



Hope House of Milwaukee, Inc.

209 West Orchard - P.O. Box 04095
Milwaukee, WI 53204

Ending homelessness and creating healthy communities

SHINING STARS YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM

2021 Annual Report

Children from homeless and lower-income households often experience difficulties in academic competencies and lack the basic social and cultural skills necessary for future success. These children often fall further and further behind their peers academically, socially, and ultimately, economically. For over twenty years, the *Shining Stars Youth Education Program* has provided the youngest guests of Hope House and children from households in the surrounding neighborhoods with an environment which is safe and structured, built on trust and empathy, and staffed by caring adults who offer opportunities that strengthen academics, model positive social skills, and provide an atmosphere in which to practice new skills. Youth are offered a plethora of unique experiences to further their development as students and citizens.

The population served by the Shining Stars Youth Education Program is children, ages 6 – 17, living on-site in the Hope House shelter or within the community on Milwaukee's south side. The majority of community youth participants live in neighborhoods in close proximity to Hope House.

COVID-19 and the Shining Stars Program

2021 looked considerably different in our Shining Stars Program at Hope House. A hallmark of the program is the intermingling of children living with in our shelter and youth from the surrounding Walker's Point neighborhood. To slow the spread of the virus, we immediately closed the program to children in the surrounding neighborhood and focused solely on the children living with us at Hope House.

Initially, at the start of the pandemic, with Milwaukee Public Schools closed – we provided a place where parents could drop off their children and our staff would help them log onto their online school portal. We would then provide all the materials (including the computers generously donated by the United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County) and assist every child living with in their remote learning. As we entered the second year of the pandemic and the Milwaukee Public Schools reopened, we began once again providing afterschool tutoring and activities for the homeless children living with us.

In the Summer of 2021 we provided 180 hours of programming including twice-weekly field trips that included trips to Water Parks, hiking, the zoo, the Milwaukee Public Museum and a trip on the Edelweiss.

In 2021, 40 children living onsite a gained from this resource academically, socially, and as citizens. Of the 40 children we served, 18 were girls, 22 were boys. Additionally, 34 were African American, 5 were Hispanic and 1 was white.

PROGRAM GOALS, INDICATORS AND RESULTS

The Shining Stars Youth Education Program is based upon the active involvement of youth in a variety of activities, workshops, and excursions that increase knowledge, improve skills, and teach new behaviors and strategies for future success at home, school, and in the community.

GOAL 1: TO IMPROVE BASIC ACADEMIC SKILLS

Indicator: *Participants will demonstrate concrete improvement on academic skills, social decision making and receive individual tutoring.*

Results: 180 hours of tutoring was provided.

GOAL 2: TO ENRICH COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AWARENESS AND DIVERSIFY THE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Indicator: *Participants will participate in a diverse set of educationally enriching workshops and community and cultural awareness activities.*

Results: 48 hours with Peace of Heart, providing art projects and strategies for navigating through difficult life situations.

Results: 180 hours of Summer recreation activities were provided.

Results: The Kids of Wisconsin provided 16 hours of music workshops.

Results: A new mural was painted in the youth education room in collaboration with Bader Philanthropies and Artists Working in Education (AWE).

In addition over 100 bookbags were filled with school supplies and given to families in need.