Homeboy Industries and Learning Works: A Strategic, Loving Partnership

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Welcome to Our Learning Labs

- The Chaser Model (February)
- Effectively Serving Teen Mothers and their Infants (April)
- Our Homeboy Partnership (May)
- A New Approach to Probation Youth (September)
- Middle School Prevention of Dropouts (October)
- A New Approach to Educating Foster Care (January)
Our Focus

The mission of Learning Works Charter School (LW) is to provide a personalized, rigorous academic program and relevant life skills to disengaged youth who have dropped out of school. Focus:

- Rigor
- Relevance
- Relationship
Target Population

The students we serve are inaccurately called, “at-risk” students, but are instead in “crisis” or “risk” students. They have already demonstrated a behavior or condition that exceeds “at-risk” such as becoming pregnant or entering the juvenile delinquency system or dropping out of school. Our target population includes:

- In-school and out-of-school dropouts
- Probation youth who are credit-deficient
- An option for students who are expelled from PUSD
- Pregnant teens/teen mother students
- Students who did not pass CAHSEE and therefore did not graduate
- Students ages 18-20 who wish to return to school to receive a high school diploma
History of Learning Works

- High-risk youth started to come to our tutoring center in 2005-06
- Convinced PUSD to expand CIS to our facility in March 2006
- Operated, in essence, as a dependent charter through June 2008
- Chartered in June 2008 and opened September 2008
- Added middle school in September 2009
WASC accredited 2010 and renewed in 2013

Added Homeboy partnership in January 2010

Added artWORKS in Fall 2010

Added infant program in January 2013

Added HopeWorks in Spring 2013

Charter renewed in Spring 2013 for five years
History of Homeboy Industries

- Program started in 1988 called “Jobs For A Future” by Father Gregory Boyle serving as pastor of Dolores Mission parish in Boyle Heights as a jobs program offering alternatives to gang violence in one of the toughest neighborhoods in the city.

- First businesses were a small bakery in run-down warehouse and a tortilleria in Grand Central Market downtown.


- Now recognized as the largest gang intervention and re-entry program in the county, and a national program model.

- Serves approximately 12,000 clients per year from over 1,500 gangs in Los Angeles County.
Homeboy Enterprises

- Homegirl Café & Catering
- Homeboy Farmers Market
- Homeboy Bakery
- Homeboy Diner
- Homeboy & Homegirl Merchandising
- Homeboy Grocery
- Homeboy Silkscreen Printing & Embroidery
HB Services Offered

- Employment Services
- Case Management
- Legal Services
- Tattoo Removal
- Mental Health, Substance Abuse & Domestic Violence Services
- Educational Services
- Solar Panel Installation Training & Certification Program
Why Does Homeboy Need a School?

- Youth coming to HB looking for employment had been out of school for months, and needed an avenue to put food on table.

- Juveniles released from detention camps were sent to alternative schools where they were placed on wait-lists for months.

- Youth on probation would be violated if not enrolled within 72 hours

- ZERO support, family and oftentimes called HB home.
History of Partnering with Schools

- Options for Youth: Shanley Rhodes
- Introduction to Learning Works/Mikala
- Mikala meets Father G at confirmation in Sylmar Juvenile Detention Center
- Partnership begins March 2010
- LW opens as a one-room school at HB on Bruno
What Makes LW Different?

- Chasers

- Principles
  - FRESH START
  - FORGIVENESS & UNCONDITIONAL LOVE
  - SAFE HAVEN
  - REALITY & POTENTIAL
  - DESIRE TO GIVE BACK AND BE HEARD
  - HONESTY
  - JOY & FUN
  - IRRATIONAL COMMITMENT TO STUDENTS
Father G at LW’s Charter Renewal
Virtual Tour Video
Structure of Partnership

- The Principles
- Fiscally Independent
- Moved to First Street: Focus on Youth/Young Adults
- Subset Employed
- Re-entry Program
- Team Approach
- Exemplar at Crisis
Outcomes

Number of enrolled students and graduates for Learning Works @ HB by year

- 2010 – 36 students – 3 graduates
- 2011 – 70 students – 4 graduates
- 2012 – 148 students – 21 graduates
- 2013 – 198 students – 28 graduates
- Graduate follow-up study being analyzed as we speak
Why Our Partnership Works

- We are not competing
- We share the same values/principles
- We are irrationally committed to our client
- We are cheerleaders and supporter of each other
Next Steps

- More employment connections (see handout)
- Improved facilities
- More leveraged funding opportunities
- Increased adult education/graduation transition services
Questions?

- Open House tomorrow night from 5 – 7 p.m. at 1916 E. 1st Street in Los Angeles

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