



Hope House of Milwaukee, Inc.

209 West Orchard - P.O. Box 04095
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Ending homelessness and creating healthy communities

PATHWAYS TO PROGRESS ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

Annual Report: January 1 – December 31, 2012

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, 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, as well as other members of the community.

General Education Diploma (GED) Classes: In 2012, a total of 49 adults were enrolled in the GED curriculum at Hope House.

Demographically, 69% of students were female and 31% male. By age, 24% were 20 years old or younger, 29% were between 21 and 30 years, 29% were 31 to 40 years, and 18% were 41 years of age and older. Ethnically, 47% of students were Hispanic, 27% Caucasian, 16% African-American, and 10% identified as bi racial or of another race.

PROGRAM GOALS, INDICATORS AND RESULTS

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.

GOAL 1: TO ENHANCE THE EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF PARTICIPANTS.

Indicator: *Participants will further educational attainment.*

Results: **9 participants graduated with their General Education Diploma this year.**

GOAL 2: TO IMPROVE VOCATIONAL AND HOUSING PROSPECTS FOR PARTICIPANTS.

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

Results: *About 130 participants attended trainings in landlord/tenant relationships.*

SUCCESS STORY

Miriam*, a single mother, dropped out of high school in the 10th grade. She had her first child while still in high school, and put education on the back burner while she cared for her baby. Miriam spent several years focusing on parenting and raising her children, but after working so long for a low wage at part time hours, she decided to get her GED. Miriam wanted to get a better job and provide a better life for her family. Miriam had an exceptionally high reading level, but needed to work on her math skills. She spent just two semesters studying very hard, and her math scores improved dramatically. She took her GED exams and passed with flying colors. We are all so proud of Miriam, and know that her determination will take her great places in life.

**Name changed for privacy.*