

Youth & Families

The Youth & Family Development Programs serve eligible participants from Milwaukee County who exhibit any of the following risk factors: (a) High risk behavior; (b) Weak links to conventional society; (c) Low academic achievement; (d) Low potential for economic success in job market; and/or (e) Lack of positive after-school activities.



Youth & Family Development Programs

The Youth & Family Development Program provides case management and court advocacy to at-risk youth and families who reside in Milwaukee County. The program promotes gang prevention and seeks to stop alcohol and drug abuse by providing education, employment, recreation, support, and opportunities to youth ages 8-19.

The Creating Lasting Family Connections Program is a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration recognized research-based model program curriculum that supports parents and reinforces family unity. The Creating Lasting Family Connections curriculum targets youth and parents and is designed to help build proactive skill development to help youth avoid the use of substances, resist negative peer pressure, and develop strong social skills.

The Community Service Alternatives & Youth Restorative Justice Program provides court advocacy services for older at-risk youthful offenders (17-19) who receive charges per the District Attorney's office and are eligible for deferred prosecution agreements, which may include municipal citations. Clients are monitored and access services via a case management model. This approach aims to enhance access to care and improve the continuity and efficiency of services.

Meeting a Community Need

In a telephone survey of Milwaukee County residents, 80% of respondents thought that family/relationship issues were important to address in reducing poverty. Seventy-two percent of respondents thought that not enough was being done about family/relationship issues.

In the same survey, 93% of respondents thought that unhealthy family environments are likely to be a barrier that keeps people in poverty.

In terms of solutions for reducing poverty, one in five (21%) respondents gave one or more responses related to family and relationship issues as a means to reducing poverty. The most frequently reported action to reduce poverty was to improve parenting skills and child management.



Testimonials

“The program has given me tools that I can use not only in my present time but also in my future so that one day I can show others how to build something new in our community. Not only have I learned to use power tools and read blue prints; I have also learned how to be on time and I was shown how you can become something greater in life.”

- Marcus, Youth & Family Development Program Youth

“I’m truly looking forward to working with SDC any way possible in the near future and truly believe in what they stand for. I really felt like I was finally able to give back to my community.”

- James Barnes, Owner JR Barnes Construction & Program Volunteer



The Youth & Family Development Program Youth Advisory Board organizes an annual long distance college tour (pictured above) and developed the art therapy mural project (pictured on right).

Results

In 2010, Youth & Family Development Programs Served 1,742 Individuals.

- ✓ At-risk youth participating in Youth & Family Development programming gained better capacity to develop into responsible adults.
- ✓ Parents of at-risk youth participating in Youth & Family Development programming gained important tools to become more involved in their children’s lives.
- ✓ Youth involved in the juvenile justice system that participated in Youth & Family Development programming had a greatly reduced rate of re-entry into the justice system.



Contact Information

Priscilla Wallace

906-2711

pwallace@cr-sdc.org