

Human Capital- Assist Every Person To Reach Their True Potential

3.3 Analyze the availability and accessibility of child and youth programs and identify a role for City Government including addressing the harmful effects of child and youth poverty.

3.4 Facilitate broader community support to improve the educational opportunities for City youth.

Background

In April 2010 the Gainesville City Commission adopted the Gainesville Enrichment Mentoring (GEM) program in partnership with the Take Stock in Children Program. This partnership resulted in the purchase of 14 academic scholarships and a City employee mentoring initiative. In September 2010 the City Commission referred item number 100340 *Report on Low Socio-Economic Families* to the city's Equal Opportunity Committee. In March 2011 Dr. J. Kate Stowell presented a report on the specific condition of children in Gainesville to the City Commission. As a result of that report the City Commission requested that the EO Officer and the City Manager identify tangible next steps and funding within 90 days to begin implementation of the items discussed in the Stowell report.

As a part of the 2011-2012 budget the Gainesville City Commission approved funding for a part-time (30-hrs weekly) staff person providing professional administrative services to the City of Gainesville focused on the City of Gainesville Strategic Plan Initiatives #3.3 and #3.4 as it relates to improving the quality of life and educational opportunities for the City's children and youth. The position involves co-ordination of the City's efforts in these areas and extensive involvement with community partners and youth advocates.

Staffing Action Taken:

The above referenced position was filled in September 2011. This report outlines the status of initiatives within #3.3. and #3.4

Gainesville Enrichment Mentoring program (GEM) Scholars:

Number of 2010-2011 GEM scholars: 7

1. Shantreal Buggs, Lincoln Middle School
2. Reshyria Clark, Howard Bishop
3. Capresha King, Lincoln Middle School
4. Willie Lake, Lincoln Middle School
5. Landon Manchester, Howard Bishop
6. Timothy Miles, Lincoln Middle School
7. Davion Smith, Westwood Middle School

Number of 2011-2012 GEM scholars: 7

The Office of Equal Opportunity participated in the recently completed 2011 scholar interview process. Over 100 students applied, 34 were selected for interviews. 10 of the named scholars are from the 3 middle schools located within the City limits (Howard Bishop, Lincoln and Westwood). A second selection is now taking place to select the 7 GEM scholars.

2010-2011 Active Employee Mentors:11

Mayor Craig Lowe
Commissioner Scherwin Henry
Adebowale Alade- GPD
Alan Lefstead
Kristen Loose
Susan Gonzalez

Commissioner Randy Wells
Charter EO Officer Cecil Howard
Parnell Jones- City of Gainesville
Bill Northcutt- GFR
Paula Grasel

2011-2012 Pending Mentors: 5

Gwendolyn Saffo
Nona Jones
Timothy Jones

Chief Michael Randolph
Milvia Hidalgo

Volunteer Hours

Each Mentor is required to eat lunch once a week with their Mentee and MAP employees are allocated 1-hour each week to fulfill this obligation. Therefore, calculating 11 City employees volunteering one hour a week for approximately 34 weeks during the school year equals some 352 volunteer hours.