

Morningside Children's Partnership (MCP)

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Key words: Wrap-around services, Partnership, Engagement, Community, and Support
improving education

Funding Sources:

Fort Worth ISD, Rainwater Charitable Foundation, Sid Richardson Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, Tarrant County Housing Partnership, The Miles Foundation, The United Way

Project Cost and Budget Narrative:

A large part of the funding is spent on extra personnel on the campuses such as social workers, support specialists, teachers, and other needed positions. Part of the funding is used to support families that may be in need or to pay for programs in the school that benefit the students.

Project Description:

Building a pathway to success for all children from prenatal to career. Improving lives by addressing needs in education, finance, and health across the Morningside and targeted communities.

We assist the following nine campuses within the Morningside Neighborhood: Carroll Peak Elementary, Van Zandt Guinn Elementary, Morningside Elementary, Briscoe Elementary, Clifford Davis Elementary, Harlean Beal Elementary, Glencrest 6th Grade, Morningside Middle School, and O. D. Wyatt High School.

Staffing Pattern:

Staffing patterns are based on the needs of the community and schools that MCP serves.

Population Served:

We serve over 5,800 students ranging from Pre-K to 12th grade. Our population is 90% Economically Disadvantage, with a mobility rate over 25%. Our demographics are 45% African American, 42% Hispanic, 7% Asian, 4% White, and 2% other.

Project Origination:

MCP was established through the vision of Mr. Walter Rainwater. The vision is to provide wrap-around services to the students and their families in the Morningside Neighborhood. The overall focus is to provide support and assistance so that students can focus and succeed at school and not have to worry about the outside factors that can take away from their learning and development.

Issues Addressed:

- Improving student's test scores
- Improving behavior and attendance on each campus
- Providing a program that assists families with short term and long-term needs.
- Providing community events that collaborate with campuses and the surrounding neighborhoods.

Desired Outcomes and Measurable Objectives:

- All students entering Kindergarten are K-ready
- 100% of all 3rd graders are on or above grade level in both reading and math
- 95% of 6th graders are on or above grade level in both reading and math
- 90% of seniors apply to college, sign with the military, and/or receive certification

- 96% attendance rate for all schools
- Increase number of parents involved in meaningful parent engagement activities by 10% each year
- Build strong, active, community actions teams that help drive the work of the program

Strategies and/or Interventions of the Project:

Conduct surveys within campuses to identify needs of the campus through teachers, administrators, students, and parents. We then used those results to provide additional staff and programs at each campus. We also looked for outside organizations that could meet some of those needs and partnered with them to help our families.

To improve students’ test scores additional supports were provided. These supports included tutors, teacher assistants, additional teachers on campus, an instructional interventionist, and a Dean of Instruction.

To improve behavior and attendance on each campus, incentives were utilized, preventions were established, and support specialists, social workers, and additional behavior interventionists were provided.

Results (Outcomes and Achievements):

The program is still ongoing but in the past five years we have seen our middle school and high school come off the IR attendance rates at all of our campuses have increased, and last year 99% of the enrolled seniors graduated.

Project Timeline:

The timeline is ongoing. MCP is currently in their 5th year as an organization of improving lives.

Outcomes Related to School Completion, Dropout Prevention, and/or Graduation Rates:

By meeting the needs of the students and families, more students have been able to finish high school and graduate.

Special Conditions, Expertise, and/or Skills Required to Carry Out Project:

The expertise required to carry out this project involves the skills to deal with unprivileged families. The skills to avoid judging these families with your own attitude, beliefs, and values; and because of the percentage of minorities involved in this program, it would be of great value to understand those from other cultures.

Current Status of Project:

MCP is in its 5th year of operation. Plans are to expand MCP to the entire district.

Role in Project as a NDPS Certification Program Participant:

As a Court Coordinator for Fort Worth ISD, I am always looking for social agencies and programs to assist families in improving their overall lifestyle including everything from parenting programs to drug prevention programs, tutorial programs, behavioral improvement programs, and any additional counseling programs that can benefit the families. Fort Worth ISD refers multiple families to Morningside Children’s Partnership.

Lessons Learned:

The lesson learned from the project is that parents, school and community involvement is essential in developing the students' overall achievement and is vital in preparing them socially, academically and emotionally. Morningside Children's Partnership was fortunate to acquire multiple financial sources, mainly Rainwater Charitable Foundation. Any program looking for similar results sure plan financially ahead to have the resources in place prior to implementation.

Advice for Dropout Prevention Practitioners about the Project:

My advice to other dropout prevention practitioners would be remembering the importance of neighborhood involvement and knowing the social organizations which are willing to help financially in order to better the lives of children facing a crisis. It is important to understand that the earlier we involve ourselves with underprivileged families, the better their chance of success. Involving families in their children's education keeps everyone aware of what is going on and how to aid in their child's development and make the adjustments needed to improve their life.