

Project No : 0092-01
Project Title : Space of Dream - Youth Employment Project in the North District
Name of Organisation : Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong North District Integrated Youth Services Centre
Grant Approved : HK\$ 1,107,700

Project Highlights :

The project aims to increase social capital by promoting positive values, self-help and mutual-help amongst the youth at risk. The mentor scheme and the Community Reciprocal Services will link up the youth at risk with the local community in a positive direction. The applicant organization will make use of their existing strong network in the district to solicit support of local collaborators so as to increase community involvement and improve the community relationship with the at-risk-youth.

Brief Description of Programmes to be organized :

1. Modern tutor/mentor-and-student matching:

This Scheme aims to provide flexible and unconstrained training for the youth participants. All of the participants are encouraged to develop and demonstrate their interests and strengths. Then they will be matched to suitable tutors who will help to develop their strength. Moreover, the tutor will also build up longer term mentoring relationships with the youth.

2. Community Reciprocal Service:

After the youth participants learned the relevant skills, they will be assisted to establish the Community Reciprocal Services Cooperative. This arrangement aims to provide the chance for them to serve other deprived groups in the community.

Unique Features of the Project :

1. Emphasis on the individual needs of youth, extending the choice options and reducing the restrictive nature of traditional programmes.
2. Refocus the Mentor-Youth relationships on the exchange of life experience and life skills, as well as passing on practical work skills;
3. Encourage youth to learn and develop different value systems, that “It’s better to give than just to take” from society.
4. To facilitate positive interactions between community and youth and to change the nature of their relationships.

Project Duration : 36 months (from 4 / 2003 – 3 / 2006)

Target Groups : Unemployed school dropouts, elderly, low-income families, new arrivals, local shops and local social organizations

Location of the Project : North District

Expected outputs and outcomes :

1. Youth participants: 120 persons (annually)
2. Successful tutor-and-student matching rate: 60%
3. The rate of positive changes for Youth: 70%
4. The rate of positive changes for Tutor /Mentor (self and youth): 70%
5. The rate of positive change for Community (Community and youth): 70%
6. Successful employment rate: 30%

Outcome measures: include indicators on:

- matching of youth and mentors; sustainability of the mentorship relationships;
- number of youth successfully securing employment;
- ability to form short and long-term life goals amongst the youth participants;
- changes in the local community's perception and assessment of the at risk youth involved in the programme in areas such as the youth's contribution to society, and their acceptance and trust level;
- the success rates of local mentors being able to successfully recruit local employees through the mentorship programmes, and their self-assessed capability to assist the youth in the programme.