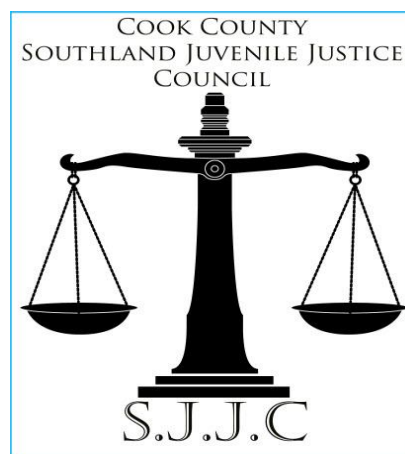


Cook County Southland Juvenile Justice Council in
partnership with the
Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority



Violence Prevention & Reduction Program Debriefing

July 14th, 2023

Presented by

**Shelia Friday, MPA, MS, GPC
President, Relativity Resources LLC**

**Lisa Holloway, MA, SHRM-SCP,
Managing Director, Relativity Resources LLC**



“Be Relevant. Be Recognized. Be Relative.”

www.relativityresources.org

Presentation Outline - Telling Our Story

- VPR Program Overview
- Choosing our Sub-grantees and Partners
- VPR Program Development & Resources
- Assessment & Evaluation
- Milestones & Success Stories
- Barriers and Redirections
- This is Us! - Testimonials

VPR Purpose & Eligibility

- ❖ **Program:** The Violence Prevention & Reduction Program
- ❖ **Purpose:** Funds were utilized to establish or enhance a program that reduced juvenile delinquency and the school-to-prison pipeline.
- ❖ **Program Type:** Competitive
- ❖ **Funding:** Allocations and payment under this grant are subject to appropriation action by the Illinois General Assembly.
- ❖ **Eligible Applicants:** South Suburban **municipalities, school districts, non-profit** organizations, **faith-based** organizations and **community-based** organizations located in **Bloom, Rich, Thornton, and Bremen Townships** of Cook County, Illinois. Grant awards varied depending on the needs addressed in the approved proposal and the total appropriations for the program.
- ❖ **Grant Period:** July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

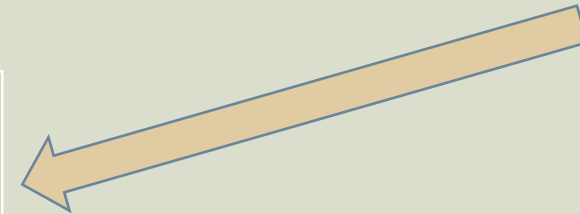
Selection Process

Applicants submitted proposals in response to RFP. New applicants were interviewed by team.



Proposals were reviewed and selections made.

Potential sub-grantees submitted all required documentation.



Contracts developed and executed



VPR Leadership Team:

Applicants were interviewed by:

- ❖ Jaclin Davis
- ❖ Bill Kling
- ❖ James Lyles
- ❖ Shelia M. Friday, Relativity Resources, LLC
- ❖ Lisa Holloway, Relativity Resources, LLC

Sub-grantees and Programs

Diversion: Hit It Straight Golf Academy

Mentoring: Village of Matteson

Faith-Based Liaison: Mr. Dwight McTizic

Entrepreneurial Education: Chazz Brown

Technology Integration & Support: Greg Denagall

Restorative Practice: Wise Works LLC

Behavioral Health Support: Midwest Family & Community Resources

School Assessment and Attendance: South Cook Intermediate Service Center

Truancy Prevention: Thornton HSD 205, Rich Township HSD 227, Prairie Hills SD 144

Subgrantee Requirements:

- ❖ RPIE (Research, Planning, Implementation and Evaluation)
- ❖ SMART Goals & Objectives
- ❖ On-going documentation
- ❖ Monthly Partners Meeting
- ❖ Monthly Summary Reports
- ❖ Monthly Data Reports
- ❖ Cumulative Monthly Reports (Submitted to Jaclin Davis)
- ❖ One-to-One Meetings
- ❖ Logic Model
- ❖ Quarterly Summary Reports
- ❖ Quarterly Data Reports
- ❖ VPR Final Report

Sub-grantee ResourcesProgram Development

The Violence Prevention & Reduction Program **Technical Assistance** Meeting & Presentation by Relativity Resources LLC

Violence Prevention & Reduction Program **Data Collection and Evaluation** Meeting & Presentation by Relativity Resources LLC

Quarterly Report Training Presentation by Relativity Resources LLC

Program Development, Evaluation & The Logic Model Presentation – by Relativity Resources LLC

Monthly partners meeting hosted by SJJC with information provided by Relativity Resources, Attorney Kling, Mr. Lyles and consultants

On-going **fiscal management and reporting support** by Mr. Lyles.

Sub-grantee ResourcesProgram Development

Site visits/in-person participation by Jaclin Davis, James Lyles, Relativity Resources, Bill Kling.

Partnered with Garrett Podgorski from **South Cook Intermediate Service Center** to **provide school districts with assessment assistance.9**

One-to-one meetings conducted by Relativity Resources LLC.

Individualized support and guidance by Relativity Resources LLC

Empowerment evaluation process provided sub-grantees the opportunities to work with Relativity Resources LLC to revise RPIE, SMART Goals, Logic Models, and work through program barriers. **It was collaborative and not punitive.**

Southland Juvenile Justice Council – Violence Prevention & Reduction Program Assessment 2022-2023

This criterion for assessment reflects the progress and status of the VPR program.

Sub-grantee:	Evaluator:		
Criteria	Yes	No	Comments
The sub-grantee established SMART goals aligned with the VPR program.			
The sub-grantee submitted monthly reports as required, detailing goals, objectives milestones, and barriers.			
The sub-grantee submitted logic model as required.			
The sub-grantee participated in meetings and training as required.			
The sub-grantee communicated with the evaluator for guidance when needed.			
The sub-grantee submitted the Cumulative Quarterly Report detailing statistics, charts, graphs, as required.			
The sub-grantee met program expectations towards meeting goals.			
Additional Comments:			



Celebrating Milestones



Hit It Straight Golf Academy Milestones - Mr. Dion Madkins

The VPR Program started with a **total of 9 students** who signed up to participate. Initially, there was a lack of experience, knowledge of golf, and focus. To have students engaged, our team knew it had to be fun.

Hit It Straight Golf Academy taught golf but also responsibility, patience, accountability, problemsolving, and perseverance. The program created a safe place for the youth to grow, challenge themselves, and feel comfortable asking questions when they needed help. The lessons learned in golf are taken off the course and extended into the daily lives of each student.

The program goal was met with a **total of 15 students** who were properly equipped with golf equipment and understood how to technically use the equipment. There was an improvement in focus and a yearning to learn more about golf.

90% of the students have expressed extending their golf lessons after finishing the program. Previous Hit It Straight Students returned to inspire current students and helped with teaching. Previous students shared their success stories with the students. 2 Previous students talked about getting selected to participate in a golf program abroad in the beautiful country of Ireland. Another Student shared his story of receiving a scholarship at Winston Salem University and 2 other former students shared their accomplishment of making their high school Golf Team.

Village of Matteson – Ms. Mia Carter

Program Goals:

- Reduce truancy by 20% for students referred from school districts 159 and 227
- Reduce police contacts and/or arrest by 20% for youth referred from Matteson and Richton Park and police departments
- Improve access to care and provide total wrap around services to all families referred
- Serve over 100 families by the end of the grant period

Village of Matteson – Ms. Mia Carter

Program Overview

- All youth referred to the program are reviewed by the grant director and clinical support staff to make a recommendation for interventions and services.
- Contact is then made with the parent via phone or home visit to discuss parent concerns and program options.
- Referred youth have access to the following services, mentoring, tutoring, recreational activities and mental health assessment with direct referrals to grant partners.
- Case management services including weekly contact is provided to all families that participate in the program which include coordinating with the school and/or police to ensure success.
- All parents are provided with support including seminars and other resources to address issues and concerns.
- Referred youth will have the opportunity to attend a 7-week summer character building camp and complete a violence prevention project.

Village of Matteson Milestones

- Received 146 referrals for the program. This is an increase from the 104 referral in 2022.
- Out of 146 youth referred 127 or 88% showed progress by either improving attendance, complying with services offered or had no additional contact with the police.
- All youth referred for mental health services received access to treatment in a timely an efficient manner from our clinical director or outside agency.
- Offered a **7-week summer Cops & Students Together camp (CAST)** with 51 referrals.
- 26 youth were **assisted with summer school registration.**


Congratulations



Invites you to participate in a

Parent Bootcamp

Calling All Parents!



Monday April 24, 2023

6:30pm-8:30pm

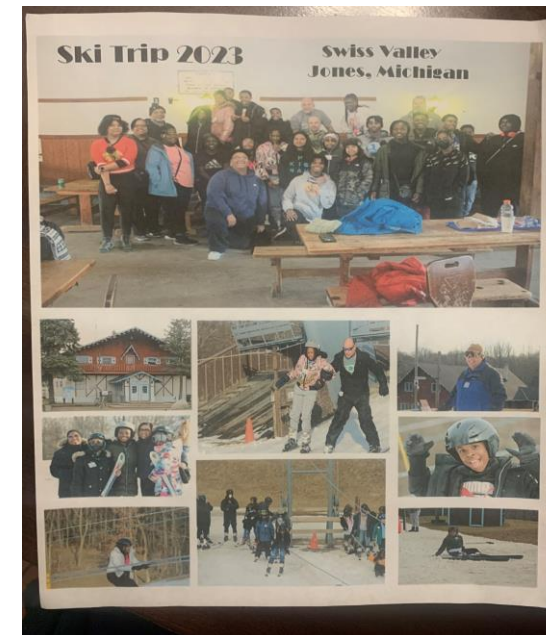
Join us in person at Matteson Police Dept or via zoom
Meeting ID 844 6454 2897 Passcode 041198

****NEW AND IMPROVED WORK OUT!****
Come join us for a fun and interactive seminar and get tons of information and tips on how navigate this thing called parenting!!
So! What's the work-out plan?

New types of social media and internet laws warm up
Current trends in gangs and drugs stretching session
Cook that smart mouth cardio session
Listening techniques and conflict resolution strength training
*Being a parent superstar cool down**

Space is limited! RSVP is required!

Contact Mia Carter at 708-283-4713 or email mcarter@villageofmatteson.org



Faith-based Initiatives – Mr. Dwight McTizic



Goals:

- Identify and initiate contact with Faith Based Organizations throughout the Southland Townships of Bremen, Rich, Bloom, and Thornton
- Increase awareness and generate participation in the VPR Program within the communities
- Provide information on the resources available through SJJC
- Foster partnerships between interested Faith Based Organizations and SJJC



Faith-based Initiatives Milestones



- Nearly **600 Faith Based Organizations** throughout Bremen, Bloom, Rich and Thornton Townships demographic, regions **were identified.**
- Alliances were formed with Business Chambers of Commerce and municipalities
- Overall awareness of the VP&R program and resources available through SJJC has increased by 30%
- Partnerships between faith-based organizations and the SJJC have been secured as SJJC has been readily called upon for support of events and implementation of services
- Invitations to outlying communities for future involvement of ongoing services have increased

Entrepreneurial Education – Mr. Chazz Brown

Goals:

- To foster youth engagement through stimulating conversations focused on intermediate to high-level business and entrepreneurial topics.
- Strive to retain at least 50% of the original class population, ensuring a consistent and dedicated cohort.
- To create an environment that encourages individual growth and initiative among the youth, allowing them to pursue their personal development in a way that resonates with their interests and aspirations.
- **Empower the youth to take meaningful action and realize that their imaginations and wildest dreams are within reach.** We emphasize the importance of setting goals and developing strategic plans to make these dreams a reality.
- Target a 50% graduation rate within the 12-month period, ensuring that at least half of the participating youth successfully complete the program and gain valuable knowledge and skills along the way.

Entrepreneurial Education Milestones



LinkedIn

The youth actively participated in a LinkedIn workshop where they were taught and demonstrated the capabilities of LinkedIn. Youth were educated about LinkedIn and how it can effectively benefit them for networking in the business world, both in their current endeavors and in the future when they actively pursue their careers.

Tedx/TedTalk

The youth class recordings were predominantly led or accompanied by a TEDx or a regular TED Talk. TED served as a crucial resource for learning because the youth observed professionals speaking, dressing, and communicating with a live audience as frequently as possible. This exposure provided them with an authentic perspective of public speaking in a business setting, while also reinforcing the topic at hand through information aligned with the lesson plan/curriculum from another professional source.

SWOT Analysis/Resume

The youth actively participated in a personal SWOT analysis exercise, which subsequently taught them how to construct their resumes based on the insights gained from identifying their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in their current selves.

Restorative Practice - Wise Works, Mr. Algenoy Alexander

Goals:

- Wiseworks LLC will facilitate a series of Restorative Justice training sessions and workshops for school districts located throughout the 4 townships serviced by SJJC throughout the 2022 - 2023 VPR program year.
- The series of workshops facilitated will explore the **Restorative mindset, Restorative language, and Restorative practices.**
- These workshops will expand participants' ability to **identify the "root cause" of the problems**, so they can be **effectively addressed**, allow the participants to develop proactive technologies that counter or **inhibit abuse before it harms**, and reframe their effort within a **culture of justice to promote healthy communities.**

Building a Community One Training at a Time

Restorative Practice Milestones

Provide Restorative Practice training & workshops for the following school districts:

- Prairie Hills School District 144
- Midlothian School District 143
- Dolton School District 149
- Thornton Township High School District 205
- South Cook ISC/ROE
- Elementary School District 159

- Bremen High School District 228
- West Harvey-Dixmoor School District 147
- Country Club Hills School District 160
- Thornton Fractional School District 215
- Bloom Township School District 206
- Hazel Crest School District 152.5

Building the Capacity of ALL Stakeholders!





Restorative Practice Milestones

60 trained

815 trained

303 trained

260 trained

1438 trained



Building the Capacity of ALL Stakeholders!



Behavior Health Support - Midwest Family & Community Resources

Goal: Provide services to 75 youth by September 30th, 2022

Provided services to 232 youth (cumulative)

Goal: Provide services to 225 by March 31st, 2023

Provided services to 340 youth (cumulative)

Goal: Provide services to 150 youth by December 30th, 2022.

Provided services to 260 youth (cumulative)

Goal: Provide services to 300 youth by June 30th, 2023

Provided services to 409 youth (cumulative)

Provided services to 409 youths!

Youth were assessed using the **Columbia Impairment Scale**

- Designed to measure functional impairment in four domains.
 - Interpersonal relations
 - Broad psychopathological domains (Clinical)
 - Functioning in school or work
 - Use of leisure time

Midwest Family & Community Resources Milestones



Scores can range from 0-52. Scores 10 or above indicate a need for clinical intervention.

65% scored 10 or above indicating clinically significant problems. **Youth had an average pre-test score of 22.5**

Highest scores were in:

Getting into trouble

Feeling Unhappy or Sad

Feeling Nervous or Afraid

Problems with schoolwork

- 235 youth completed pre and post tests using the Columbia Impairment Scale
- **Youth had an average post-test score of 18**
- Highest areas of improvement:
 - Getting into trouble (23% improvement)
 - Feeling nervous or afraid (23% improvement)
 - Getting along with others (20% improvement)
 - Problems participating in recreational activities (17% improvement)



Thornton Township HSD 205 – Mrs. Monique Baker

Goal: To increase district-wide accuracy and frequency of attendance reporting by 20% by June 2023

Milestones

- Increased Home Visits
- Building Strong Attendance Teams
- Weekly Data Pulling and Sharing
- Attendance Team Collaborations
- Identifying Attendance Reporting Barriers
- Increased Community Partnerships
- Increased Attendance incentives



Rich Township HSD 227 Milestones - Ms. Joy Bacino and Ms. Taylor Palmer

- **Rich Township High School District 227 retained the services of two police officers with decades of juvenile law enforcement experience.** These officers connected with students and their families about students with a chronic absentee record by placing phone calls and conducting home visits to discuss strategies to improve student attendance and academic achievement.
- **315 phone calls were made to parents and caregivers of chronically absent students** during the 2022-2023 school year.
- **Truancy Officers provided mentorship to students** who are chronically truant to support their current & future academic and career goals.
- **217 home visits were made to the residents of students** who were chronically truant during the 2021-2022 school year.

Prairie Hills School District 144 Milestones – Dr. Patterson, Ms. Theresa Smith

- Completed Restorative Practice training of all staff with Mr. Algenoy Alexander
- Partnered with South Cook Intermediate Service Center to address truancy prevention.
- Established Truancy Prevention intervention strategies
- Implemented reset rooms to support social emotional well-being and learning
- As a result of home visits, parents have received resources to meet the needs of the family and will assist with student attendance.



South Cook Intermediate Service Center – Mr. Garret Podgorski

Goals:

At least 10 schools will be represented at Attendance Networks for 3 Sessions during the 2022-2023 School Year.

Conduct 3 sessions on reducing violence and promoting attendance through SEL and/or MTSS during the 2022-2023 School Year.

Fulfill 90% of tasks by the SJJC to support their organization, subgrantees and key members of South Cook to reduce violence and increase attendance.

Support South Cook Districts in reducing Chronic Absenteeism and Truancy.

Milestones



Held 4 Attendance Network Meetings with over 100 participants representing more than 30 school districts and 2 Cooperatives. Topics: positive messaging, data, services, teacher attendance, home visits, motivating the disengaged, evidence-based practices.

Each District that attended the Attendance Workshops 1&2 completed the Building Level Needs Assessment. 4 Districts formed attendance teams to complete Needs Assessment with further support: (W Harvey Dixmoor, Lansing, Country Club Hills, and South Chicago Heights-Steger)

South Cook Intermediate Service Center

Examine Attendance Data	Solidly in Place	Measurable Progress	Needs Improvement	Urgent Gap
1. Attendance is taken daily and consistently in a caring way.				
2. We only mark students present for a day if they have received a meaningful amount of instruction.				
3. Our attendance metrics have been expanded to include chronic absence, contact, connectivity, participation and relationships.*				
4. Our data are broken down by grade, race/ethnicity, home language, disability and zip code.				
5. Attendance and chronic absence data, trends, and patterns are monitored every week.				
6. Chronic absence data are used to identify students in need of early or intensive supports.				
7. We have a plan for monitoring attendance in the current school year.				



South Cook Intermediate Service Center Milestones

Conducted 3 sessions on reducing violence and promoting attendance through SEL and/or MTSS with over 89 participants representing, 27 Districts & 2 outside districts(Joliet 86, CPS).

Common Milestones by School Districts:

- Multiple Districts share of a reduction of Chronic Absenteeism and more supports.
- Forming Attendance Teams
- Home Visits
- Tiered Supports for Attendance
- Use of Nudge Letters
- Data Collection for support in Needed Areas
- Recognizing Attendance CoHealth learning(22 districts)

South Cook Intermediate Service Center Milestones



Other Supports:

- Connected Algenoy Alexander and MFCR with multiple districts
- Connected districts with Attendance Extension (Harvey, Dixmoor, Midlothian, Thornton, Steger, South Chicago Heights, Chicago Heights, Calumet City, Bremen, Evergreen Park & Lemont Districts/Schools)
- Supported Attendance School Improvement Plans in (Harvey, Burnham, S. Chicago Heights, Dixmoor, Dolton, Calumet City, Country Club Hills, Lansing)
- Book studies (Tackling Attendance Challenges)
- Home Visit Training, Truancy Training Support,
- Sharing of Evidence Based Resources
- PTA Presentation
- Connect with Religious Organizations
- Set up Districts with Outside Programs



Summer Youth Employment Program

Goals:

- To recruit 50 students for the summer youth program and establish work experience for the future.
- To provide students with dress for success workshops for future employment.

Milestones

- Thornton High School recruited 50 Students and place them in over 6 different sites within and outside of District 205.
- Students were able to create their own resume from the college and career platform.
- Financial literacy workshops were implemented and the importance of starting their own bank account.
- Implemented a peer mentoring component.



Identified Barriers & Redirections

The following barriers were identified by our sub-grantees. In some instances, they were able to redirect their efforts to work towards the goal of the VPR Program.

In other cases, the barriers were outside the control of the sub-grantees.

Barriers & Redirections

- **Rich Township HSD 227** expressed that restructuring of the district support and administrative teams was a barrier. **Redirection:** The new administrative team are now in place and the barrier should be resolved in 2023.
- **Thornton Township HSD 205** indicated that the accuracy and frequency of attendance taking, and reporting were barriers. The frequency of attendance meetings and accuracy of attendance data were also identified as barriers. **Redirection:** Training will be provided by Garret Podgorski in 2023.
- **Mr. Chazz Brown expressed that the entrepreneurial education program** barrier was related finding a cohesive time on a recurring basis for the team to meet live. **Redirection:** Classes began to become recorded on zoom instead of held live on zoom. This allowed the program to be more cooperative with the youth and their schedule.

Barriers & Redirections

- **Mr. McTizic expressed that FBO's** with existing in-house mental health crisis services were reluctant to outsource. He also indicated that there is a restricted ability to have accurate count of families utilizing resources offered by SJJC. In addition, some organizations expected monetary or gifting in order to implement the VPR program. **Redirection:** None. Continue to focus on identified FBO's.
- **MFCR** identified that there were problems getting intake forms from schools in a timely manner, that there was a low response rates on satisfaction surveys, and that the parent satisfaction numbers were below target. **Redirection:** School level agreements that indicate services will not start until forms are received, parent surveys will be available all year and youth surveys will be administered via paper, shifting to increased engagement with parents from the time of referral.

Testimonials

What clients
say about us

Hit It Straight Golf Academy



Mr. Dion Madkins,
Owner

Parent: “I’ve noticed a big change in my son’s behavior since enrolling in the Hit It Straight Golf Academy. He has really taken the lessons received from Dion and his staff very seriously. Not only is he learning how to play golf, but he’s also excelling in other areas at home and at school.”

Student: “When I first started in the program, I was not very interested in playing golf because it was hard for me to hit the ball like some of the other kids. But Mr. Dion helped me from start to finish. Now I’m much better and sometimes I practice with my friends at the park by my house when I can’t get to the golf course. Golf is fun!”

“It was great to collaborate with others! Garrett was great! He brought great ideas to this forum and provided ample opportunities for all of us to learn from each other.”

“I appreciate having the time to share and hear from my colleagues. I was able to take some great ideas back to the District.”



Mr. Garrett Podgorski,
South Cook Intermediate Service Center

Entrepreneurial Education

“The business classes have given me the opportunity to broaden my vocabulary when it comes to business terms. They’ve also allowed me to be more intentional about simple things such as how I dress when I’m going to different places. Now instead of putting on what I think looks nice, I think about where I’m going, and I choose an outfit according to my purpose. I’ve taken a lot away from this experience.” - Ashani Moore

“Thank you for your hardwork and dedication over these past few months. I can truly say the twins enjoyed their experience. Imani's testimonial is noted below.” Sincerely, Dasheka Cade

“Thank you Chazz, for the business classes. The information provided was easy to understand and applicable to those of us who are interested in becoming an entrepreneur. I wasn't interested in starting my own business. Your classes helped me expand my ambitions. I feel like I want to start my own business.” Thank you, Imani Moore



Mr. Chazz Brown

Behavior Health Support Midwest Family and Community Resources



Ms. Amelia Fulgham

District 205 school personnel reported that youth enjoyed the program so much and the youth and staff reported improvements in youth skill development that they requested that the group last 2 hours instead of one.

A student at Thornton Township reported that the MFCR staff provided a safe environment for her to be vulnerable and share with her peers. She also reported that the program helped her improved her communication skills with her mother.

A student at Thornton Fractional North appreciated that she learned how to use goal setting skills. She began sharing these skills with her friends and referring them to the program. She's a rising Senior and her goal is to attend college.

Summer Youth Employment



Mrs. Barbara G. Kenan



Ms. Paula Walker

“I love the program and the overall mission of helping youth. It’s been a great opportunity for me to learn a little about myself and the world. I’m excited about making money and being put into a real-life situation.”

“Didn’t realize how much I needed the Mindfulness training until I closed my eyes. I was tired from working outside and this meditation calmed me.”

“This program has helped me interact with others and in some ways helped me come out of my comfort zone.”

“This experience has helped me have ideas on how jobs work and how to work with people.”

“My experience will help me in the future by knowing how to obtain and keep an office job.”



Ms. Mia Carter
Village of
Matteson



Mentoring & Summer Youth Employment

“OBC Mentoring program has changed my life. I no longer have to fear my son and we can talk to each other now. The staff has just gone above and beyond from picking up my son, going to a school meeting for me and just being there when we had no one.” Jeanette Johnson

“I was embarrassed at first to admit me and my son live in a domestic violence shelter but you made me feel so comfortable that my son would be ok. My son is really enjoying camp I couldn’t afford to take him anywhere this summer, but your camp is making my situation more bearable” thank you! Kay Johnson

“Your program put my son in a leadership position. I never thought I would see the changes in him. Your program matters in a world full of danger and sadness” Laura Coleman

Fered Yusef started in our summer camp program when he was in the 6th grade. He later participated in our mentoring program. In 2023 Fered graduated valedictorian of Rich Township scoring higher than 700 other students

Restorative Practice



**Mr. Algenoy Alexander,
Wise Works, LLC**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/Dywua2tw4XF5PqtX6> - Testimonial
Dr. Tiffany Brunson, Superintendent ESD 159

District 160

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/tJtHEPHjWWcxyQkY6>
Kizawanda Olowe, EdD, LCSW
Director of Student Services

District 149

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/EhMQ5Yjc21njv4CD6> - Audience Video
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/Qn1KwVgE9Ppmu2Wd9> - Testimonial

District 160

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/tJtHEPHjWWcxyQkY6>
Kizawanda Olowe, EdD, LCSW
Director of Student Services

District 144

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/aHkeKDjyhQex8Hmd8> Audience Video
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/8XrwSkXUFhnxRmqZ9>
Dr. Kimako Patterson
Superintendent PHESD 144



*Congratulations to S JJC for making a difference
in the lives of the youth in our communities!
We salute you!*

More than 3000 students received support from the VPR program!

14 school districts received Restorative Practice training!

1438 school district staff trained in Restorative Practice!

30 school districts received truancy and attendance support!

You did it!
Congratulations



As we conclude year three of the VPR Program, we would like to thank the Cook County Southland Juvenile Justice Council, team of consultants, and sub-grantees for the opportunity to assist in the development of your successful program.

We remain forever grateful!

Shelia Friday & Lisa Holloway



“Be Relevant. Be Recognized. Be Relative.”

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