**AB CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER**
**STOP SIX COMMUNITY GO CENTER**

## ABSTRACT

AB Christian Learning Center (ABCLC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit community faith based organization incorporated in the State of Texas. ABCLC operates a Community GO Center at Stop Six Church of Christ, 4500 E. Berry Street, Ft. Worth Texas, located in the 76105 zip code. The Community Go Center at Stop Six (SSC GO Center) is a non-traditional GO Center which focuses on effectively reaching out to families. It is our belief that the encouragement and support of the entire family leads to the successful pursuit of higher education. We target those families who normally consider college to be out of reach, but will take advantage of opportunities if they are made aware of the benefits of a higher education, college opportunities, financial aid options, and assistance with college and career planning and preparation

SSC GO Center began planning and organizing in August 2007 by participating in a series of community forums with parents, students, community leaders, and the Fort Worth ISD. The forums were designed to understand obstacles to completing high school and obtaining a higher education. These listening forums included interviews with students who had dropped out of school to ascertain reasons and identify possible preventive measures. Based on information obtained, the SSC GO Center began operations January 23, 2008. The SSC GO Center began its operations with the assistance of University of Health Science Center (UNTHSC) collegiate G-Force mentors, and volunteers. Due to a limited numbers of consistent volunteers, the hours of operations were limited to Monday thru Thursday, 3 pm To 6 pm and an occasional Saturday opening. Since its opening date to the end of October, the GO Center's sign-in logs indicate that by providing the benefits of a GO Center during non-school hours, the numbers of students and parents reached significantly increases. The United Way of Texas in guidelines to established GO Centers cited SSC GO Center's activities twice in its "Go Center Best Practices Guide".

**AB CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER**
**STOP SIX COMMUNITY GO CENTER**

## PROGRAM NARRATIVE

## STATEMENT OF NEED

### *Area Served*

Stop Six is an area of Fort Worth Central City designated by the City as a Neighborhood Empowerment Zone (NEZ), eligible for development incentives due to a need for economic development (www.fortworthgov.org). Stop Six includes the 76105 and 76119 zip codes and is bordered by the 76112 zip code. Due to the need and the numbers of students at risk of academic failure, SSC GO Center target students within this area. The students we strive to serve include those attending Dunbar (76112), Polytechnic (76105), OD Wyatt (76119), and Eastern Hills (76112) High Schools. The statistics for these schools indicate their students are at a particular high risk for dropping outs. Three of the four schools, Polytechnic, Dunbar, and Eastern Hills, are rated as academically unacceptable by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). In addition, data compiled by TEA indicates that the schools are ranked in the lower percentile when compared to other schools in Fort Worth ISD for high school completion. In comparison to public schools in the State of Texas and those in Fort Worth ISD, three of the four target schools have a higher dropout rate, and three of the target schools have a lower graduation rate than the average.

### *Area Demographics*

The target area has a Black or African American population more than triple the rate for the metropolitan area in which it's located. The 2000 U.S. Census Bureau reported the following race composition by zip codes.

| *Race defined as Black or African American alone* | |
|---|---|
| ***Area*** | ***Rate*** |
| Dallas Fort Worth | 14% |
| 76105 | 50% |
| 76112 | 47% |
| 76119 | 55% |

The target area is to a great extent economically depressed with poverty rates considerable higher than the rate for the State of Texas. The 2000 U.S. Census Bureau reported the following poverty levels in the 76105, 76112, and 76119 zip codes as compared to the State of Texas.

| *Income below Poverty Level in 1999* | |
|---|---|
| ***Area*** | ***Rate*** |
| Texas | 12% |
| 76105 | 29% |
| 76112 | 14% |
| 76119 | 24% |

### *Free Lunch Eligibility*

The Texas Education Agency determines that a student is economically disadvantaged if they are eligible for free or reduced lunch under the National School Lunch and Child Nutrition Program. Based on information obtained from the U.S. Department of Education Nation Center for Education Statistics, more than 50% of enrolled students in three of the target schools are eligible for free or reduced lunch. In addition, all target schools percentages for free or reduced lunch exceeds the percentage reported by the State of Texas as shown below.

| ***High School*** | ***Total Students*** | ***Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch*** | ***% Eligible for free or Reduced Lunch*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| State of Texas | 4,329,841 | 1,704,464 | 39% |
| Dunbar | 1,098 | 511 | 46% |
| Eastern Hills | 1,679 | 864 | 51% |
| O.D. Wyatt | 1,077 | 706 | 66% |
| Polytechnic | 1,109 | 794 | 72% |

### *Crime Rate*

The target area is considered to be an at-risk area due to a high crime rate. In comparison of violent crimes for 76105, 76112 and 76119 zip codes to the City of Fort Worth, and the U.S. the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data reports the percentage in most categories is more than double. On a scale of 1 to 10, the comparative violent crime index for the area in 2006 is as follows:

| ***Area*** | ***Violent Crime Index*** | ***Property Crime Index*** |
|---|---|---|
| United States | 3 | 3 |
| Texas | 3 | 3 |
| Ft. Worth 76105 | 7 | 7 |
| Ft. Worth 76112 | 7 | 7 |
| Ft. Worth 76119 | 7 | 7 |

*The violent crime index represents the level of violent crime associated with the city. The crime index ranges from 1 to 10, with 1 representing a lower violent crime rate and 10 corresponding to a higher crime rate. The four types of offenses included in the crime index calculation are murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault, all of which involve force or threat of force. (www.fbi.gov).*

## PROJECT DESIGN

### *Operations Plan*

The SSC GO Center currently operates Monday through Thursday, 3:30 to 6:30 pm, and Saturdays from 1 pm to 5:30 pm during the academic school year. During the summer months, the center proposes to operate four days a week 12 noon to 6 pm. The center will be staffed with an academic advisor to assist students with academic planning. In collaboration with UNHSC, collegiate G-Force mentors work in the GO Center assisting students with college planning and preparation. The Center assists students as early as 9th grade to provide an intervention strategy for high school completion. Each student is encouraged to visit the GO Center at least once each week. With expanded operations, the GO Center will be able to provide early intervention to students as early as P-K thru middle school.

The SSC GO Center utilizes a log for students to sign in each visit to the Center. This log is used for tracking and reporting purposes. Upon initial visit, each student completes a Student Information Sheet intake form. An interview is conducted with each student and parent(s) to assess the academic needs as well as the desires of the student and family relative to post-secondary education as well as current academic needs. The parent is requested to obtain a transcript or give the GO Center authorization to obtain a transcript on their behalf. A folder is established for each student for the purpose of tracking visits, needs, and to establish and inform the student of briefings, leadership camps, scholarship opportunities, college tours, health forums, and any other information that is relevant to the child or their parent.

The academic advisor reviews each student's transcript to ensure that the student is enrolled in the recommended high school program (college-preparatory courses). Our academic advisor

works with each student to instill the importance of getting organized, keeping important college related materials together and keeping track of important dates, i.e. admissions deadlines, SAT, PSAT, and college orientations. We believe that establishing good organizational skills early will transcend into habits needed to be successful in college. Our academic advisor also visits schools, meet with principals, counselors, and conduct parent conferences.

Upon each subsequent visit to the GO Center, the student's folder is made available to the G-Force mentor that will work with that student during his/her visit. The folder will contain information as to what scholarships and/or colleges the student has submitted application. In addition, the Academic Advisor will make sure each student's folder contains relevant information to be shared with the student and parent.

A follow-up profile and database will be developed to track and report the progress of each student participant of the GO Center. SSC GO Center currently does, and will continue to prepare and disseminate monthly reports to stakeholders and interested parties showing program utilization. A final comprehensive evaluation report will be prepared and disseminated at the end of each year's period of the project. The report will address those strategies that were successful and make a determination as to continued operation with necessary adjustments.

SSC GO Center will conduct meetings with parents to ensure that they are well informed and up to date about the school system, testing requirements and dates, college admission process and collegiate needs as well as current needs of the students. By maintaining communication with parents, we feel we can attract hard to reach parents and obtain their support in the education of their student, and financial college preparation for their children. Parents are be provided a tour of the GO Center with a demonstration of the information available on-line. The parent meetings will be designed to ensure that all students and their parents understand the

college process, and the benefits of higher education and the necessary steps to prepare academically and financially for college. In addition we will stress the importance of requirements and expectations for their students throughout school at all levels. Parents will be provided step by step processes that will help their students prepare for college from grades 9th through 12th. Parents of grade level students will be provided assistance in understanding the school systems, as well as academic requirement. As part of this process, we will provide detailed information on a recommended graduation plan, individual learning plan, standardized test dates, PSAT dates, as well as SAT and/or ACT requirements. We will also provide tools and information necessary for parents to encourage and support their students. We believe that parental involvement is a critical component to the success of a child's education.

### *Recruitment /Marketing Plan*

SSC GO Center provides information and materials to that segment of the community which is normally difficult to reach. We strategically place flyers in the local Boys and Girls Club, community centers, libraries, apartment complex offices, beauty, and barber shops. We place door hangers on homes in the neighborhood advertising free college information services to students and families. The center's Executive Director conducts outreach activities, speaking to parents, Churches, and community members providing detailed information about the GO Center. The SSC GO Center has utilized the local newspaper on two occasions to advertise its services and activities. By working with or through a faith-based organization, we believe we can increase the number of parents informed about the value of higher education and ways to access and pay for college.

**AB CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER**
**STOP SIX COMMUNITY GO CENTER**

## *Planned Activities*

***Math Workshop*** – Through work with students during the school year, it was identified that many students are deficient in math skills, thus causing low scores on standardized tests, including Pre-SAT and SAT's. To strengthen math skills, SSC GO Center conducted a three week math workshop and college presentation for middle school students. Upon completion of the workshop, students received GO center college prep material and math course certificate of completion. Parents were briefed about the GO Center and opportunities for students to receive financial aid and attend college.

***Reading Workshop*** **–** Many of our students have problems passing or achieving acceptable scores on standardized tests due to failure to read with comprehension. The GO Center will conduct a three week reading workshop this summer for middle and high school students to provide tools needed to read with comprehension. This will enable students to not only perform better on standardized college entrance exams, SAT, ACT, but will enhance their performance on required standardized high school exit exams. This will reduced the number of students not able to obtain a high school diploma due to inability to pass the TAKS test.

***GO Center Bucks Program*** – SSC GO Center will initiate a "GO Center Bucks" program, which will reward students with denominational certificates based on GO Center activities, ie, 5 points for a go center visit, 10 pts for a parental visit, 20 points for completing a FAFSA. The certificates will be redeemable at the end of each quarter by allowing the students to shop for gifts provided by "Gifts In Kind" (www.giftsinkind.org). This will provide an incentive for the students to participate in meaningful GO Center activities, while providing needed school supplies, clothing and other items of necessity for students.

**AB CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER**
**STOP SIX COMMUNITY GO CENTER**

***Teen Forum*** – SSC GO Center hosted a Teen Forum for 37 middle and high schools girls at UNTHSC. The forum included activities and speakers which focused on behavior and activities to encourage completion of high school and higher education. The event was co-sponsored by City of Fort Worth Public Health, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Fort Worth ISD, UNTHSC For Her, Texas Center for Health Disparities, Center for Community Health, and Fort Worth Women's Health Initiatives. The event included a sessions for parents to provide information about the GO Center and its benefits to obtaining a higher education. The GO Center is currently planning a similar event for boys to be held in spring 2009.

***GO Center Newsletter*** – The Stop Six Go Center has established a newsletter to be published and disseminated monthly to all registered students. The newsletter will highlight upcoming events, scholarship opportunities, Go Center hours and activities, and other activities related to postsecondary education.

***College Field Trip*** – We propose an all day bus trip to the University of North Texas in Denton. The purpose of the trip will be to motivate and encourage students to take the necessary steps to prepare for a higher education. The trip will be designed for parents and students to obtain first hand knowledge of life on a college campus. The activities will be coordinated with the college to include a campus tour, classroom activities, lunch, and financial aid briefing.

***Financial Aid Night*** – The Go Center will host at least two financial aid events a year designed for colleges and universities to present information and briefings to parents and students. The activity will be coordinated with local colleges to be held at the Community GO Center or at the colleges. The needs of the community will be assessed to determine which venue will generate the greatest turnout.

***IRS VITA Program*** – SSC GO Center currently coordinating with the Internal Revenue Service to become a partner in their Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. The VITA Program provides free tax return preparation for low to moderate income taxpayers. We have realized that one of the barriers to parents completing the FAFSA forms is the lack of a completed income tax return. If parents can obtain free income tax preparation at the GO Center, it will be easier to encourage them to continue the process and complete the FAFSA. The IRS has completed a site visit and approved the SSC GO Center site for the VITA Program. When volunteers are trained, we will be able to offer this free service by tax filing season in the year 2010. All activities provided by the GO Center are at no charge to our clients.

### *Letters of Support/Memorandum of Understanding*

University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC) has an ongoing partnership with the SSC GO Center. As a partner in this effort, UNTHSC currently provides collegiate mentors to work with students at the Go Center during the weekdays. The mentors assist students with researching careers, financial aid, and higher education options. This partnership helps to create and sustain a college-going culture within the Stop Six Community that prepares all students for the academic rigor and discipline needed to enter and successfully participate in college. With the funding of the community partnership grant, the GO Center will be able to open on Saturdays enabling it to reach more students and parents.

Fort Worth Independent School District has collaborated and worked with SSC GO Center since it began operation in January 2008. The District provides monthly scholarship information and opportunities, college information, and college related printed materials. In addition they provide information to the high school counselors to provide to students relative to

the extended hours of operations of the Community GO Center during weekends, spring break and summer months. Fort Worth ISD collaborated with the SSC GO Center by providing a school bus to transports students to a Teen Forum in September 2008.

Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce is currently coordinating activities to established community based and faith based Go Centers. The Chamber offers its letter of support to the SSC GO Center for implementation of the first non-traditional faith based Go Center in the State of Texas.

Arbor Education & Training, Inc, an operator for Youth Services under Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County, has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with ABCLC. This MOU allows the SSC GO Center and Arbor to link education, training and career opportunities to the Stop Six Community. Arbor has agreed to provide job readiness workshops, educational resources and other supportive services and assistance to the GO Center clients.

## QUALITY OF MANAGEMENT PLAN

Although this proposal addresses the need for the GO Center to expand its services to lower grade students and parents, the Center will continue to operate Monday through Thursday, 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm, and Saturdays 1 to 5:30 pm. This will allow continual assistance to students with special school projects, homework, and test preparation. In addition, this allows more time for students to apply for scholarships.

The SSC GO Center is currently and will continue to be staffed by the Program Director, Academic Advisor, and G-Force Mentors. A new position of Administrative Assistant will be added to the program. Listed below are personnel and time commitment to the project allocated of over the two year program time.

**AB CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER**
**STOP SIX COMMUNITY GO CENTER**

| ***Position*** | ***In-Kind Hours*** | ***Grant Hours*** | ***Qualification*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Program Director | 800 | 1,200 | Resume |
| Academic Advisor | 200 | 480 | Resume |
| Parent Liaison | 0 | 480 | To Be Hired |
| Administrative Asst. | 0 | 960 | |

The Program Director is committed to work toward continued growth and success of the Community GO Center Program. The Program Director will oversee the coordination of all scheduled activities to ensure that programs objectives are being met and that each activities remains on tasks and within budget. The Program Director will coordinate with sponsors, schools, universities, and community partners to obtain necessary available resources to carry out program objectives. Time commitment includes meetings with GO Center coordinator, school district counselors and personnel, collegiate partners, and other collaborators to work toward a successful outcome.

The Academic Advisor position is currently staffed, and is committed to continuing working toward the growth and success of the Community GO Center Program. The Academic Advisor will continue to donate some staff time for community meetings, meetings with counselors and teachers, principals, and reviewing student transcripts.

## QUALITY OF KEY PERSONNEL

### *Personnel*

ABCLC has a Board of Directors comprised of career educational professionals who are committed to improving the academic plight of our children. The organization realizes that the success of projects such as this is crucial to improving this community and providing much

needed assistance to its youth. We are committed to this project, as well as to a continuing effort to improve the plight of at-risk youth.

ABCLC's Executive Director (ED) will serve as grant administrator, principal contact and project director for the GO Center program. The ED will be responsible for project oversight, reporting, accounting and funds administration. The ED has considerable experience and training in federal grants, contracts, and procurement procedures. The ED also has extensive experience and training in government accounting and cost principles.

The position of academic advisor will be staffed with a Fort Worth ISD retired principal with more than thirty years of combined classroom and administrative experience. This will ensure that the position will be staffed with someone who has first-hand knowledge of the challenges of which our students are confronted on a daily basis.

The administrative assistant will be responsible for scheduling students and G-Force mentors for the GO Center. This position will also be responsible for preparing necessary reports for approval by the project director.

The parent liaison will be responsible for coordinating, communicating, and supporting parents. This position will be critical to getting parents engaged in the schools and involved in their children education.

SSC GO Center will utilize college students from UNTHSC Collegiate G-Force as mentors to assist students in the GO Center. UNTHSC has entered into a partnership agreement with SSC GO Center to provide G-Force students during the week. The funds from this grant will be used to hire additional UNTHSC G-Force students from UNTHSC for Saturdays. The mentors will work with students to help them focus on successful completion of high school as well as preparation for college. By providing early intervention we can provide students and

families the support and encouragement necessary to develop goals and plans which will ultimately lead to high school graduation and post-secondary school.

## ***QUALITY OF EVALUATION PLAN***

The SSC GO Center currently use an intake form for each initial student visit. The form contains relevant information about the student as well as contact information for future use. We also use an authorization form for each specific activity obtaining parental consent for proper use and disclosure of information obtained in accordance with Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. We also use a parental authorization form to obtain students report cards and transcripts. This enables our Academic Advisor to properly asses each child's academic needs and ensure they are taking the proper course curriculum for graduation.

The information obtained from these various forms is entered into a database to be used for evaluation purposes. By initially obtaining a transcript from students, we can establish a base GPA, as well as determine what scholarships the students are eligible to apply. The information obtained will be updated to comply with all necessary reporting requirements for THECB's Community Partnership Program.

The Program Director will be responsible for ensuring that the proper forms are available and correctly completed for each activity as well as for daily operation. The program director will also be responsible for collecting the forms on a monthly basis. The Administrative Assistant will be responsible for entering the data from the forms into a database, and generating reports. The academic advisor will be responsible for evaluation of each activity based on data output. The evaluations will be conducted for each activity, and an overall program evaluation will be conducted at the end of each program year (September).

## ADEQUACY OF RESOURCES

### *Equipment and Resources*

Since operations began in January 2008, the SSC GO Center has been staffed by the Executive Director, Academic Advisor and Collegiate G-Force Mentors. The Executive Director and Academic Advisor, both retired, are committed to improving the plight of at-risk students. This commitment includes outreach activities to parents and students to increase their knowledge of opportunities for higher education and ways to finance a higher education. Through its partnership agreement, UNTHSC has committed to continued support of the GO Center by providing G-Force Mentors.

The SSC GO Center is equipped in accordance with the model established by THECB. The Center currently operates with ten 10 computer, two printers, a copier, and phone line and internet access. All equipment and phone lines are made available by ABCLC. Princeton College guide review books, provided by Fort Worth ISD, are available for students use. In addition, brochures, booklets, posters and videos developed and provided by THECB to help community-based organizations working with students and their families are available. The materials are designed to help students and their families learn how to prepare for college, and apply for college admission and financial aid.

Although the Center operates at the physical location of the Church, there are no inherent religious activities associated with, supported by, or funded with any GO Center funds. The Center is not operational at any time Church worship services are conducted. The Go Center and all of its activities are open to the general public and are free of charge.

**AB CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER**
**STOP SIX COMMUNITY GO CENTER**

## STATEMENT OF IMPACT

As a non-traditional GO Center the SSC GO Center primarily focus on effectively reaching out to families as well as students. Because we target those families who normally consider college to be out of reach, we believe we provide college information and opportunities to those students and parents who are normally hard to reach. We provide this segment of the community information about the benefits of higher education and the necessary steps to prepare academically and financially for college. In addition, the Stop Six Community Go Center reaches out to students and their families as early as 9th grade to instill the importance of completing high school, as well as obtaining a higher education. Our expanded operations will reach out to those students in earlier grades who are currently attending the GO Center.

**AB CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER**
**STOP SIX COMMUNITY GO CENTER**

## PROJECT BUDGET

| *Cost Element* | *Per Month* | *Month* | *Total* | *% of Total Cost* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Salary Expense*** | | | | |
| Project Director | $ 3,000 | 12 | $ 36,000 | 20.57% |
| Parent Liaison | $ 480 | 12 | $ 5,760 | 3.29% |
| Academic Advisor | $ 1,000 | 12 | $ 12,000 | 6.86% |
| Administrative Asst | $ 1,120 | 12 | $ 13,440 | 7.68% |
| K-12 Reading Teacher | $ 1,000 | 12 | $ 12,000 | 6.86% |
| ***Total Salary*** | $ 6,600 | | $ 79,200 | 45.26% |
| | | | | |
| ***Fringe Benefits*** | | | | |
| Fringe | $ 675 | 12 | $ 8,100 | 4.63% |
| | | | | |
| ***Equipment/Software*** | | | | |
| Computers | $ 600 | 5 | $ 3,000 | 1.71% |
| Computer Equipment | $ 1,000 | 1 | $ 1,000 | 0.57% |
| Skill Tutor Software | $ 6,000 | 1 | $ 6,000 | 3.43% |
| ***Total Equipment/Software*** | $ 7,600 | | $ 10,000 | 5.71% |
| | | | | |
| ***Facilities*** | | | | |
| Rent/Utilities | $ 1,200 | 12 | $ 14,400 | 8.23% |
| Internet/Phone | $ 150 | 12 | $ 1,800 | 1.03% |
| ***Total Facilities*** | $ 1,350 | | $ 16,200 | 9.26% |
| | | | | |
| ***Other Direct Cost*** | | | | |
| Security | $ 3,000 | 12 | $ 36,000 | 20.57% |
| Travel | $ 250 | 12 | $ 3,000 | 1.71% |
| Summer Math WS | $ 3,000 | 1 | $ 3,000 | 1.71% |
| Summer Reading WS | $ 3,000 | 1 | $ 3,000 | 1.71% |
| Teen Forum | $ 2,500 | 2 | $ 5,000 | 2.86% |
| Books | $ 2,500 | 1 | $ 2,500 | 1.43% |
| Student Supplies | $ 250 | 12 | $ 3,000 | 1.71% |
| Operating Supplies | $ 250 | 12 | $ 3,000 | 1.71% |
| Parent Workshops | $ 500 | 4 | $ 2,000 | 1.14% |
| Copier | $ 1,000 | 1 | $ 1,000 | 0.57% |
| ***Total Other Direct Cost*** | $ 16,250 | | $ 61,500 | 35.14% |
| | | | | |
| ***Total Grant Cost*** | $ 32,475 | | $ 175,000 | |

**AB CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER**
**STOP SIX COMMUNITY GO CENTER**

## ***Budget Narrative***

- We are proposing part-time salaries to increase the number of students and parents served.
- Although the GO Center currently have ten computers and monitors made available through a donation from the Department of Defense, 5 additional updated computers are proposed to access and run reading and math software for student.
- The GO Center currently operates at the Stop Six Church of Christ, and during the winter and summer months, increased is incurred by the Church due to high heating, cooling and maintenance cost.
- The GO Center is physically located in a high crime area. Security is proposed for the safety of students and staff.
- Internet access is required to students to access College For Texans and other Government financial websites to apply for financial aid. In addition, college applications are completed on-line. Our internet services have been utilized by several parents to apply for various jobs that are only available on-line. During the past year, we were instrumental in helping three parents obtain employment.