



# Hope House of Milwaukee, Inc.

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Milwaukee, WI 53204

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*Ending homelessness and creating healthy communities*

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## SHINING STARS YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM

**Annual Report: January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012**

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 twenty two 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.

**During 2012, Shining Stars served a total of 104 children – 41 females, 63 males – demographically comprised of 31% Hispanic, 62% African American, 2% Caucasian, and 5% Other.**

### 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:** **97.5% of regular participants have demonstrated concrete improvement on academic skills according to the Student Assessment (IEP).**

**Results:** **Teens participated in 310 hours of social decision making this year.**

**Results:** **3,419 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:** 8,052.25 hours of educational enrichment workshops have been provided this year.

**Results:** 912.5 hours of Teen Night were provided this year.

**Results:** 2,224.75 hours of volunteer service were provided this year.

### **SUCCESS STORY**

Anna\* is a very confident and hard-working freshman in high school. Although she lives in a shelter with her family, she has not allowed that to affect how she acts as a person, how motivated she is, or her grades. She comes to program every day ready to be a role model for the younger youth. Although she is very self-motivated, she has come to Hope House staff to help her understand what it will take to get into college. She has very successfully completed the *Skills for Success* curriculum that the teenage Shining Stars worked on with YWCA staff. She was given the skills of understanding what it takes to apply for jobs and prepare for college. Additionally, she was able to visit both UWM and MATC with Youth Program staff to learn about colleges and universities. There is absolutely no doubt that she will succeed in all that she does.

*\*Name changed for privacy.*