

CLIMB: Inspiring Young Minds to Thrive

Our CLIMB (**C**hanging Lives, **I**mproving **M**inds and **B**odies) After-School Program serves over 900 at-risk inner-city youth, ages five to fifteen, at eight sites, with an array of activities to support students' academic, inter-personal, and social achievements. Students emerge from our CLIMB Program with better results in the classroom and on standardized testing, and, more importantly, with confidence that they will be able to achieve success in the secondary years and beyond. One such CLIMBer is Dev M.

Dev joined CLIMB last year at our Inspired Vision Middle School site in Pleasant Grove in his 5th Grade year, struggling with his Reading and Math skills. He was failing the Reading portion of his TAKS Test at a 65%, and was very shy and introverted. Without the skills to read, all of Dev's homework was near-impossible to complete, and his favorite subject – Science – was even beginning to suffer.

After enrolling in CLIMB, Dev began to blossom. The specialized tutoring in reading each day improved all his grades. By the end of the semester, his over-all grade point was an 89%, and his Reading TAKS rose 28 points to 93%.

Dev is back in CLIMB this fall. He brings along a new recruit – younger sister Fenny, whom he enjoys “tutoring” himself. His favorite activities? Playing tag, talking to the other CLIMBers about his dream of one day becoming a Pharmacist, and reading Fenny his favorite book – *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

