**Education Clinic Inc.**

**Job Education Development Initiative (JEDI) Program**

**Background:**

The Clinic was established in 1979 in Central Harlem by founder, Beth Pettit, when reading enrichment programs she initiated in Public School 92 and St. Aloysius were joined under one umbrella. The Clinic has since expanded into a thriving educational organization serving over 2,000 students each year. It has also enabled over 3,000 at-risk and other youth from low-income families to attend and graduate from some of the best private/independent high schools in New York City. A significant number of these high school graduates have also graduated from some of the top universities and colleges in 31 States

**History of Program:**

On May 27, 1996, John Joseph Flynn began the work of studying East Harlem with the aim of designing a summer jobs program for 14-17-year-olds. He walked the streets, interviewed storeowners and agency personnel, looking for businesses and agencies willing to employ teens. He studied Census statistics to better understand the way and lives of East Harlem families and teens. He was deeply dedicated to creating opportunities for youth.

The evolution of JEDI was a work of love. John recruited help from the best people everywhere. A computer technician devised an excellent plan for orientation for the students. John used the gifts and commitment of a community resident, JEDI’s teen counselor, to relate to teens. The guest speakers who came to address the students may have been the best feature of all because the teens were able to see first hand minority men and women who have succeeded against high odds and to hear how they did this. One of these speakers was Frank Petrilli, CEO of Waterhouse Investment Bank, whose generosity has done much to help us evolve.

Mr. Flynn’s death on January 9, 2000 was a terrible loss to all of us. He had given the last four years of his life to young people, often working twelve hour days. He was painstakingly careful to keep records, to note each work site and the experience of each student. This legacy makes it possible for us to continue his work and keep the relationships that he so carefully built.

**Problem:**

This program addresses the problem of advancing inner city youth to maturity as personally responsible self-governing citizens of the community. The problem in today’s urban areas that permeates the teenage population and undermines their self-esteem is the condition of prejudice and poverty in households mostly without a two-parent presence. The unemployment rate among inner city teenagers is in the range of 70%.

**Description of Program:**

Every year high school and college students are paid weekly stipends which vary from grade to grade for six weeks to mentor and tutor participants of our Summer Enrichment Program which usually ranges from Pre-K through 8th grade. The first five workshop days are dedicated to work training experience.

Historically, the JEDI program has provided job readiness and enriched core curriculums to hundreds and enabled teens with a range of job skills, confidence, and competencies which enabled them to gain access and acceptance in the workplace and among their cohorts.

Once chosen, several workshops must be attended, topics covered: employee manual, guidelines and policy review; comportment and attitude amongst students, peers, parents; group traveling, fire & safety procedure reviews; safer environment & bullying; two job related training workshops (testing procedures and paperwork)

Every summer the JEDI program accepts between 40-60 applicants predominantly initially “high-risk,” low income and underserved youth whom reside in economically disadvantaged households in urban neighborhoods with low resources.

**Outcomes:**

The training component of JEDI provides the youth with job skills and other work-related competencies and helps them develop a responsible attitude to work. This in turn improves their marketability, and enhances their professional, personal and life skills by equipping them to better compete for scholarships, school placement and jobs. The employment and on-the-job training gives valuable work experience, while providing the Clinic with a pool of well-trained tutors and counselors for the summer program.

We are currently interacting with many of those former JEDI participants. High School Juniors volunteer on Saturdays and many enroll in our SAT prep classes.

  Recognizing that academic support alone is not enough to keep students in school and that they sometimes need individual support and mentorship to feel connected to the campus community, we are following and in constant contact with 19 College Freshmen, 18 Sophmores, 16 Juniors and 10 Seniors through their College experience.

**Historic Demographics**

African American 82% Hispanic 15%

Caucasian 2% Other 1%

Male 33% Female 67%

**Target Population**

  The majority of JEDI applicants reside in New York City’s Harlem and the Bronx, in traditionally disadvantaged neighborhoods. Most applicants attend NYC Public High Schools including Charter schools and NYC Catholic High Schools. Many students have come through the Education Clinic‘s “Enrichment and AACE Programs.

  They are limited and driven by increasing tuition costs, have limited financial support, the need (as a teenager) to buy what they want (independence of style), and basically gain that sense of responsibility.

**Educational Componen**t

Not only is the JEDI program a job development opportunity but it also does hold a certain educational component. That component is that every JEDI participant has to read a book from a College list provided and submit a written analysis on the last day of their summer employment.

**Historical Statistics**

**2011** 191 Teens applied for JEDI positions 64 were hired3 teens volunteered

**2012** 144 Teens applied for JEDI positions 69 were hired 6 teens volunteered

**2013** 129 Teens applied for JEDI positions 65 were hired 8 teens volunteered

**2014** 119 Teens applied for JEDI positions 41were hired 16 teens volunteered

**2015** 143 Teens applied for JEDI positions 45 were hired 9 teens volunteered

\* 4 teens outsourced from HCZ “Learn To Earn” Program

**2016** 167 Teens applied for JEDI positions 49 were hired 1 teens volunteered

\* 11 teens outsourced from HCZ “Learn To Earn” Program

**2017** 149 Teens applied for JEDI positions 34 were hired3 teens volunteered

\* 30 teens outsourced from Kipps Bay Boys & Girls Club SYEP

**Timelines**

JEDI has been operational 23 years and we hope will continue seamlessly through coming operational years contingent on funding. It runs for 6 weeks in the summer, usually last week of June to first week of August.

**Communication and Public Relations Plans**

Results are communicated in our Annual Report, posted on our website, and included our semi-annual *Family News* newsletter.

**Closing:** The generous support of various Charitable Foundations and several individuals who “adopt a JEDI” has enabled us to offer this program for a number of years. We are thankful for their support and hope that many more will sign on to enable us to continue the JEDI Program.