



Hope House of Milwaukee, Inc.

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

Ending homelessness and creating healthy communities

SHINING STARS YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM

2014 Annual Report

Children from homeless and lower-income households often experience difficulties in academic competencies and lack the basic social and cultural skills necessary for future success. These children often fall further and further behind their peers academically, socially, and ultimately, economically. For nearly twenty years, the *Shining Stars Youth Education Program* has provided the youngest guests of Hope House and children from households in the surrounding neighborhoods with an environment which is safe and structured, built on trust and empathy, and staffed by caring adults who offer opportunities that strengthen academics, model positive social skills, and provide an atmosphere in which to practice new skills. Youth are offered a plethora of unique experiences to further their development as students and citizens.

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

The population served by the Shining Stars Youth Education Program is children, ages 6 – 17, living on-site in the Hope House shelter or within the community on Milwaukee's south side. The majority of community youth participants live in neighborhoods in close proximity to Hope House.

In the year 2014, Shining Stars served a total of 82 children – 36 females, 46 males – demographically comprised of 49% African American, 41% White, 1% Asian and 9% Bi-Racial. 45% were also Hispanic.

PROGRAM GOALS, INDICATORS AND RESULTS

The Shining Stars Youth Education Program is based upon the active involvement of youth in a variety of activities, workshops, and excursions that increase knowledge, improve skills, and teach new behaviors and strategies for future success at home, school, and in the community.

GOAL 1: TO IMPROVE BASIC ACADEMIC SKILLS

Indicator: *Participants will demonstrate concrete improvement on academic skills, social decision making and receive individual tutoring.*

Results: **95% of regular participants have demonstrated concrete improvement on Academic skills according to the Student Assessment (IEP).**

Results: **220.5 hours of social decision making.**

Results: **1,917 hours of individual tutoring have been provided this year.**

GOAL 2: TO ENRICH COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AWARENESS AND DIVERSIFY THE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Indicator: *Participants will participate in a diverse set of educationally enriching workshops and community and cultural awareness activities.*

Results: 2,647.5 hours of educational enrichment workshops have been provided this quarter.

Results: 438.75 hours of Teen Night.

Results: 511.5 hours of volunteering provided by Shining Stars youth.

SUCCESS STORY

Taurus

Taurus has been coming to the Shining Stars program for many years. He has worked on his homework each night but still seems to struggle within his particular school setting. Although he passes, staff knows he would like to be more successful when it comes to school. He currently is in 8th grade and started planning for high school early on in the school year. Taurus is motivated and positive he would like to be in an atmosphere where he can learn and thrive academically because his current school situation is not like that. With the help of the youth workers here at Hope House, Taurus was able to spend time after school researching high schools he would like to go to. This helped him to realize how important high school can be and getting in the right high school for him can be life changing.

He planned to go to open house events for three high schools. The open houses were a requirement for admittance. Unfortunately due to his mom's work schedule, she was unable to go with him. Like many of the teenagers we work with here in the Shining Stars program, Taurus came to staff to ask for advice and assistance. Luckily, Taurus was able to attend all three of the open houses and received a letter asking for a final interview in January to his first choice. This happened because a youth worker had the resources to get him to the three schools and be at the open houses with him. The charter school he is currently working to get enrolled in for 9th grade will give him the opportunity to prepare for college. He would be a first generation college student who plans to set an example for not only his younger cousins but his older brothers as well. Hope House staff is rooting for Taurus in this interview and for his future. We truly wish him the best and will be here for him through his high school years as well.