

YGCIC

YOUTH GUIDANCE CENTER IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

A word about the youth we serve

The majority of youth with whom we work are often discouraged by the circumstances in their lives and disenfranchised by institutions. Youth respond to the staff and programs at YGCIC because we support them in their efforts to improve and grow, because we hold them to standards that empower them to begin to take control of their lives, and because we respect them. Please see a sample of quotes from participants at the conclusion of this summary.

Early Morning Study Academy (GED PLUS)

In collaboration with the San Francisco Unified School District, the SF Juvenile Probation Department, Each One Reach One, and AmeriCorps, YGCIC engages approximately 100 youth per year in classes designed to elevate their scholastic abilities, teach strategies for taking tests, and offer a structured environment in which to study the required material. GED PLUS has the highest success rate in the City and County of San Francisco. Pre-employment and job readiness skills are integrated into the fabric of the classes. Computer literacy and pre-employment/job readiness skills are taught in the afternoon after GED classes. A July 2009 grant from the Office of Economic and Workforce Development also funds a concerted effort for youth detained in the Juvenile Justice Center who may start their GED process while detained and transition to the GED PLUS upon release. This effort includes structured transitions to higher education and vocational options.

2008-09 Statistics:

- 48 received their GED (highest number of any and all SFUSD County Community Day schools, and approximately 75% of SFUSD GED graduates this year)
- 120 Referrals, 108 eligible
- Approx 35 students in classes at any one time
- 51% African American, 25% Latino, 10% Asian, 68% Male
- Students predominantly from Bay View HP, Mission, and Western Addition

Best Practices:

Holistic approach to counseling with constant feedback and support by a counselor and? a supervisor devoted to the students—who know first-hand the roadblocks of the students' lives. Fast Passes given, test fees paid, transportation to and from testing, positive reinforcement for successes, and consequences for problems. Highest scores on official tests rewarded with cash and laptops.

Beautification Team Express (Community Service)

This is a service-learning project that offers training in life skills and soft skills through community service. Approximately 150 youth annually are placed in this program that has youth involved in community beautification projects every Saturday for an average 20-hour commitment. This is a service-learning program that offers participants an enriched learning experience as well as civic engagement. Referrals come from Traffic Court and Probation Officers.

2008-09 Statistics

- 130 referrals
- 72% Male, 39% Latino, 28% African American, 4% Asian
- Predominantly from Bay View/Hunters Point, Mission, and Western Addition

New Directions Employment Program (NDEP)

YGCIC is the intermediary for an innovative year-around employment program sponsored by the San Francisco Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families. As the intermediary, YGCIC works with Deputy Probation Officers to recruit for and orient youth to this program, and to assist in the application process. Follow-up and support during the program are also provided for the youth and the agencies in which they are placed (through MYEEP). Youth are drawn from (and/or referred to) the other YGCIC programs as needed to complete a holistic approach to supporting their needs. In collaboration with the Occupational Therapy Training Program, YGCIC offers career assessment, soft skills training, and financial literacy instruction to those who need it the most, prior to application submittal.

2008-09 Statistics:

- YGCIC received 400 referrals, processed 240 applications, and made over 2,000 youth/parent/PO follow-up contacts
- Recidivism for youth engaged in the program is **LESS than 4%** (compared to 30% to 40% for all youth probationers)
- Of the youth who have gone through our pre-employment training, only 17% have been dropped
- Youth receive SF Minimum Wage (currently \$9.36/hr) with opportunities for promotion
- 46% African American, 27% Latino, 14% Asian, 73% Male
- Participants predominantly from Bay View Hunters Point (24%), Mission (23%), Western Addition (15%), and Visitation Valley (11%)
- 22% are 14/15 years of age; 54% are 16/17; and 22% are 18

Best Practices:

- Yearlong program offers tutoring, career/education planning, and work experience
- YGCIC empowers youth to see the importance of this opportunity for their future
- YGCIC assists in the process of getting right-to-work documents (many youth do not have these critical first steps)
- YGCIC reaches out to youth in schools, Juvenile Hall, and communities while connecting youth with other services as needed

Collaborative Links

Our programs have structured links to a variety of services including the following:

Juvenile Probation Officers and Judges

SF Unified School District

SF City College

SF State University

Each One Reach One

Occupational Therapy and Training Program (vocational assessments and intensive mental health case management)

Youth Justice Institute

SF Department of Children Youth and Their Families

Youth Employment Coalition

AmeriCorps

Various CBO's which are part of the network of Alternatives to Detention

Sample of quotes from Participants:

"So far the main thing I learned is that I am in control of my life and my decisions. They teach me things like Knowledge is Power." Kevin

"I learned to keep myself positive and out of the negative." Steven

"It will help me keep myself motivated and more careful about the decisions I make." Tyreese

"I learned that control is one of the most important things you need to get by in life. If you have no control then other people can control you." Antoine

"It will help me to accomplish my goals." Monisha

"I learned to use my skills that I have and to value the opportunity that I get." Sergio

"I learned that the first setback you get isn't the end of it. Sometimes it's just a new beginning." Marvin

"I learned to always do your best because you can use that for bettering yourself." Mayte

"I learned that you have the power to control yourself, to say no to bad influences like friends and the media and don't let bad habits take a hold of you." Gerogette

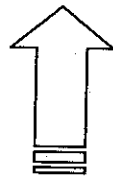
" I learned how to take responsibility for your action." SS

" Self discipline helps you make good choices and in your life to get your goals." Tauveres

" It will help me stay focused on my tasks." Audie

[Updated July 2009]

Youth Guidance Center Improvement
Committee (YGCIC) Educational and
Vocational Programs



Services to which we connect
the youth upon
graduation/completion

- Post-Secondary Education
- Project Rebound
- EOP
- Scholarships
- YEOP/EDD for a job
- MYEEP/Workrecreation/Jobs For Youth/Youth Works
- Pre Apprenticeships & Apprenticeships
- Internships (Paid/Unpaid)
- Youth Justice Institute (Justice initiative for young women)
- Wells Fargo Bank for financial counseling and accounts
- Private sector jobs
- Other services as required

EMSA = Early Morning Study Academy (GED); **NDEP** = New Directions Employment Program;
FOCUS = Life Skills/Financial Literacy/Computer/Educational Plan; **BT Express** = Service Learning; **Juvy Java** = Breakfast/Lunch Café in JPD Administrative Building