



Case Study

Responsible Fatherhood

Organization: Pathway Inc. Toledo Ohio

URL: <http://pathwaytoledo.org/programs/brothers-united/>

Program Name: Brothers United

Funding: Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families

What problem is being solved? Lack of father engagement in the overall lives of their children.

Curricula used: Love Notes v2.1 (Classic)

Curricula benefits: Tremendous results for youth age 16-19. Improves co-parents relationships and access to children.

Target Audience: Primarily African American young fathers ages 16-19

Audience Demographics: Out of school, drug or alcohol issues, mental health issues, African-American living in the 10 worst neighborhoods in Toledo, Ohio

Class size: Small groups of 5-6 young men. Also 1-on-1 sessions.

Program setting: Community organizations- churches or community centers and homes.

Length of instruction: Six week cohorts, meeting four days a week, three hours a day for a total of 78 hours of total instruction with content on fatherhood, co-parenting, and workplace skills training. Love Notes comprises 18 hours of instruction.

Instructors: Pathways hires the instructors who are all trained in Love Notes.

Student workbooks: Distributed and collected at each session. Given to each participant at the end of instruction.

Program recruitment:

Street outreach and community partner referrals.

Program retention:

Lots of phone calls, text messages, FB messages, participant assistance. Persistence!

Barrier reduction:

Students receive \$75.00 gift cards at 3 week and 6 week- we serve food daily and special trip to Golden Corral on the last day.

Observable outcomes:

The young dads retain the information that was shared in Love Notes and make it applicable to their current life situations including better employment outcomes, improving their relationships with their co-parent, better understanding of value of relationships, and increased access to their children.

Immediate participation and they learn and grow quickly. The retention on the curriculum is exceptional and our data outcomes are excellent

Challenges:

Recruitment of young fathers in our area and retention after they begin the program

Tips:

Count everything as a success in working with young fathers like their daily commitment to show up, participation in group sessions, time spent with their children and with co-parent. Also, look for attitude, beliefs and behavior changes not only in group but also in interactions with Case Manager and in other interactions.

Allow the curriculum to speak for itself. Let the youth talk and you just listen you will learn so much more!