

JUMP

Juvenile Mentoring Program Junior League of Collin County



JUMP Description

- ▶ JUMP is an initiative of the Junior League of Collin County as a new community Project.
- ▶ JUMP utilizes the trained volunteers of the JLCC for intervention purposes with regards to the at-risk youth of Collin County.
- ▶ The JUMP volunteers work in conjunction with officials at Collin County Juvenile Probation. The JLCC women serve as mentors and conduct monthly training Sessions in a classroom environment with the juveniles at the McKinney Juvenile Facility.



JUMP Description

- ▶ Curriculum has been researched and developed specifically to address issues for at-risk youth such as Media Literacy, Boundary Setting and Building Healthy Relationships, Assertive and Effective Communication, Managing Negative Emotions, and Positive Self Image.
- ▶ The learning materials also entail books, binders, and journals per student, interactive activities and games, and video instruction.
- ▶ The objective of these Sessions is to implement a positive role model in a positive setting for juveniles in the probation system for non-violent, first offense crimes.



Research

- ▶ Prior to establishment of JUMP, no mentor-specific project was in place with Juvenile Probation in Collin County. JLCC volunteers take these first time, non-violent offenders, and offer them an opportunity they would not have otherwise been exposed to.



Research

- ▶ Research into several Junior Leagues across the country revealed that this extensive type of Project does not exist.
- ▶ North Harris County Junior League for example. They work as a facilitator type of service as they send offenders out to various workshops and classes. The key difference with JUMP is the in-house development of the curriculum and course mandates.
- ▶ Marina De La Garza, local attorney and current Junior League of Collin County President worked with Denton County Probation prior to JUMP in an effort to conceptualize a mentor-based program. JUMP as a community project was researched and developed extensively for 2 years.



Research

- ▶ The Plano area ranks as the 3rd fastest growing cities in the nation(The Wall Street Journal, July 2012 issue). The state of Texas has three cities in the top ten fastest growing in the nation. A natural side effect of growth is the effect on criminal activity. Intervention is key!
- ▶ The goal with JUMP is to utilize the trained women of the JLCC and train these juvenile offenders with life skills and tools with the goal of a reduction in recidivism.



Architecture of JUMP

- ▶ The meetings are held in the McKinney Juvenile Justice building, with law enforcement officials on hand. Safety of the Junior league volunteers is paramount, and candidates would be non-violent minor offenders, age 12-15. The program accepts both male and female participants.
- ▶ The JUMP committee consists of 5 members plus a chair, for a total of 6. We also utilize a sustaining-advisor and the oversight of the JLCC President.
- ▶ The classroom accommodates approximately 18 juveniles.



Architecture of JUMP

- ▶ The JLCC volunteers work with officials at Collin County for the list of expected attendees each month. We provide food(such as pizza and beverages) during the meeting. JLCC volunteers organize class materials and present curriculum in rotation.
- ▶ There are 6 monthly curriculum Sessions. We meet once a month on a Thursday night at 6pm for 2 hours. Each juvenile must complete the cycle of Sessions to graduate. A juvenile can join the class cycle at any time and graduate after completing their 6 classes.
- ▶ At the completion off the 6 Sessions, there is a Graduation ceremony and plaque presentation to honor their achievement.



Facility



JUMP Committee



JUMP in Action



JUMP Graduate Comments

- ▶ “That people care and are in it for the better of things” and “that just because people talk that doesn’t mean you have to worry about it”. Also, “learned a lot and not to care about what others think”. Best of all “that I can achieve whatever I want if I put my mind to” it. One said he learned “to be positive and have a good self-image”.
- ▶ “To believe in myself because nobody can change what I am but me” and he would “definitely” recommend the course and the biggie, “teach other kids everything you taught me because it made a difference in my life to know that people actually care what happens to me and what I do with my life.!!!!”





Juvenile Mentoring Program
Established June 2013

