Washington D.C. Chapter Education in General

Reading and Literacy

Basic Needs

Student Success Program Self Esteem Building

**Timing, duration, frequency of program**

Student Success encompasses four programs: School Counseling, Volunteer Tutoring, Book Bunch Early Literacy and Adopt a School. All of these have different schedules – School Counseling take places September through June 5 days a week at 5 partner schools. Book Bunch takes place 3-4 times a year on Saturdays at the Merrick Center 10 am-12 noon and 3-4 times a year at Family Place (layette partner) Wednesday mornings from 10-am-12 noon. Adopt a School activities are guild based and vary widely from going into schools and volunteering for activities, providing resource support and sponsoring material assistance drives to benefit the students.

**Fiscal Information**

Budgeted expense total for program last year: $527,000

Value of in-kind donations (estimated total): $40,000

**Partnerships**

Counseling partners – St. Anthony’s, St. Augustine, Washington School for Girls (two campuses), Don Bosco Cristo Rey, Sacred Heart. Tutoring partners: Sacred Heart, San Miguel, Washington Jesuit Academy, Washington School for Girls, St. Anthony’s. Book Bunch partners- Merrick Center, Family Place.

What role does your partner(s) have in the program? Refer clients, coordinate services, provide ample facilities to provide services.

**Clients**

Number of children/families served your last fiscal year: 1260

Age range of clients served: 6months to 18 years

**Volunteers**

How many volunteers participate in this program (planning and working): 125

What roles do the volunteers have in this program? Committee work to monitor student success programs and new initiatives as well as plan annual Book and Baby Fair (combined layette and student success effort). In addition, volunteers work as tutors and facilitate Book Bunch early literacy sessions. Finally, volunteers work with their guilds to determine levels of volunteer and resource support for their adopted schools.

As stated earlier, the Student Success Program is the umbrella program covering four initiatives: School Counseling, Tutoring, Book Bunch Early Literacy, and Adopt a School. Each of these efforts has its own staff and volunteers in place and has its own operations and goals.

**School Counseling Program** – started in 1982, the School Counseling Program provides mental health services to under resourced Catholic schools. The social workers are all licensed and hired by the Christ Child Society DC. CCS provides full time social work services in 5 partner schools (see partnership question). The Christ Child society pays the social workers and receives a contribution from the Archdiocese of Washington and the partner schools, covering a little less than a 1/3 of the cost to run the program. CCS provides individual and group counseling, workshops, crisis intervention, referrals, staff and administrator consultations and family support. The program operates September to June for four of the schools and July – June for one.

**Tutoring** –in its 10th year, the Christ Child society tutors provide academic support to students in partner schools. The focus is primarily in reading –decoding- but they also have tutors individually working in other subject areas such as math, test prep, and science. The reading tutors are all trained in the Phonics Boost and Blast Foundations curricula, developed by Really Great Reading. Schools refer potential students who are then assessed to determine if they need decoding instruction. All students who participate in the program are also given a posttest assessment. Most of the students are in the kindergarten to 4th grades. They average between 97-100% of students showing improvement in their reading and decoding, based on post testing each year. . All tutoring is 1-1 and each school has a volunteer site coordinator who is the liaison with their partner school.

**Book Bunch** – started approximately 7 years ago, the Book Bunch provides books and literacy-rich experiences to young children and their families. Originally developed to address toddlers and pre-school children only, the Book Bunch has now expanded to work with students up to 10 years old. CCS also involves the families and model positive interactions with books and reading so as to encourage parents to read and explore books with their children. They provide this story and activity time at the Merrick Center with families from the Washington Highlands Community (the same community where Girls on the Rise live) and at the Family Place which is a bilingual charter school for adults and is also one of their layette partner agencies. Book Bunch (and our layette program) culminate with an Annual Fair where they distribute approximately 1500-2000 books and children’s clothing, equipment, and toys. The Fair is held at the Merrick Center and all of the layette agencies, partner schools and individual layette recipients are invited, along with the residents of the community in and around the Merrick Center. In addition to distributing materials and books, they provide a more “fluid” Book Bunch where kids can join to look at their new found treasures and participate in story time, individual reading, crafts and activities – and snacks of course! They have approximately 50 families and numerous day care representatives, and volunteers from local churches attend to get materials they need for their families in need.

**Adopt a School** – in the 80’s when CCS closed the Institute and started providing school-based counseling services, the Adopt a School program was developed as a way for volunteers to still work with students in a school setting. Six of the guilds have adopted schools where they provide resources, books, Christmas gifts, and supplies and volunteer to help out with activities and field trips. They share ideas as to how the different guilds support their adopted schools at the Guild Council and Student Success Committee meetings. They are also working on adding a Guild Portal to the chapter web site.