

**HOPE VI Community & Supportive Services
Best Practices - Youth Programs/Involvement
St. Louis Housing Authority**

Youth Work Readiness Program Promotes Life Long Learning

For over 25 years Better Family Life, Inc. has been dedicated to the prosperity and growth of American families. The organization's mission is to plan and establish social, cultural, artistic, youth, economic housing and educational programs that promote positive and innovative changes within urban communities. Better Family Life, Inc. implemented Project C.R.E.A.T.E.'s (Cochran Revitalization through Education, Action, Training & Employment) Youth Work Readiness and Training Program to emphasize self-esteem, pre-employment skills and reality-based learning. These goals are accomplished through intensive employment and educational training that simulates the work/school environment.

The Youth Work Readiness Program promotes lifelong learning as the ultimate key to reversing the negative trend in youth delinquency and underachievement. This program seeks to equip 50 youth aged 14-18 in the Cochran and surrounding areas with life skills to effectively address academic, behavioral and family challenges that confront them as well as the skills needed to maintain and develop career sustaining employment.

Youth participating in the Youth Work Readiness and Training Program will participate in 5 weeks or 10 sessions of basic job-readiness training. The training takes place after school twice a week for five weeks. Youth must be in attendance for 80% of the program. Topics covered during training focus on employer expectations with respect to dress, punctuality, separation of family needs from work requirements, and will include the following elements: time management, workplace process, communication, interviewing skills and career development concepts. Each participant gains valuable knowledge of how to successfully apply for jobs, as well as become familiar with characteristics specific to career related development and success. Upon completion of the program each student must complete 10 hours of community service to obtain their \$400.00 stipend.

For more information on this Best Practice contact:

Djuan Robinson, d49ers80@hotmail.com