

DAILY NEWS

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HEROES**

A SPECIAL THANKSGIVING TRIBUTE TO
THE CITY'S COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

Courting youth

A former coach and high school teacher, Jai Nanda founded Urban Dove in 1998 as a way to help at-risk city youths learn life skills through sports and recreation.

His goal? "We try to help kids reach their potential through activities that they would not normally have access to," he says.

One of his programs, Net Gain, provides free court space for 16 New York City public schools that don't have their own gyms, thus allowing more than 400 students to participate in after-school sports. Urban Dove also helps organize community-service projects for the student athletes, with the aim of helping them learn teamwork, sportsmanship and responsibility.

The HiRisers after-school program trains high school students to work with elementary and middle school students to teach them literacy skills, life skills and sports. The HiRisers program is in five Manhattan public schools and two schools in the Bronx. It serves more than 350 kids, and another HiRisers program will open at a Brooklyn school in the spring.

