

Uplifting Parents Program

Catholic Social Services



Background

- Why the need for a new program?
- CSS Birthparent Services
- Trends in recent years
 - More and more moms with multiple children
 - Cannot provide for one more child
- This caused us to call a gathering of similar agencies to consider what could be done.

Women in Poverty

- The poverty gap in the U.S. between men and women is wider than any other developed country.
- Poverty rates are similar between men and women throughout childhood but increase as women enter child bearing years and continue throughout the elderly years
- Women are more likely to bear the cost of raising children
- Pregnancies often interfere with women's education and work opportunities

Single Parents Nationally

- 85% of single parents are women
- “Among all children living only with their mother, nearly half – or 45% – live below the poverty line, the Census Bureau said. For those living with just the father, about 21% lived in poverty. By comparison, only about 13% of children with both parents present in the household live below the poverty line.” (Wall Street Journal Nov 25, 2013)
 - Poverty rate:
 - Family of 3 < \$18,530
 - Family of 8 < \$37,630
- 46% of single moms have two or more children
- In SD, 37.4% of births are to single parents As unwed births have gone up the past decade, the marriage rate since 2000 has tumbled 17 percent.

Single Parents Nationally

- In SD, 76.3% of families living more than 200% below the poverty line are working (The Working Poor Families Project 2011).
- 40.9 percent of single mother families live in poverty (Vital Statistics)
- The employment rate for US single mothers during the mid to late 2000's was 73% (The Nation 2012)

What does this mean?

- Single moms are disadvantaged economically
- Expectation
 - Single moms are full-time caregivers and heads of household.
- For many women, once they start to have children they fall behind financially and can not catch up
- Little support or mentors outside of nuclear family
- Public Assistance
 - Enough to survive but not enough to break the cycle of poverty
- Generational Poverty
- Education is the surest way to break the cycle of poverty

UPLIFTING PARENTS PROGRAM BEING LAUNCHED!!

- Mission Statement
 - *“To uplift parents to achieve success in providing stability and greater opportunity for their family”*
- GOAL:
 - *To help break the cycle of poverty for single parents and their children by assisting them in obtaining skills through education or job trainings*

Coalition

- From the community meeting partners started the coalition
 - Cornerstone Apartments & Daycare
 - BBBS Mother Mentor Program
 - BHSU Women in Leadership
 - Bright Start
 - Early Childhood Connections
 - Consumer Credit Counseling
 - Career Learning Center
 - Department of Labor
 - LOVE INC
 - VOA - Mommy's Closet
 - John T. Vucurevich Foundation

Target Group

- Single Parents / Expecting Parents
 - Men & Women
- Have a goal to advance themselves through education, job training, or opening a small business
- Lower Income
- Demonstrate a level of stability
- Motivated!!

Scholarship/Stipend Component

- Will provide some funding source towards their education or job training goals
 - Lump sum towards their program
 - Or monthly stipend
 - Funding is case by case in order to achieve the best fit with the recipient's needs

Requirements of Participants

- Bi-Weekly Mentoring Services
- Financial Counseling & Budgeting Class
- Uplifting Parents Workshop
 - Empowerment & Success
- Parenting Education
 - Common Sense Parenting
 - Bright Start
 - Strengthening Families
 - Early Childhood Connection
 - Responsive Parenting or Love and Logic

Mentoring

- Emotional support & encouragement
- Connecting family with existing community resources
- Anticipate and intercept potential crises
- Strong Focus on:
 - Housing
 - Daycare/Child Enrichment
 - Transportation Needs
- Point/Reward System

Program Variables

- Open Enrollment
- Individualized Goals & Participant outcomes
- Length of Program will vary
 - Range 6-18 months
- Follow-up



- “People from generational poverty endure societal, economic, and personal hardships from the moment they are born. Seeking help, building confidence, and becoming knowledgeable about resources are key elements to their future success”. Donna Beegle

Goals of the Coalition

- To create the net of resources necessary for someone living in daily crisis, to provide them with a foundation in order to rise out of poverty, for themselves and for the generations of children who will follow.

What's Next?

- Pilot Program
 - Accepted applicants April 2014
 - Four participants/twenty applied
- FY 2014-2015
 - 10-12 applicants