



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

Mid Year Report: January 1 – June 30, 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 the First Half of 2012, a total of 25 adults were enrolled in the GED curriculum at Hope House.

Demographically, 68% of students were female and 32% male. By age, 20% were 20 years old or younger, 32% were between 21 and 30 years, 32% were 31 to 40 years, and 16% were 41 years of age and older. Ethnically, 48% of students were Hispanic, 28% Caucasian, and 20% African-American.

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: 8 participants graduated with their General Education Diploma this semester.

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

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

Results: 106 guests and community members attended Landlord and Tenant Trainings, Community Advisory Board Meetings, Community Meetings with our Alderman, and an E-Services, E-Notify and COMPASS training, which will help prepare them for employment and permanent housing.

Results: 120 volunteers, guests, and community members participated in neighborhood clean ups.

SUCCESS STORY

Grace* became homeless when she lost her job in March 2010. She lived with her son, but it wasn't working out. During the times she was living with her son, they were evicted a total of six times for late rent payments. This really put Grace in a bind for renting later on, and also disqualified her from many housing programs. Finally, she moved into emergency shelter and from there, into Hope House. She was connected with a case manager who helped her stabilize herself in the process of finding employment and safe housing. Grace's case manager also suggested she sign up for GED classes, offered on site at Hope House, to increase her employability.

Grace started GED classes immediately. She came to class every day, and worked quickly through the curriculum. The instructor noticed right away that she moved at an accelerated pace and had high skill levels. Grace started taking the GED tests, one by one, and aced each and every one. After just one semester, she graduated with honors. Everyone was so proud—her instructor, her case manager, her son—bust most importantly, Grace was proud of herself and her hard work.

When asked what her next step is, Grace replied, "I'm 56 years old and I'm ready for college." Grace would like to study business management, and someday open a business to sell her knitted creations.

**Name changed for privacy.*