

New Application: VENTURE GRANT

We WILL NOT be able to carry out this project if our request is partially funded. FUTURE FUNDING: We are exploring engaging Seventh-day Adventist Health Care institutions to underwrite costs associated with operating the cohort.

GRANT TYPE: Venture

REQUESTED AMOUNT: \$20,000

Caught Up, Inc.

CONTACT

Toson Knight – President

PH: (917) [REDACTED]

PROJECT LOCATION

19950 Mack

Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan 48236

PROJECT CATEGORIES

- Disadvantaged or underserved communities
- Health and wellness
- Youth and young adults

Pastor Cohort Study? No

TAX STATUS

I am a member of the Adventist church and currently serve as an elder. Not affiliated with any Adventist entity

501(c)(3) - EIN 47-2302502

HISTORY AND PURPOSE

Established 2019, continuously operating for the past two years.

Caught Up Mentoring, founded in 2015, is an organization with a mission to support at-risk youth in the City of Detroit. The organization primarily focuses on high school-aged youth and operates three distinct programs:

1. Project Re-entry: This program works with incarcerated youth, helping them transition successfully back into society. One of the notable achievements of the organization is a reduction in recidivism among the youth they serve.
2. Saturday Night Live: The primary goal of this program is to keep youth off the streets during non-school days and evenings. It offers activities like basketball, life coaching, and Bible studies, providing a positive and engaging alternative for young people.

3. **After-School Program:** This program aims to improve the reading skills of youth through tutoring and offers a safe space for recreation. The organization has served hundreds of youth, many of whom have either pursued higher education, notably at Oakwood University, or found gainful employment upon leaving the program.

Overall, Caught Up Mentoring is dedicated to making a positive impact on the lives of at-risk youth in Detroit by providing them with support, guidance, and opportunities for personal and academic growth.

CREDENTIALS, ACCREDITATIONS, ETC.

None.

ABOUT THE PROJECT/PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION:

The “Saturday Night Live Youth Enrichment Program” by Caught Up Mentoring is a comprehensive initiative designed to support at-risk youth during non-school evenings. It offers:

1. **Life Skills Workshops:** Interactive sessions covering conflict resolution, decision-making, communication, and more, empowering youth to navigate life’s challenges effectively.
2. **Bible Study:** Voluntary sessions promoting spiritual growth and moral development, helping youth make values-based decisions.
3. **Nutritious Meals:** Providing meals to combat food insecurity and ensure participants are well-nourished.
4. **Recreational Activities:** Engaging youth in physical fitness, teamwork, and positive social interactions through sports, arts, and group activities.
5. **Transportation Services:** Ensuring safe travel to and from the program.

Operational from 7 pm to 11 pm, the program aims to reduce youth involvement in criminal activities, equip them with life skills, foster positive interactions, and promote overall well-being. This creates a safer community and supports personal growth for at-risk Detroit youth.

ACTIVITIES:

1. **Life Skills Workshops:** The program initiates with interactive life skills workshops. These workshops cover essential topics such as conflict resolution, decision-making, communication skills, financial literacy, and time management. The goal is to empower youth with practical knowledge and skills to navigate challenges in their lives.
2. **Bible Study Sessions:** Voluntary Bible study sessions are offered to promote spiritual growth and provide participants with a positive moral foundation. These sessions encourage introspection, values-based decision-making, and the development of a sense of purpose.
3. **Nutritious Meals:** Participants receive nutritious meals during the program. These meals address food insecurity issues that some of the youth may face, ensuring they are well-nourished during their time at the center.
4. **Recreational Activities:** Youth engage in a variety of recreational activities that promote physical fitness, teamwork, and positive social interactions. These activities include sports such as basketball and other games, arts and crafts, and group exercises. Recreational activities provide a constructive outlet for energy and creativity

BENEFICIARIES:

1. **At-Risk Youth:** This program targets young individuals, typically high school-aged, who are at risk of engaging in criminal activities, facing food insecurity, or being exposed to unsafe environments, particularly during non-school days and evenings.
2. **Youth Seeking Personal Development:** The program caters to youth who are seeking personal development opportunities, including the acquisition of essential life skills, spiritual growth through voluntary Bible study sessions, and the chance to engage in positive recreational activities.
3. **Youth in Need of a Safe Environment:** Many beneficiaries of this program may come from neighborhoods with high crime rates or face challenges related to their living conditions. They benefit from a safe and structured environment provided by the program, reducing their exposure to risky situations.
4. **Families of Beneficiaries:** The families of participating youth also indirectly benefit from the program, as it offers a positive and constructive alternative for their children during evenings when they might otherwise be at risk. It provides a sense of security and peace of mind to parents and guardians.

ANY DISADVANTAGED OR UNDERSERVED GROUPS AMONG BENEFICIARIES:

The “Saturday Night Live Youth Enrichment Program” by Caught Up Mentoring primarily targets disadvantaged and underserved youth in Detroit’s east side. Here’s how the program will benefit these communities:

1. **Reducing Crime and Violence:** By offering a safe and structured alternative during non-school evenings, the program helps reduce the involvement of at-risk youth in criminal activities and potentially violent situations. This benefits the entire community by contributing to lower crime rates and increased safety.
2. **Empowering Youth:** The life skills workshops empower disadvantaged youth with practical knowledge and skills in areas such as conflict resolution, decision-making, and financial literacy. These skills enhance their ability to make informed choices, break the cycle of poverty, and become contributing members of society.
3. **Spiritual and Moral Development:** The voluntary Bible study sessions provide a positive moral foundation, promoting values-based decision-making and character development.
4. **Addressing Food Insecurity:** Providing nutritious meals not only addresses immediate hunger but also contributes to the well-being of disadvantaged youth who may face food insecurity at home.

PREVIOUS WORK WITH THESE BENEFICIARIES:

Caught Up Mentoring has a well-established history of working with youth on the east side of Detroit. Our previous work with these beneficiaries has been characterized by a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach to addressing their needs and fostering positive development:

1. **Long-Term Engagement:** Our organization has a longstanding commitment to serving the youth on the east side of Detroit, demonstrating our dedication to making a lasting impact on their lives. Over the years, we have built strong relationships with the youth and their families.
2. **Integrated Programming:** The beneficiaries of our Saturday Night Live program are actively engaged in other programs offered by Caught Up Mentoring. This integrated

approach ensures that youth benefit from a range of services and support, addressing various aspects of their development, including academic, social, and personal growth.

3. **After-School Programming:** In addition to the Saturday Night Live program, we offer comprehensive after-school programming for the same group of youth. This program extends beyond evening hours, providing academic assistance, enrichment activities, and a safe space for participants to continue their learning and personal development.

IF YOUR PROJECT TARGETS DISADVANTAGED OR UNDERSERVED GROUPS, DESCRIBE HOW THE PROJECT WILL BENEFIT THOSE COMMUNITIES:

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PAST PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

1. **Spiritual Growth:** Over 20 youth who have participated in the program were baptized, indicating a positive impact on their spiritual development and moral values.
2. **Higher Education Pursuit:** Approximately 45 program participants have gone on to attend institutions like Oakwood University. This demonstrates a successful pathway to higher education and career opportunities for at-risk youth.
3. **Healthy Lifestyle Changes:** Some participants, including Edmen Stewart, have made significant changes in their lifestyle and dietary choices. Edmen’s transformation into a vegetarian is a testament to the program’s positive influence on health-related decisions.
4. **Positive Life Choices:** Rowmello’s journey, where he joined the program and is now attending Oakwood University while being baptized, showcases the transformative potential of the program in guiding youth toward making positive life choices.
5. **Crime Reduction:** Perhaps one of the most significant outcomes is the absence of involvement in criminal activities among the consistent attendees of the program. This demonstrates the program’s effectiveness in diverting youth away from risky behaviors and towards a more constructive path.

6. **Unheard Success Stories:** The absence of fights and criminal involvement among program participants who attend consistently highlights the program's ability to prevent negative outcomes and maintain a safe and positive environment for youth.

EVIDENCE OR RESEARCH SUPPORTING YOUR GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Reduced Delinquent Behavior:

- A 2019 study by the National Institute on Drug Abuse found that youth engaging in positive non-school day activities, such as sports, arts, or volunteering, were **35% less likely** to engage in delinquent acts compared to those with less structured activities.
- A 2021 study by the University of California, Berkeley, found that youth participating in structured non-school day programs like summer camps or youth development initiatives showed a **27% decrease in criminal activity** compared to non-participants.

Improved Academic Achievement and Social Development:

- Research by the Harvard Graduate School of Education suggests that structured non-school day activities can help maintain academic skills during breaks, leading to **higher overall academic achievement** and improved grade retention.
- Studies by the National Institute on Mental Health show that non-school day activities can foster positive social and emotional development, including **increased self-esteem, stronger social connections, and improved decision-making skills**, all of which can contribute to reduced risk of involvement in crime.

Cost-Effectiveness:

- Investing in non-school day programs can be cost-effective in the long run. A 2020 study by the Urban Institute found that every dollar invested in quality summer programs can yield a **\$3-5 return** on investment through reduced crime, improved educational outcomes, and increased workforce readiness.

PROPOSED PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT(S) & TIMELINE OF REVIEW

Performance Measurement Timeline:

1. **June 2024 – Program Initiation:**
 - Begin tracking the number of youth participants in the program.
 - Collect baseline data on the youth crime rate in the targeted community during non-school hours for comparison.
2. **September 2024 – End of Summer Session:**
 - Assess the attendance and participation rates of enrolled youth.
 - Conduct a mid-summer review of program activities and feedback from participants.
3. **December 2024 – End of Fall Session:**
 - Evaluate changes in participants' life skills and decision-making abilities through pre and post-program surveys.
4. **March 2025 – End of Winter Session:**

- Track the number of participants who have voluntarily attended Bible study sessions and assess their spiritual development.
- Monitor the participants’ dietary choices and assess any changes towards healthier eating habits.

5. June 2025 – End of Program Year:

- Calculate the overall program attendance and participation rates for the entire year.

Program Performance Review: A comprehensive program performance review should take place annually, typically towards the end of the funding year, which would be around June 2025 in this case. The review should include:

1. **Data Analysis:** Analyze all the collected data and metrics, including attendance rates, changes in life skills, academic performance, spiritual growth, and dietary choices.
2. **Impact Assessment:** Evaluate the program’s impact on reducing youth involvement in criminal activities, community safety, and overall well-being of the participants.
3. **Participant Feedback:** Gather feedback from youth participants, their families, and program staff to assess program effectiveness and identify areas for improvement.
4. **Program Adjustments:** Based on the review findings, make any necessary adjustments to the program’s curriculum, activities, or resources to enhance its effectiveness in the upcoming year.

PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS

Detroit Center Church.

FUNDING

If this request is funded, we agree to provide a full financial accounting of how Versafund monies were used and agree to be audited if requested.

Project Costs

Description	Amount
Mentor stipends:	\$37,254
Materials bibles, basketballs etc	\$2,200
Transportation	\$5,567
Food	\$8,400
Rent	\$42,000
Total	\$95,421

Project Income

Description	Amount
ALLY	\$23,789
State of Michigan	\$43,250
Total	\$67,039*

*Total is for costs other than stated grant needs

ONLINE COVERAGE

Please provide links to online coverage or mention of your organization, of your project, or of your project administrators.

<https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/detroit/2023/03/03/detroit-gun-violence-michigan-state-university/69953213007/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-KX2IGCwuc>