



Est. 1986

**R.E.A.C.H Youth Programs (*RYP*)**  
**Youth Service Provider**

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Distribution:

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### Mission

"Our mission is to provide comprehensive and consistent wrap-around care in a stable and positive environment, where youth and families may be nourished in mind, body, and spirit; new leaders can be inspired strengthened and habilitated for the task of building a better community and a positive impact in our society".

### History/Description

**R.E.A.C.H. Youth Programs, Inc. (RYP)** originated in the fall of 1980 and has been serving the State Fair Community and the Detroit Metropolitan area. **RYP** provides services such as Counseling, Tutorial Services, Family Assistance, Athletic/Recreational activities. **RYP** has also been operating as a 501(c) (3) Non-Profit organization since the fall of 1987. Currently on a weekly basis over 300 youth use the various services offered by **RYP**. The main objective of **RYP** is to provide positive and constructive activities for youth, reinforce the importance of academic achievement, promote community pride, increase self esteem, and interaction with positive *community role models*. RYP also emphasizes all participants to one day themselves become productive citizens and positive community role models. REACH also has collaboration and partnership with ACC mental health support our reentry programs mentorship focusing on support and community service.

### Purpose

REACH was originally created to offer the families in the State Fair Community with a place for their youth to experience a positive atmosphere for learning, playing, career development, and interacting with positive role models on a daily basis. Since 1986, R.E.A.C.H. Youth Programs, Inc has been providing youth services in the Northeast area of Detroit primarily. Partnering and collaborating with various neighborhood organizations providing a strong network of youth services throughout this area. Collaboration with entities for more than 30+ years such as St. Rita Catholic Church, Truth Lutheran, Detroit Public Schools. Currently in collaboration with the Arab American Chaldean Center (A.C.C.) and **Hype Athletics**. The current location of operations was newly built in 2006 the A.C.C. Youth Center 62 W. Seven Mile, Detroit, MI. Services available After-School programming, Computer Lab, Family Assistance referrals, Recreational Activities (primarily Basketball ages 8-17), with total access to ACC Family and Youth services offered at the center

### **The R.E.A.C.H. Youth Programs provides many weekly activities:**

- Weekly counseling group session discussions (Academics, Community, Famil, Personal Problems, etc.)
- Weekly recreational activity that involves the participants in team building activities
- Weekly Tutorial (Reading, Math, Science, SAT/ACT, Computer Literacy)
- In home fact finding to assess participant total environment makeup
- Field Trips (Movies, Sporting Events, Universities, Library, Youth Homes services, Criminal Courts, etc.)
- Theatrical Productions, Professional Skill Workshops, Personal Assessment Seminars
- Rentry program. Guest Speakers, Peer Models & mentorship, youth council speaker mentorship, community service referrals

### **Scheduled Annual Events (for selected participants):**

- College "*Upward Bound*" Program - Uof Michigan, Wayne State University, Michigan State (6 participants)
- Summer Youth Camps (based on scholarship availability)
- Community Fair

### **Recreational Activities**

- AAU/USA Basketball and Jr. NBA Competition
- Elite Travel Team Circuit
- NCAA certified events

## **Need(s)**

Violence, Drugs, and Gang involvement is a way of life within the State Fair Community. In most cases the accepted peer behavior is negative (ie. Drug Dealer, Gang-Banger). This negative way of life is common as a form of entertainment, frustration outlet, peer pressure, and building self worth/power. This accepted negative behavior is encouraged through various mediums such as Movies, Music, News, and Home/Family environment. REACH is a positive alternative, to the negative influences, for the youth in this community. Our target population will be youth between the ages of 8-18.

## **Family assistance services:**

For example, at Nolan Middle school out of 776 total students 641 are eligible for free lunch and 18 are eligible for reduced lunch. If the children in our community follow the demographic trends set before them, it puts them at risk for failure in the future. Young women in our communities are increasingly becoming mothers before the age of twenty-one. (Wayne County Institute for Youth and Family Development Policy-<http://www.waynecounty.com> ).For at-risk youth, truancy and school failure are the two most significant predictors of delinquent behavior, according to U.S. Department of Justice research. The unemployment rate of high school dropouts is 70 percent higher than that of high school graduates. (Americans for the Arts <http://www.artsusa.org> )

## **Reentry mentorship and community service:**

Research shows several other disturbing trends that speak directly to the young men and young women that we serve. One in three African American Men are in prison, while one in ten is in college. 3.9 million U.S citizens with felony convictions (including over 1 million who have completed their sentences) are barred from voting for life. Of these, 1.4 million are African American men or 13% of the black adult U.S. population (Mauer & Hulung, 1995). Successful reentry programs give former offenders opportunities to support themselves through legitimate and productive work, reducing recidivism and improving public safety. The first type of reentry involves formal government supervision and support upon release, through probation or parole. In 2016, there were 4.5 million Americans under some form of community supervision. These individuals are actively supervised and supported by a probation or parole officer and subject to a list of conditions imposed by a court or the corrections system. The second form of reentry involves an individual voluntarily accepting or seeking admittance to community-based programs that will prepare them for reentry and provide them with support services when they return to their communities. REACH offers the ability to assist with continued support of reentry activities offering the ability to have the client perform community service activities and mentorship for youth and parents within the program.

## **Becoming a Reentry Mentor**

Every year, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, over 700,000 prisoners are released back into our communities. But most won't stay there long. Within three years of their homecoming — despite many ex-prisoners' best intentions to "go straight" — 67 percent will be arrested and more than half will return to prison. For most prisoners, the "free world" presents obstructions and enticements far too forceful to overcome on their own. This is one reason mentoring has been a core part of Prison Fellowship's ministries for over 35 years. Studies show that the support and accountability provided by a reentry mentor can make the difference between a successful return to society and re-offending. One advantage of REACH reentry mentoring over in-prison mentoring is its provides the opportunity to meet with a mentee as well as offer a position to mentor youth on the path they have traveled. This is important because these activities are continued support and reinforcement to prevent ex-prisoner from returning into prison system.

## **Collaborations**

R.E.A.C.H. Youth Programs currently has working collaborations with some of the following community organizations: Detroit Public Schools, Hype Recreation Center, Detroit Sports Commission, Horatio Williams Foundation, St. Mary's Prep, Emmanuel Center, Don Boso, NHEC, Arab American Chaldean Council, Communities. Our current after school activities are held at ACC Youth Center in Detroit.