

## 2009 HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

1. Thirty Job Corps students complete Growth Plans. Thirty Jacksonville Job Corps students (only 14% of whom to date have a high school diploma or their GED) completed the 20-hour Growth Plan BUILDING Phase of our process and have now graduated into the Growth Plan BENCHMARKING Phase in which they step-by-step implement their Growth Plan in their everyday lives. Partial student evaluation results to date show that:



- ▶ Helpfulness. 69% of student growth planners rated that building and implementing a personal Growth Plan will help them achieve the kind of life they would like for themselves 5 to 10 years from now. As one student put it, “It has changed me a lot because planning for the future and having some growth out of my situation is a plus. Many people don’t have a chance to experience that.”
- ▶ Continuation. 80% of student growth planners rated that growth planning should be included as an ongoing part of the Job Corps program. In explaining why the Job Corps should continue growth planning, one student wrote: “To show people who don’t know what they want to do and/or where they want to go. This gives people a plan (A, B, and C) for where and what they are going to do in life. This teaches people how to deal with problems they need to fix. This brings people to the reality of life.”

The Job Corps is a nation-wide program of the U. S. Department of Labor.

2. Awarded \$20,000 Advancing Innovation Grant. During the fall of this year, we were notified that we have been awarded a \$20,000 Advancing Innovation Grant that will enable us to conduct a 2010 incentives-based field-test to determine whether our growth planning self-identity, mindset & lifestyle change and development process can enable a dozen or more @risk 8<sup>th</sup> graders to:

- ▶ Transition. Successfully make the often highly difficult transition to high school.
- ▶ Performance. Increase their overall performance both in high school and in their out-of-school life, including staying out of trouble
- ▶ Drop-out rate. Decrease their high school drop-out rate.

Assuming additional funds are secured, for each year in high school field-test participants will be able to earn up to \$1,000 in future-use college scholarships and immediate-use cash payments for building and benchmarking a personal Growth Plan and for demonstrating a growth planning self-identity, mindset & lifestyle in their everyday life. The grant also allows us to hire and train about 3 @risk college students to be assistant Growth Plan Coaches, thus making it possible for us to work with all 3 of our focus audiences – @risk/w high-potential 8<sup>th</sup> grade, high school, and college students.

3. Three Twin City growth planners now in college with our help. One Sabathani Community Center youth who began growth planning as a freshman in high school is now in his first year at Hampton University, and two Minneapolis Henry High School growth planners are now in college. And, 4 new Henry High School students have begun building their Growth Plan in the third year of our growth planning partnership with the Minneapolis-based Neighborhood Involvement Program.