



Hope House of Milwaukee, Inc.

209 West Orchard - P.O. Box 04095
Milwaukee, WI 53204

Ending homelessness and creating healthy communities

PATHWAYS TO PROGRESS ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

Annual Report: January 1 – December 31, 2011

The connections between education, employment, and homelessness are fundamental. A problem in one often leads directly to the others, exacerbating the situation. The ***Pathways to Progress Adult Education Program*** is a comprehensive response, offering no-cost educational, employment, and personal development classes for low-income and less-educated adults that bolster the knowledge, skills, and confidence necessary for maintaining self-reliance, self-sufficiency, and independence. Operating onsite at Hope House and coupled with free childcare, adults living within the shelter and the surrounding community can benefit from courses along three tiers – educational improvement with General Education Diploma instruction and testing; applicable employability skills development; and personal growth opportunities. The Pathways to Progress Program is founded upon the belief that providing practical, “real-world” options for low-income adults is fundamental for success educationally, vocationally, and ultimately, economically. In turn, these efforts directly reduce homelessness and poverty in the community.

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

The population served by the Pathways to Progress Adult Education Program includes adults living on-site at Hope House in either of the shelters for Single Men and Women or the Family Shelter.

General Education Diploma (GED) Classes: In 2011, a total of 55 adults were enrolled in the GED curriculum at Hope House over the course of two semesters. Demographically, 65% of students were female and 35% male. By age, 18% were 20 years old or younger, 43% were between 21 and 30 years, 27% were 31 to 40 years, and 12% were 41 years of age and older. Ethnically, 53% of students were Hispanic, 29% Caucasian, and 18% African-American.

Educational Enrichment Workshops: Over x adults took part in adult educational enrichment workshops this year.

PROGRAM GOALS, OUTCOMES, & INDICATORS

The Pathways to Progress Adult Education is based upon the involvement of guests to actively learn, understand, and apply new behaviors and strategies that improve and maintain their educational, vocational, and economic well-being.

As these goals and objectives are calculated on a yearly basis, the quarterly tallies have not been included in this report.

GOAL 1: TO ENHANCE THE EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF PARTICIPANTS.

Outcome: *Participants will further educational attainment.*

Result: 11 participants enrolled in the General Education Diploma coursework have successfully completed the required coursework needed to earn a GED diploma this year.

GOAL 2: TO IMPROVE VOCATIONAL PROSPECTS FOR PARTICIPANTS.

Outcome: *Participants will explore resources related to employment and housing opportunities.*

Result: 39 participants attended at least one employment or housing workshop onsite at Hope House this year.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

1. General Education Development (GED) - Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) provides curriculum and individualized instruction for mastery of basic skills required for the GED examination. Subjects include mathematics, writing, reading, social studies, and science. Learners are assessed at enrollment and progress at their own pace in any subject area. Whether gaining a diploma to obtain more gainful employment or further their education in a post-secondary institution, learners actively engage in the development and realization of their future. In addition, Pathways to Progress provides no-cost childcare while classes are in session allowing parents to pursue their goals without the stress of finding childcare.
2. Educational Enrichment Workshops – Pathways to Progress offered several applicable and gainful workshops for participants. These workshops help to add knowledge or skill that will aid in the personal growth and development of adults. All services are provided free of charge to adults both onsite in Hope House shelters and to residents of the surrounding neighborhoods. Workshops this year included -

Employment Workshops: Hope House works with each guest to build knowledge and skills in order to obtain – and retain – sustainable employment in the community. Sessions included job seeking skills, documents for employment, and interviewing tips.

Health & Wellness: Hope House is at the leading edge in providing opportunities for our guests to improve individual health and wellness. Examples include Smoking Cessation, Stress Management, Introduction to Nutrition & Food Safety, and Practical Meal Planning and Preparation. Other education includes discussions about Depression and Mental Health, Diabetes, and HIV Prevention.

Sessions are regularly offered to help guests understand the impact of second hand smoke. In addition, various nicotine reduction aids such as nicotine gum and patches are always available to guests who wish to cease smoking.

Life Skills: Each week Hope House facilitates discussion groups for women. Themes include value as a person, effective discipline and parenting, financial literacy and responsibility, good health and practices, community resource building, and employability skills. These focused dialogues promote positive and active learning about personal resources and skills required to lower the recidivism of homelessness.

Community Monthly Educational Meetings: Hope House holds monthly Community Meetings that are open to neighborhood residents, as well as residents of Hope House. These meetings focus on anti-crime, health, and other safety issues. Meetings are open to residents of the community, as well as residents of Hope House. In addition 8 neighborhood clean-ups, and 4 major neighborhood events are held each year.

Men's Group: Every week, a licensed Alcohol & Other Drug Abuse Counselor from Project Return facilitates a group for men. The group discusses AODA issues as well as coping skills and provides support for male guests. It provides a safe venue for men to explore their lives and themselves.

Respectfully Submitted by –