

Conceptual Overview

The Greater New Haven Help Alliance, Inc. ProTeen Center

Project Overview

The Greater New Haven Help Alliance, Inc. was formed in December of 2008 in order to take both the poverty relief and youth development efforts of a local church to a higher and non-sectarian level. We are building upon the established foundation of a boys mentoring program, girls youth mentoring program and a summer work/study program that currently serve approximately 100 Grade School through High School age youth. The center increases capacity to 300 young people plus their families.

We are building out 9,000 feet of obtained warehouse space to accommodate 1) a performance area with state of the art electronics (including a media production studio), 2) a dance/martial arts studio, 3) fully equipped fitness center, 4) Library/media center, 5) game room/lounge/snack area, and 6) classrooms for tutoring and adult (parent) instruction.

The after-school portion of the program is designed to draw middle-school age children to safe, positive space during the most dangerous period of the day, 3-6 P.M. After these hours during the week, during evenings and week-ends the facility will be used for programming for older youth and parents.

The thrust of this proposal is to find support to fund the build-out and related equipping of the ProTeen Center.

Why the ProTeen Center?

While New Haven does have a few effective and well-established youth serving organizations in place, it is apparent that there remain entirely too many underserved, at-risk children who are falling through the cracks. One of the benefits of our location is that we are not on gang occupied turf and can therefore draw young people from all over the city, accomplishing what no "intra-turf" facility can. We want to help our young people to effectively re-define the term "community" by creating one that is bigger than their current experiential definition.

Our intention is fourfold:

1. Increase the overall youth serving capacity within the city of New Haven to at-risk children.
2. Provide a much needed first-class, safe, positive environment for academic, family, and social support, supplementation and development.
3. Provide other, established youth serving organizations with a state-of-the-art venue for their activities. Too many of these organizations operate (albeit successfully) within a limiting vacuum.
4. Provide a collaborative model worthy of export to other communities.

Viability of the Project

In addition to the verbal support expressed by our Mayor, Congresswoman, and Board of Alders (all of which will hopefully translate to subsequent dollars), together with the support of one local church (Church on the Rock-New Haven) a critical mass toward success has been amassed. The church will have \$150,000 invested in the project by the middle of the year and has determined to borrow to compensate for any project shortfall, thereby ensuring the project's viability. The ProTeen center will be open for September of 2010, in time for the next school year. Church on the Rock is also committed to an annual line item of \$50,000 toward the sustainability of the project. A professional, committed, and well-seasoned corporate board (lawyer, CPA, bank president, two successful entrepreneurs, a pastor, and a child psychiatrist), has the absolute wherewithal to keep the organization effective and financially thriving. Each board member is accustomed to success, knows what it takes, and has committed sacrificially to the process.

Financial Scope of Project

The renovation of the 9,000 SF space alone will cost \$750,000. Outfitting the space with computers, classroom apparatus, fitness equipment, media production equipment, specialty lighting and audio/video equipment for the performance area, furniture, books, academic media, etc., will add another \$200,000. The City of New Haven and its surrounding communities need the ProTeen Center. I thank you in advance for your consideration of support.

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