

# Prosperity Initiative

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# Prosperity Initiative

INSPIRING SUCCESS FROM CRADLE TO CAREER

## Prosperity Initiative:

The John T. Vucurevich Foundation seeks to invest in community programs and partners that align collaborative approaches to move people who aspire to break the cycle of poverty through a continuum of success from cradle to career. Together we can become a poverty informed community working from a common framework to help people achieve prosperity.



In partnership with



# WHAT IS POVERTY??

“The state or condition of having little or no money, goods, or means of support” (*Webster dictionary*)

Is poverty only about a lack of money??

OR

Is there more to it.....Is it much deeper and more complex than ONLY a lack of money....

“We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty.” (*Mother Teresa*)

# Prosperity Initiative - History

- Started in 2014 by Sandy Diegel, CEO of the John T. Vucurevich Foundation.
- Poverty Expert, Donna Beagle, brought a new way to look at the issue of poverty in our community
  - September 2014- 50 community members trained as Poverty Coaches
  - Coaches began meeting monthly November 2014
- Catholic Social Services in partnership with Love INC are the anchor agencies for the Prosperity Initiative

# Components of the Prosperity Initiative

## Community Education

- ❖ Poverty Presentations
- ❖ Prosperity Coaches Meetings

## Pathway to Prosperity

- ❖ Working with Families
- ❖ Volunteer Mentors



**COMMUNITY COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS ARE KEY IN ALL AREAS OF THE INITIATIVE!**

# Community Education

## Poverty Presentations “Poverty 101”

- Goal is to increase poverty awareness and “bust” stereotypes
- “Poverty 101” trainings to date
  - Leadership Rapid City class of 2015
  - School of Mines 3 part poverty series
  - WDT Sociology students
  - Local social clubs
  - Community agencies

# Prosperity Coaches

- Key to the Success of the Prosperity Initiative
- Poverty Expert at their agency and point of contact for others in Coaches Network.
- Attended Coaches Training
  - 50 attended 2014 training by Donna Beagle
  - 54 attended October 2015 training by Prosperity Initiative
- Over 108 people from 54 agencies are part of Coaches Network
- Monthly Prosperity Coaches Network Meetings
  - On average 1/3 of the Coaches attend monthly
  - Opportunity for Poverty Education and Networking

# Pathway to Prosperity Program

- Goal is to support our neighbors, battling poverty, who want to achieve a skill, trade or an education so that they can earn a livable wage for their family.
- Receive direct services from CSS and Community Partners.
- Connection to trained volunteer Mentors from our community.



# Pathway to Prosperity Members

- April 16 2016 referrals began from Community Partners
- Goal for Pilot is 10 members
- 4 members currently
  - 1 Beaded Jewelry Business
  - 1 Cosmetology School
  - 1 Associates Degree from Oglala Lakota College
  - 1 GED program at Career Learning Center

ALL current members are working to break cycle of generational poverty for their families!

# MENTORS

- Volunteer Mentors are connected with an individual working towards a skill, trade or education.
- Mentors receive training from CSS and Love INC
  - First training was April 30 2016
  - 16 in attendance
    - 8 current Love INC volunteers
    - 8 new volunteers
    - 3 additional volunteers signed up for next training
- Mentors offer encouragement, support, guidance , and connection to others in the community.



# WAYS TO BECOME INVOLVED!

- List and Serve E-mail list
- Mentor
- Poverty Education at your agency
- Skill/Service Share
- Donate to the initiative or sponsor  
“Milestone Achievements”
- Employment opportunities for members
- Spread the word and “bust” stereo-types