



LIFE DIRECTIONS

peers inspiring peers



REV. JOHN E. PHELPS, C.S.S.R.
PRESIDENT/CEO & CO-FOUNDER



ANNETTE HOWARD
PROGRAM MANAGER

A S P A R K O F H O P E

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Working with young people in our cities Life Directions purpose is to find the cause of violence and work in collaboration with others to develop the cure. For 45 years we have continued to innovate programs and activities with evidenced-based outcomes that are both academic and social emotional in nature. Though generous contributions we have created in-school and after-school programs that are impacting young adults – helping them realize potential and providing a spark of hope in the communities where they live,



WHO WE ARE

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OUR MISSION

To motivate young adults, ages 13-35,
especially the economically poor and
“at-risk”, to mature into responsible,
productive adults through self-direction.

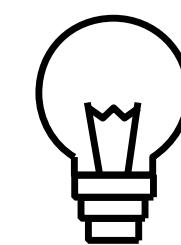




W H O W E A R E

LIFE DIRECTIONS

Life Directions inspires peers to motivate and lead their peers to take charge of their life direction



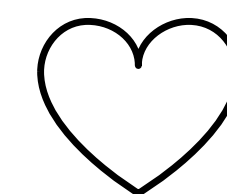
FOUNDED 1973

Born from a desire to find a way to end violence in our cities.



PEERS INSPIRING PEERS

Programs built on the principal that peers provide the best motivation and inspiration for change.




OVER 165,000 YOUNG ADULTS

45 years of impacting lives and providing a spark of hope.



DETROIT CHICAGO

Continuously working to expand our programs to provide opportunities for at-risk young adults.



H O W W E I N S P I R E

HOW WE INSPIRE

WE PROMOTE TWO IDEALS

1.

We motivate and mentor young people to inspire their peers to become their best self through high school.

2.

We awaken young adults to find their life direction, heal their past and claim their future.



HOW WE INSPIRE

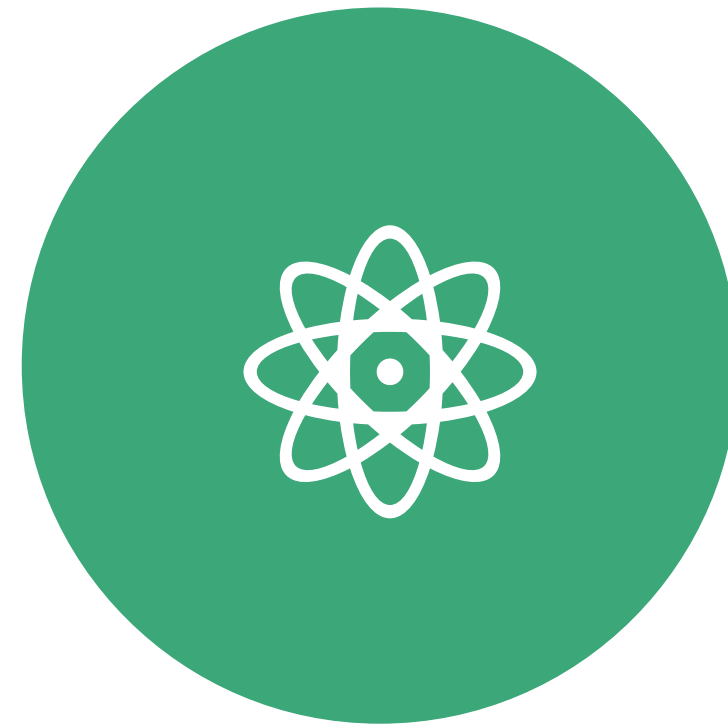
FOUR CORE VALUES

We work in public high schools and their surrounding neighborhoods.
We network with community and faith-based efforts to get to the cause of violence by
inspiring partnerships for peacemaking and instilling core values.



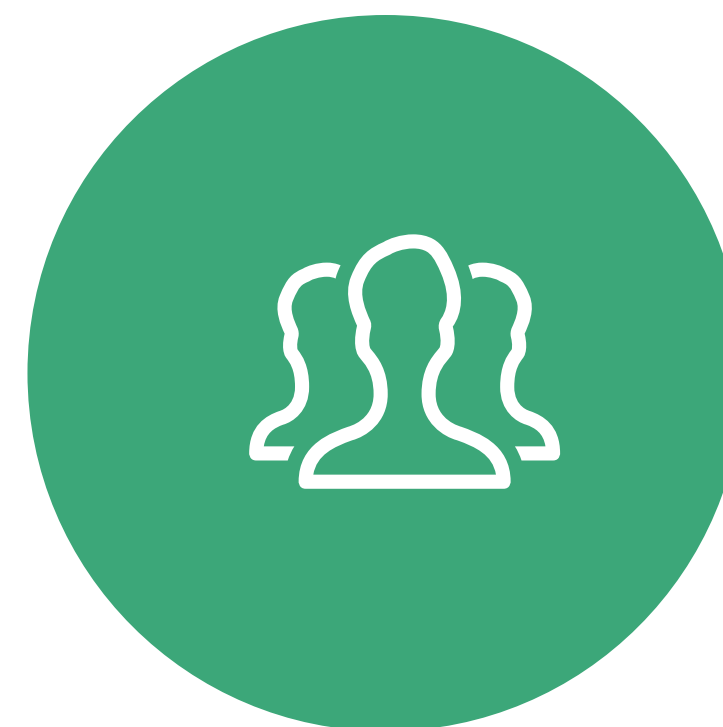
SELF RESPONSIBILITY

Our response to what
happens is our decision.



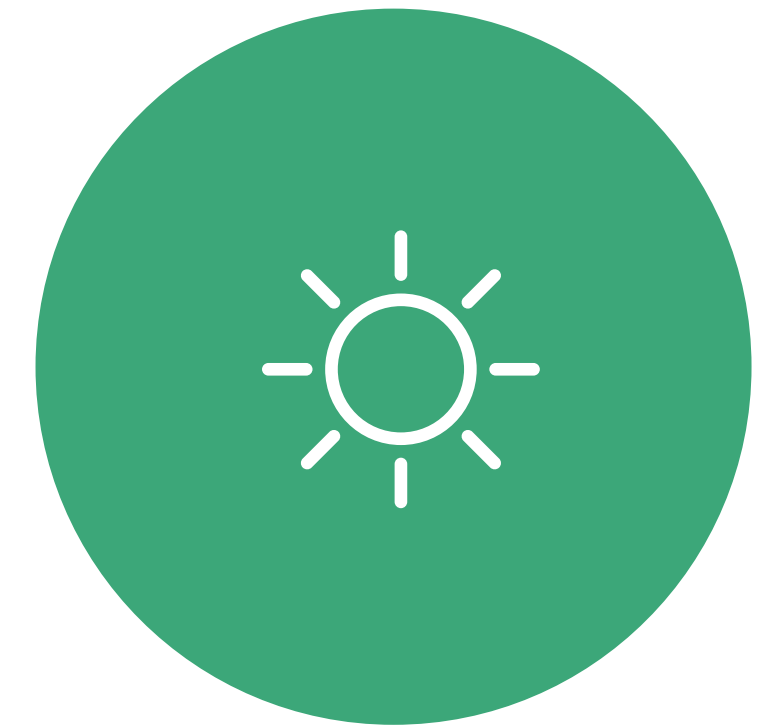
BALANCE IN RELATIONSHIPS

We are free to develop
our talents and assets.



PARTNERSHIP IN DIVERSITY

We become excellent as
we relate to people who
are different from us.



MISSION DRIVEN ATTITUDE

Life is not about us.
We are about life.

MEASURING OUR IMPACT

Life Directions conducts three internal program evaluations throughout the school year in an effort to ensure the quality of our programming and continuous improvement model. Student participants complete pre and post assessments during each semester's programming and similarly, their recommending teacher completes an assessment that includes their observation of the students progress through our program



96%

improved responsibility
in student behavior

88%

improved peer to peer
engagement

89%

improved multi-cultural
interactions

Externally: Researchers at Loyola, University of Michigan, and Chicago Public Schools have also sited that Life Directions awakens the values of responsibility, compassion, and peace building within the youth and young adults we serve.



INTERCONNECTED PROGRAMS



INTERCONNECTED PROGRAMS

NEIGHBORHOOD ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Young adults and adults develop a two-fold community-based group.

1st

they deepen positive values to support and encourage young adults and families to develop their personal and community growth.

2nd

they reflect on their experience, design and implement ways to promote peace through healthy communication among each other. They encourage parents and older siblings to be role models for people younger than themselves. They plan and conduct workshops and retreats to train and develop ways to bring to life - peace through forgiving as a way to diminish violence.



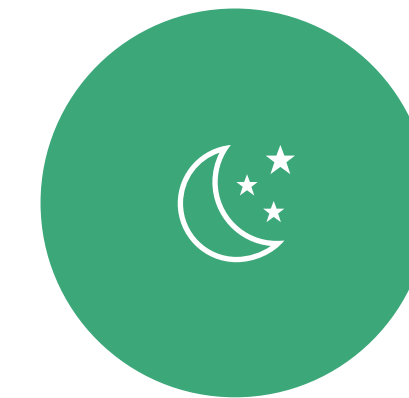
INTERCONNECTED PROGRAMS

PEER MOTIVATION PROGRAM



IN SCHOOL

Students who are successfully making high school work are selected by their teachers to inspire their less achieving peers. They meet in group sessions to initiate life-changing values.



AFTER SCHOOL

The young people inspired by their elders ignite hope among young children. They engage in community service projects: such as, gardening at the school to promote healthy eating, learning how to organize field trips, picnics and sports for themselves and those in Middle School. They choose to be positive peer role models throughout the community.

PEER MENTOR PROGRAM

provides a pyramid of support for eighth graders (mentees) in public schools. The trained and supervised high school mentors promote six social values through interactive group dynamics and project-based activities with younger students. Adult Mentors from both the business and neighborhood communities coach the high school mentors. Two outcomes are encouraged.

1st

the high school Mentors clarify their own life direction as they communicate with their adult Mentors.

2nd

the eighth grade mentees build relationships with high school mentors to make the transition to high school. A consistent structure is adult mentors guiding high school mentors to challenge and encourage 8th grade mentees. The peer mentors influence and guide their mentees by sharing their experience.

