazoo Gazette STAR (Sharing Time and Resources) Award  
College Volunteer Group Winner



**"I Am Young and I  
am Positive...**

**I am The Future and I am going to  
tell it like it is...**

**I will not let anything  
stand in my way...**

**My eyes are on the Kalamazoo  
Promise...**

**And they are going to stay that  
way."**

*CAPS Affirmation,  
Adapted from "Sweet Honey in the Rock"*



A group of community leaders founded CAPS in 2006 to respond to the Kalamazoo Promise by offering academic enhancement at the Interfaith Homes Community Center.

Students who live in Interfaith Homes are underrepresented in the college community. The CAPS mission is to help students reach their full potential by providing them with one-one academic support, relationships with college students, a building full of academic resources, and most importantly support from a community of individuals dedicated to their success.

Since 2006, over 200 K students have worked as CAPS tutors. At least 20 Kalamazoo College students participate each academic quarter! CAPS is held 3 days a week. As part of their service-learning experience, K College tutors engage in reflection sessions to connect service and learning.

Interfaith Homes is home to more than 300 Kalamazoo Public School students! Over 30 Scholars (youth) participate in CAPS each week to get help on homework or to do fun skill-building exercises. K College tutors work with their CAPS Scholars either one-on-one or in small groups.



The CAPS Service-Learning Program is funded by the Underwood Stryker Endowment, the Harold & Grace Upjohn Foundation, and the Marilyn LaPlante Endowment.

Poster created by Civic Engagement Scholars Travis Smith and Klissa Jarrett, both K'10.