



The Missing Piece

Impact Report: Service in the Greater Hartford Community

Executive Summary

The Missing Piece (TMP) Mentoring Agency, a Black-owned organization located in Connecticut, specializes in delivering holistic support and guidance to empower youth and young adults, with a particular emphasis on individuals seeking a second chance. Our agency offers personalized mentoring programs centered around education, restorative justice, and recovery. Key services encompass mentorship, staffing solutions, and consulting services.

Program Results

1. Student Advocacy & Family Engagement (SAFE Program) - Fall 2023 - Spring 2024

Illing Middle School, Manchester, CT

The SAFE Program aims to boost youth participation, promote academic success, and reduce chronic absenteeism by building trusting relationships with families and students. It also seeks to enhance the visibility and impact of school-based family resource centers.

- 24 Middle school (boys & girls) grades 7 - 8
- Behavioral challenges
- Barriers at home, Trauma
- Low-income families

Addressed mental health issues that interfered with students learning, providing realistic tools to cope and manage insecurities.

2. Right Steps Into Entrepreneurship - April 2024 - July 2024

Our Piece of the Pie, Hartford, CT 06105

Right Steps Into Entrepreneurship (RSIE) is an 8-week program designed to guide aspiring entrepreneurs through the fundamentals of business development. Participants will engage in workshops covering ideation, business planning, financial literacy, marketing, and prototyping. The program features expert guest speakers, hands-on activities like personal vision boards and product development, and culminates in a capstone showcase where participants pitch their business ideas and prototypes to a panel of entrepreneurs and community leaders.

- 10 youth (boys and girls), ages 15 - 18
- 90% completed business plans
- 80% completed pitch deck presentations
- 100% created business profiles: LinkedIn, Digital Business Cards

3. Growing Empowered and Noble Students (GENTS) September 2024 - Now

Covenant Preparatory School, Hartford, CT 06112

GENTS (Growing Empowered, Noble, and Trustworthy Students) is a 10-week leadership and mentorship program for 6th-8th grade boys, with a capacity of 12 students. Through in-school case management and after-school sessions, GENTS prepares boys to become gentlemen by fostering positive self-identity, healthy relationships, and leadership skills. The program focuses on developing emotional awareness, communication, and empathy, while encouraging students to embrace healthy masculinity and mentor others.

Event Summaries

1. CareerQuest Camp 2024

- July 1- Aug 1
- Pathways Academy of Technology and Design
- 12 interns, ages 13 - 18

Key Highlights:

- Hosted workshops on career readiness and professional skills development. ●
- Guest speakers from industry partners such as [Company/Organization Names]. ●
- Interactive sessions, including hands-on digital training and leadership exercises.

Outcomes: DRAFT: CQC '24 Data Analysis

Testimonials

From Program Participants:

- *"Right Steps Into Entrepreneurship helped me gain confidence in my creativity. I'm now working to help pay for some of my start-up expenses for my clothing brand."* – Trench Bunny, Participant;s Business Name
- *"The CareerQuest Camp opened my eyes to new opportunities. I learned Photoshop and now use it in my high school projects."* – Sanai Jackson, Youth Intern

From Community Partners:

1. *"The Missing Piece has been a pivotal partner in addressing youth unemployment in the Greater Hartford area. We're proud to collaborate on initiatives that provide second chances and new opportunities."* – Nekita Waller, Program Director-Teen Tech Center
YMCA OF GREATER HARTFORD

Community Partnerships

1. Partnership with Best Buy Teen Tech Lab, YMCA

Type of Partnership:

The partnership with Best Buy Teen Tech Lab at the YMCA served as a critical support system for CareerQuest Camp. They provided access to advanced technology equipment and offered their facilities as a secondary hub for camp activities. This collaboration ensured that the camp had the necessary resources to facilitate digital training, technology workshops, and hands-on learning experiences. Additionally, 12 interns were selected from the partnership to work with camp participants, enhancing mentorship and leadership development.

Key Initiatives:

1. Technology & Digital Literacy Workshops:
Best Buy Teen Tech Lab hosted and co-facilitated workshops that focused on teaching students essential digital skills, such as video editing, graphic design, coding, and robotics.
2. Youth Mentorship & Internship Program:

Through this partnership, 12 interns from Best Buy Teen Tech Lab provided one-on-one

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mentorship to the camp participants, helping them apply their newly acquired skills in real-world scenarios.

3. Resource Sharing:

The partnership enabled shared resources between CareerQuest and Best Buy Teen Tech Lab, ensuring students had access to state-of-the-art technology and software, making the learning experience more engaging and effective.

Impact:

The collaboration significantly enhanced the quality of the CareerQuest Camp by providing advanced technology tools that enabled participants to develop critical 21st-century skills. The 12 interns contributed valuable mentorship, which not only improved the learning outcomes for the youth but also created a positive ripple effect as the interns themselves gained leadership experience. This partnership also contributed to building a stronger connection between local youth and the YMCA, promoting ongoing community engagement and long-term skill development. As a result, participants left the camp with increased confidence in their technological abilities, a stronger digital footprint, and improved prospects for future career opportunities.

2. Partnership with Hartford Yard Goats Stadium

Type of Partnership:

The partnership with Hartford Yard Goats Stadium focused on providing CareerQuest Camp participants with hands-on experience in culinary arts and customer service. As part of the collaboration, the stadium's professional kitchen and concession facilities were used for culinary workshops, where participants learned food preparation, kitchen safety, and hospitality skills. Additionally, students were trained in customer service, gaining exposure to real-world scenarios through events held at the stadium. This partnership offered a comprehensive experience, merging theoretical lessons with practical applications in a professional sports venue setting.

Key Initiatives:

1. Real-World Experience:

CareerQuest participants were able to shadow staff during Hartford Yard Goats games, engaging with fans, serving food, and managing event logistics, giving them first-hand experience in fast-paced customer service environments.

Impact:

This partnership provided participants with valuable skills that are directly transferable to careers in hospitality and culinary arts. Over the course of the program, students gained both the technical skills required for food service and the soft skills necessary for successful customer interactions.

3. Partnership with Town of East Hartford, Youth Services

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Type of Partnership:

The Town of East Hartford, Youth Services played a crucial role in supporting the CareerQuest Camp by providing intern placements, transportation, and meals for participants. Through this collaboration, the town's youth services department ensured that interns were matched with appropriate job placements within local businesses, aligning with their career goals. They also provided reliable transportation to and from program sites, ensuring accessibility for all participants, and offered meals during training days to support the well-being of the students.

Key Initiatives:

1. Intern Placement Program:

Through the partnership, interns were placed in various local businesses and municipal departments that aligned with their career aspirations. These placements allowed interns to gain valuable hands-on experience in fields such as business administration, community services, and technology.

2. Transportation Support:

The Town of East Hartford provided transportation services for the interns, ensuring that students from across the Greater Hartford area had consistent access to the program and their placements.

3. Food Assistance:

The town also provided meals for participants during camp sessions and work placements, ensuring that they were well-nourished and able to focus on their learning and job training without financial strain.

Impact:

This partnership significantly enhanced the accessibility and quality of the CareerQuest Camp by removing key barriers to participation—such as transportation and meal access—while providing direct work experience for interns.

• Metrics:

- **12 interns were successfully placed in local businesses and organizations, gaining valuable work experience.**
- **100% of participants reported feeling more prepared for future job opportunities after their internships.**
- **100% of participants were able to complete their internships due to the transportation and food support provided.**

4. Partnership with Soul Bowls, West Hartford

Type of Partnership:

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The partnership with Soul Bowls focused on promoting healthy eating and culinary skills among CareerQuest Camp participants. Soul Bowls collaborated with the camp to offer workshops that educated students about nutrition, meal preparation, and the benefits of healthy eating. They provided ingredients and facilitated cooking demonstrations, allowing participants to create their own nutritious meals while learning essential culinary techniques.

Key Initiatives:

1. Nutritional Education:

The partnership included educational sessions on the nutritional value of different foods, meal planning, and making healthier choices when eating out or cooking at home.

Impact:

This partnership had a profound impact on the participants' understanding of nutrition and culinary skills, fostering a lifelong appreciation for healthy living.

5. Partnership with Forge City Works

Type of Partnership:

The partnership with Forge City Works focused on equipping CareerQuest Camp participants with essential culinary skills and professional development. Through this collaboration, Forge City Works offered workshops that covered various topics, including knife skills, the culinary chef's journey, leadership development, and interviewing tips. These educational programs aimed to prepare participants for successful careers in the culinary field and beyond.

Key Initiatives:

1. Knife Skills Workshops:

Participants received hands-on training in fundamental knife skills, emphasizing proper techniques for food preparation. This workshop aimed to build confidence in the kitchen and improve efficiency in food preparation.

2. Culinary Chef's Journey:

A series of sessions led by professional chefs provided insights into the culinary career path, including education, skills needed, and the various opportunities available within the culinary arts. Participants learned about the different roles within a kitchen and the importance of pursuing their passions in the culinary field.

3. Leadership Development:

Forge City Works facilitated discussions on leadership qualities and how to apply them in culinary and workplace settings. This initiative encouraged participants to develop their leadership skills, enhancing their ability to work effectively in teams.

4. Interviewing Tips:

Workshops focused on job readiness, where participants learned essential interviewing

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techniques, resume building, and how to present themselves professionally in culinary settings. This preparation was crucial for their future employment opportunities.

Impact:

The collaboration with Forge City Works had a significant impact on participants' culinary skills and career readiness, empowering them with both technical and soft skills necessary for success.

7. Partnership with Goodwin College

Type of Partnership:

The partnership with Goodwin College focused on providing participants with practical knowledge and hands-on experience in CNC machining and manufacturing. Through this collaboration, Goodwin College offered specialized workshops and training sessions designed to equip students with essential skills needed in the manufacturing industry. The college's facilities and expert instructors provided a valuable educational experience that aligned with the participants' career interests.

Key Initiatives:

1. CNC Machining Workshops:

Participants engaged in hands-on workshops that introduced them to CNC (Computer Numerical Control) machining, including programming, setup, and operation of CNC machines. These sessions provided invaluable practical skills and technical knowledge, essential for careers in manufacturing.

2. Fundamentals:

Goodwin College facilitated sessions on the fundamentals of manufacturing processes, including quality control, safety standards, and workflow management. This initiative helped participants understand the broader context of manufacturing and its role in the economy.

3. Career Pathways in Manufacturing:

The partnership included discussions on various career pathways within the manufacturing sector, allowing participants to explore potential job opportunities and the skills required for success. Guest speakers from the industry shared their career journeys, providing inspiration and insights.

Impact:

The collaboration with Goodwin College had a significant impact on participants' knowledge and skills in CNC machining and manufacturing, preparing them for future careers in this vital industry.

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8. Partnership with Family Resource Center, Manchester Public Schools**Type of Partnership:**

The partnership with the Family Resource Center focused on enhancing student advocacy and family engagement through the SAFE (Student Advocacy and Family Engagement) Program at Illing Middle School. This collaboration aimed to bridge the gap between families and educational resources, providing support and guidance to both students and their families. Shared activities included workshops, resource fairs, and family engagement events designed to foster a supportive community around student learning.

Key Initiatives: Highlight success stories or ongoing collaborations.**1. Student Advocacy Training:**

Training sessions for students focused on self-advocacy skills, empowering them to communicate their needs effectively and engage in their education actively. This initiative aimed to create a culture of advocacy among students, encouraging them to take ownership of their educational journeys.

Impact:

The partnership with the Family Resource Center significantly enhanced the support available to students and families, leading to improved engagement and academic outcomes.

• Metrics:

- **24 families participated in family engagement workshops, with 95% reporting increased confidence in supporting their children's education.**
- **80% of students who underwent advocacy training reported feeling more empowered to communicate their needs in the school environment.**

9. Partnership with Bro. Carl Institute, Hartford, CT

Type of Partnership:

The partnership with the Bro. Carl Institute focuses on serving participants impacted by the justice system and engaging in prevention planning for the community. Through this collaboration, the Bro. Carl Institute provides educational programs, support services, and community outreach initiatives aimed at fostering rehabilitation and preventing recidivism among

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at-risk individuals. Shared activities include workshops, mentorship programs, and community forums addressing the needs of those affected by the justice system.

Key Initiatives:

1. Rehabilitation and Support Programs:

The Bro. Carl Institute offers rehabilitation programs that provide counseling, life skills training, and support services for individuals affected by the justice system. These programs aim to equip participants with the tools necessary to reintegrate successfully into society.

2. Prevention Planning Workshops:

Collaborative workshops focused on community prevention strategies were organized to address the root causes of crime and recidivism. These sessions engage community members in discussions about prevention efforts and resources available for at-risk populations.

3. Mentorship and Advocacy:

The partnership includes a mentorship program that pairs participants with community leaders and advocates who provide guidance and support. This initiative fosters positive relationships and helps participants navigate challenges related to their past experiences with the justice system.

Impact:

The partnership with the Bro. Carl Institute has made a significant impact on the lives of participants, promoting rehabilitation, community engagement, and prevention efforts.

9. Partnership with Our Piece of the Pie

Type of Partnership:

The partnership with Our Piece of the Pie focuses on introducing entrepreneurship concepts to participants through the **Right Steps** program. This collaboration involves shared activities such as workshops, mentorship sessions, and entrepreneurial projects designed to empower youth with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in business. Our Piece of the Pie brings expertise in youth development and entrepreneurship, enhancing the overall impact of the program.

Key Initiatives:

1. Entrepreneurship Workshops:

The partnership includes a series of workshops that cover fundamental topics in entrepreneurship, such as business planning, marketing strategies, financial literacy, and customer service skills. These sessions provide participants with practical knowledge to help them launch and manage their own businesses.

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2. Program:

Participants have the opportunity to connect with experienced entrepreneurs and mentors who offer guidance, advice, and support as they develop their business ideas. This initiative fosters a supportive environment that encourages innovation and personal growth.

Impact:

The partnership with Our Piece of the Pie has significantly empowered participants by providing them with essential entrepreneurial skills and support, fostering a culture of innovation and self-reliance.

- **Metrics:**

- **10 participants completed the entrepreneurship workshops, with 90% reporting increased confidence in their ability to start and run a business.**

Looking Ahead

Our future initiatives, goals, and strategies to further expand our service within the Greater Hartford community.

- **I Am A LADY (Learning and Developing Youth) at Jumoke**
- **NextGen Career Summit in Glastonbury**
- **Partnership with the Hartford PAL**
- **Partnership with VRSims**
- **Train 2- 4 mentors, Dec 2023 - Feb 2024**
- **Increase participants by 30%, Now - Dec**

Appendix

