



Education/Youth Development Programs

Goal: All children are well educated and equipped to become productive citizens

Indicators: Students advance successfully from grade to grade and have access to higher education.

Program Highlights

Core Components of the Education and Youth Development Programs are:

- ⇒ **Read and Rise Early Literacy Program** - promotes reading and distributes free books to kids and their families
- ⇒ **In-School Mentoring Program** - supports at-risk students to stay in school and graduate from high school
- ⇒ **The Parental Involvement Project** - helps parents to know how to work with the schools to support their children
- ⇒ **The College-Bound/College Tour Project** - creates access to higher education through college prep and college tour
- ⇒ **Urban Youth Adventure Challenge** - nature education that teaches anger management, social skills, team work and sound decision making.

Key Priority Areas:

- ⇒ **Early Literacy** – helping children to read at grade level by the 4th grade by 1) providing books to low-income children, 2) training volunteer reading tutors to work with the children, and 3) assisting parents to create a home environment that promotes a love of reading. Program distributed 5,200 books in 2006.
- ⇒ **Parental Involvement** – through this program parents learn how to interact with the school system. We also provide them with the Read and Rise Parent Guide, which informs parents what their children's ability should be at each grade level. Issues addressed include absenteeism, how to supervise homework, and how to create quiet reading time in the home. Over 2,000 Parental Guides were distributed in 2006.
- ⇒ **High School to College Transition** - includes 1) early college awareness for students, 2) academic support to help students take classes such as Elementary Algebra in the 8th or 9th grade, 3) college prep, which includes preparation for college admission tests, and 4) college tours.

Major Challenges:

- ⇒ **Mentor Recruitment** - most of our mentors are older, retired persons. Some are not able to continue to volunteer because of health challenges. We are having difficulty recruiting young professionals.
- ⇒ **Funding** - funding for college tour and parental involvement workshops are not sure.