

# Bridging the Gaps



## Together, we are stronger

### Student Interns:

Eduardo Moreno, Drexel University, College of Nursing and Health Professions, Creative Arts in Therapy  
Kavya Viswanathan, Drexel University, College of Nursing and Health Professions, Creative Arts in Therapy

### Academic Preceptor:

Dr. Jeremiah Goldstein, MD, St. Christopher's Hospital for Children

### Community Preceptor:

Karisa Barlow, CCIU Migrant Education Program

## COMMUNITY PARTNER



Community Partner: CCIU Migrant Education Program (<https://www.cciu.org/migrated>)

The Migrant Education Program provides resources for migrant families and their children, such as transportation support and directing families to healthcare and food resources. It provides academic support through tutoring, after-school programs, home visits, community workshops, and a full-time summer education program that includes literacy, STEM, math, music, dance, and field trips.

## BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

- 15%** of Philly's population are foreign-born
- 24%** percent of Philly's foreign born are from the **Pan-American region**.
- 39%** percent of Philly's foreign born are from **Asian** countries.
- 7%** percent of Philly's foreign born are from **Africa**

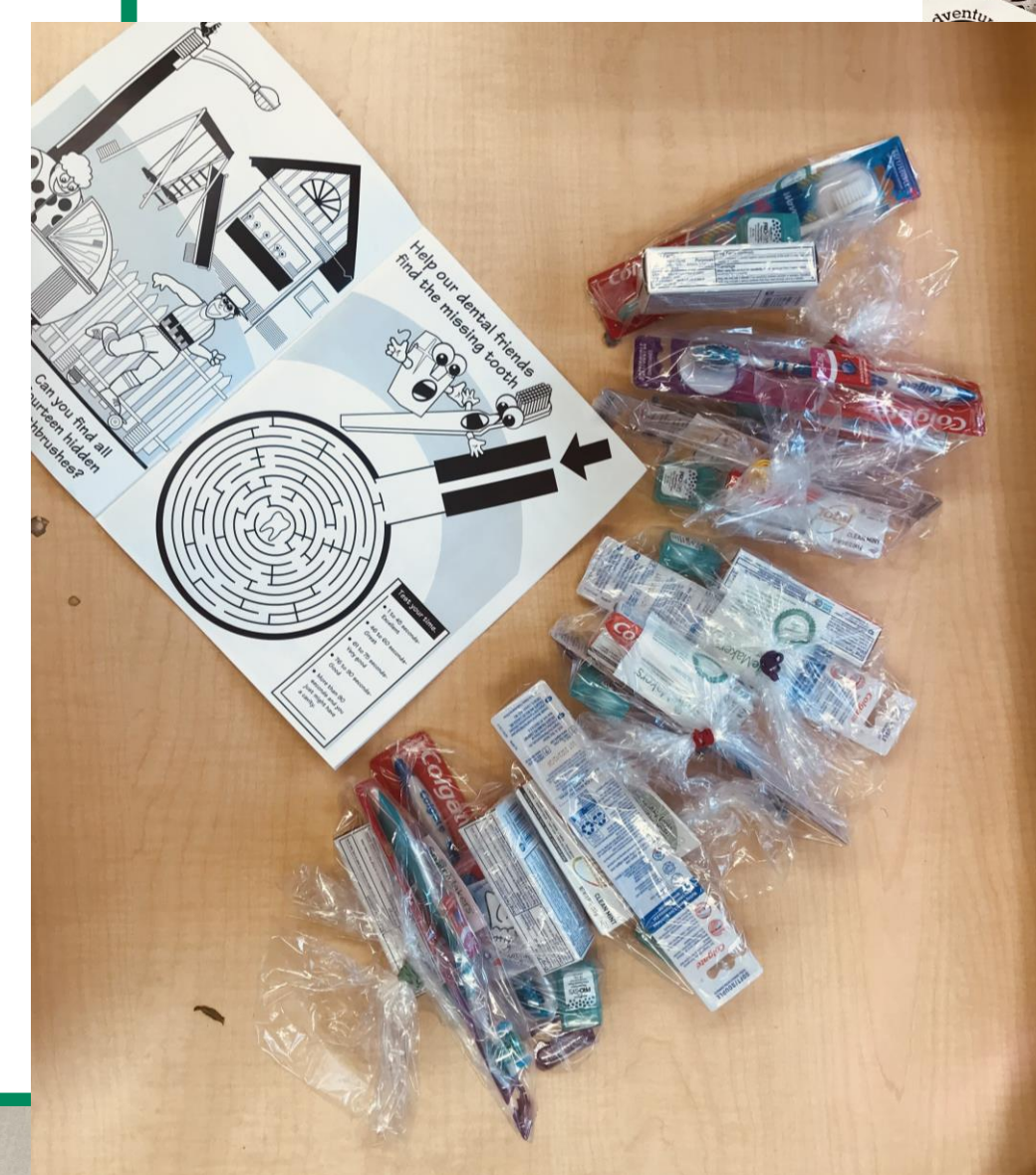
**23.7%** of Philly's population speak a language other than English at home

Children of migrant agricultural workers move so frequently to accommodate their parents' search for employment, they often fall behind their non-migrant peers developmentally, socially and academically



## TEAM'S EXPERIENCE

- Created safe spaces for students to express themselves through music and dance
- Assisted in Pre-K and Pre-School classes working closely with teachers and students
- Led Oral Health presentations for students of all ages, and provided oral health resources and supplies
- Assisted with an after-school program promoting literacy and science projects at public library



## JOYS in CHALLENGES

### Accomplishments:

- Music and Dance Lessons
- Oral Health presentations
- Provide art supplies for different drawings and forms of expression
- Various science projects based on the usage of physics and biology

### Challenges:

- Language barriers
- Workload (occasionally)
- Large group sizes
- Work conditions (lack of proper A/C and ventilation)
- Assistance & support

## REFLECTION

Working closely with the Migrant Education Program presented us an opportunity to explore personal approaches to create engaging and safe spaces to connect through **music** and **dance**.

We also developed an understanding and deep appreciation for the labor and care that goes behind bringing a summer camp experience to children of all ages under one roof.

In addition to the fluidity in the offerings within our art forms we were pleasantly challenged to be **creatively flexible** in accommodating the structure of the program and the needs the members. of the community.

Appreciating the forms of expression from different cultures and including music and movement languages from diverse backgrounds created connections with students that solidified our time together and sparked conversations that not only promoted literacy and English fluency, but it allowed us to work together in learning **how to play instruments or how to use our bodies as a form of expression**.

It is essential to mention the event of **immigration in the development of children**. It is widely accepted that there are multiple challenges, Education System of the U.S.A. and hence programs like this. The seven weeks not only served the students in supporting new learnings, but it also represented an opportunity to raise awareness in the community and within ourselves thinking about ways to better serve this population while still recognizing our strengths and limitations as future healthcare practitioners.

