

## *Stories of Success*

### **Joyce Hopson**

At 16, Joyce Hopson married and left school to support her new family. In 2009, Joyce completed the GED program at SDC - making the program's Honor Roll and having perfect attendance. Joyce plans on attending college and working towards a PhD in theology. Joyce's husband, in attendance at the graduation ceremony, expressed his profound pride in Joyce's efforts.

### **William Sanchez, Sr.**

William Sanchez, Sr. dropped out of high school at the age of 17 to join the workforce and support his family. The married father of three was recently laid off from his long-time job and used the GED/HSED Program to earn his GED in 2010. William plans on joining his son in a family business while working towards a college degree.



*"It is never too late, it's always in your hands, and you can always dream as high as the sky."*

*—Dr. Sandra Jones, Keynote Speaker at SDC's 2010 GED Graduation Ceremony.*

## **Education & Training Programs**

The SDC's Education & Training Programming provides Milwaukee County residents with the academic, employment, and financial skills necessary to move toward self-sufficiency. Trained instructors provide an invaluable service to the community by creating pathways to employment for under-skilled residents. Specific programs include,

- ✓ **Basic Skills:** Serving adults with academic skills below grade level 8;
- ✓ **GED/HSED Program:** Preparing adults to take the General Equivalency Degree Exam or receive a High-School Equivalency Degree;
- ✓ **Financial Literacy:** Working with clients to take control of their finances and increase their assets and credit; and
- ✓ **Boosting Employability & Soft Skills Training:** Providing hands-on job training opportunities for adults.



## **Meeting a Community Need**

One of the largest unmet needs in Milwaukee County is the mismatch between the skills demanded by a 21<sup>st</sup> Century economy and the skills possessed by many low-income residents.

According to the SDC's 2010 CSBG Needs Assessment, 87% & 85% of survey respondents think that addressing employment and education are important in reducing poverty in Milwaukee.

To develop and maintain a thriving economy, educational pathways must be formed to provide hardworking adults with the opportunities to succeed. The SDC's Education & Training Programs provide an option for low-income residents and working adults seeking to improve their skills and become thriving and self-sufficient. The programs meet a fundamental community need by offering a cost-effective and proven curriculum.

## Program Results

*In 2010, Education & Training Programs Served 534 Individuals.*

- ✓ Adults who participate in Basic Skills and Adult Education programs are better prepared for further career development and/or post-secondary education.
- ✓ Adult learners are exposed to self-instruction and methodologies to help them learn and gain new skills.
- ✓ Adults who participate in Education & Training programming are able to learn technical skills that make them more competitive in the workplace.



## Program Benefits

The SDC's Education & Training Programs produce a number of individual and community benefits. These benefits include,

- ✓ Having a GED increases household earnings and decreases poverty over a sustained period of time - most notably for lower-skilled recipients;
- ✓ These programs create pathways to even higher levels of education, which would not otherwise be possible;
- ✓ SDC's financial literacy classes provide a cost-effective method for building the assets within low-income families using existing resources;
- ✓ On-the-job "soft skills" training addresses one of the biggest barriers to employment and self-sustainability for some workers, which is easily overcome with the opportunities and support provided by the Boosting Employability & Soft Skills Training Program.

## Contact Information

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