

Program Narrative TPP Program Waterbury

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For the fiscal year 2015-2016, CJR has served 73 youth at its Waterbury site. Females comprised 51% of our total and males were 49%. The majority of the youth were in the 11-13 age range. We have 38 Black youth, 25 Hispanic youth, 2 Caucasian and 8 as others. The others were all bi-racial families. From our Philiber Research Associates report, they noted that we are indeed serving at risk youth. In the summer of 2015, we hired 40 of our 73 youth to work a Summer Job Program. Work groups were broken into the following components: we had a landscaping and horticultural group, a newsletter group, Culinary Arts group, Video Production and Entrepreneurial group. Culinary arts group prepared 80 hot lunches every day. The Landscaping crew planted tomatoes, pepper, squash, herbs and spices which was utilized in the preparation of our daily lunches. Our video production crew prepared a documentary on chronic absenteeism in the City of Waterbury School System. It was aired on our local public access channel. The Entrepreneurial crew raised \$1400 which they handed to the family of one our SAFE participants who died tragically in June 2015.

In our first marking period, there were only several youth who made to Second Honors or First Honors on their report cards. In the second marking period, at least 80% of our youth made it to Second Honors or First Honors on their report card. Staff sought to intervene early if a child was demonstrating problems in a particular academic area or if they were showing behavioral problems in school. Our staffs do attend Pupil Placement Team meetings in the schools whenever one was scheduled for one of our youth.

We did experience some staff turnovers in our program. Our community organizer and one of our part time staff left for better paying opportunities. We did replace our community organizer and are in the process of filling in our part time position. Our program coordinator is leaving us in the first week of July but a replacement has already been hired and will shadow him during his last few days. He is leaving for a better paying position within the agency.

We have had several wonderful speakers who addressed our kids on the following topics, domestic violence, sexting, career exploration and college preparation. We have done college tours to Post University, Yale, University of Massachusetts, Uconn Storrs, Central University. More tours are planned for the summer of 2016. Our youth helped plan and implement a Halloween Party for Foster youth and their families at our gym in Waterbury. We also held a Thanksgiving Dinner for our youth as well as a Christmas party where each youth did receive gifts on behalf of CJR.