Kris Nelson Community-Based Research Program

...a program of the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA)

MYA “Disrupting Poverty” Impact Study

Prepared in partnership with
Mentoring Young Adults

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Client Impact Stories

The MYA Disrupting Poverty Impact Study is available on the CURA website:
http://www.cura.umn.edu/publications/search

saintpaulmya.org
A Researcher’s Perspective...

“The Mentoring Young Adults impact study began on the 1st of June, 2015 with an interview with MYA’s Executive Director, Dora Jones. Armed with 9 years of information, Dora told the MYA story in great detail. When asked to see the data to support this information, Dora pointed me to a locked storage bin with lots of file boxes. “There it is, every piece of paper from the last nine years, as I do not throw away anything”, Dora explained. With the help of a student worker, five years of data was organized, entered into a database, checked and statistically modeled to add intelligence and measurement to the conclusions in the study.”

The MYA “Disrupting Poverty” Impact Study evaluates the importance of community-based organizations in serving the population “extreme poverty” areas in the communities served by MYA, which are Ramsey, Dakota, Washington and Hennepin (youth employment only) counties. Many of the clients observed at Mentoring Young Adults (MYA) suffer from post-trauma illnesses and depression standing in the way of their climb out of poverty. The study looks at systemic issues that are built into the economic system that further support the challenges in climbing one’s self out of poverty.

MYA provides a bridge over the chasm of poverty, enabling those served through stages that start with crisis management, empowering educational programs, employment training & placement and second-chance probation monitoring to get clients stabilized in housing, employment and facilitation of youth’s entry back into society.

The study includes information provided through interviews with clients, community supporters, partnering non-profits, financial partners, government agencies and policy makers. The study evaluates five years of data from intake applications that focus on the top three services provided.

~Monique Linder, Research Assistant
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