

Organization and Mission

On May 04, 2018 THE LITTLES PROJECT , INC. was established as a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization with the purpose of providing a safe haven where inner-city youth participate in comprehensive programs of drug prevention, academic tutoring, fun life skills programs and sports programs that promote physical, educational and life skills necessary to prepare and empower them for leadership in their communities and success in their personal lives.

It wasn't too many years ago the third wave of the opioid epidemic that is plaguing our nation is taking a heavy toll on a particularly vulnerable group: The children of those with substance abuse disorders. While many of these children are being sent to live with grandparents or other family members when parent overdoses or displays other problems, a growing number are being placed in the foster-care system, which in many states is struggling to keep up with demand. We heard too much about crime, truancy, substance abuse, obesity, teen pregnancy, and academic failure. All that is changing and The Littles Project Inc. is going to play a big part in the transformation.

Our Vision

Making our community safe for future generations. We will provide an alternative to a negative lifestyle and negative decision making. We will offer positive community resources, assistance and provide a positive outlet for our youth. The Littles Project is dedicated to bettering the community and our youth by providing an anti-bullying, drug-free & judgment-free zone (The Littles Center). Our youth can visit after school and summer vacations. This will encourage and give them a positive structure to assist and guide them through a smooth transition from childhood into adulthood.

Community Need

There is a tremendous need for programs that provide activities and support for children during the after school hours and throughout the summer, especially for high-risk youth in low-income neighborhoods. Young people ages 10-17 are more likely to get into trouble between 3PM-7PM. Children and teens in poor neighborhoods are struggling for direction, and positive opportunities are needed to keep them safe and on-track. A great majority of all American fourth graders cannot read or do math at grade level. In addition, a study published in Pediatrics magazine found that eighth graders who were left alone after-school reported greater use of cigarettes, marijuana, and alcohol than those in adult-supervised settings.

Current research indicates that supervised after-school and summer programs not only keep children safe and out of trouble, they also significantly improve their academic achievements.

Solution

Reported by cityrating.com New London County, CT, crime statistics report an overall downward trend in crime based on dates from 15 years with violent crime increasing and property crime decreasing. Based on this trend, the crime rate in New London for 2019 is expected to be lower

than in 2016. The Littles Project recognizes that trend and sees the potential benefits of a quality after-school and summer program. The Littles Center will provide a safe haven for the inner-city youth of New London County. The Littles Project has developed a program that is designed to keep our youth safe as well as grooms them to be productive members of society, which will reduce crime, illicit activity, while helping to increase academic performance, providing life skills to ensure success in school, in the community and in life.

Project Description

Teaching high-risk, inner-city youth the skills to become successful in life is at the core of The Littles Projects programs. The six major components of the programs are:

A.D.A.P.T.E.D.

(Alcohol & Drug Abuse Prevention Treatment Educational Directive)

Through our A.D.A.P.T.E.D. program, we will strive to provide education on drugs and alcohol abuse prevention. We display a healthy example of what a positive role model is and help our youth adapt to their broken communities through an alternative to healthier choices.

P.U.R.E.

(Positive Uplifting through Recreational Expression)

Our P.U.R.E. program is designed to teach discipline, leadership, respect, expression, dedication, and teamwork through recreational sports.

V.I.N.E

(Venue of Influence for Natural Expression)

For our youth that is more interested in Academics, than Athletics.

The V.I.N.E program will help our youth to find healthy ways to express themselves through The Creative Arts and The Performing Arts.

J.E.M.

(Journalism & Expressive Media)

J.E.M. a Creative Writing and Media program that will help our youth to learn how to express themselves figuratively through writing and journalism; as well as learn the ins and outs of the media industry.

R.E.A.C.T.

(Raising Education & Awareness through Computers and Technology)

R.E.A.C.T. is a program which is dedicated to educating our youth on the ever-changing trends in technology and the computer industry. The lesson includes a range of activities from basic keyboarding & programming, coding, app and website building. Also social media networking/marketing and much more.

R.E.L.Y.

(Real Elements for Loving Yourself)

R.E.L.Y. is all about Beauty, Health and Hygiene. Our youth will be taught health and hygiene lessons, Learn how and what the benefits are of making all-natural cosmetics, and most importantly lessons on loving oneself inside and out.

The After-School Program

The after-school program will serve New London County children ages 7-17 during the school year from September until May. It includes homework assistance, a drug prevention program, Health and Life Skills education or participation of a scheduled activity of the child's choice. The after-school program will run from 3 PM to 7 PM Monday thru Friday.

The Summer Program

The Summer program will serve New London County children ages 7-17 and includes academic tutoring, life skills, and drug prevention for 1 hour out of the program day. All participants will take part in constructive activities, trips, and events. The program will run from 12 PM to 4 pm Monday thru Friday.

Participants will benefit from being in a positive, anti-bullying, judgment-free zone. The Littles Project programs are structured so that the youth can build positive self-esteem, respect, taking responsibility for choices and management of emotions. These life skills are integrated throughout all of the programs and the mentors routinely demonstrate how they apply to situations in all aspects of life.

Nutrition and healthy lifestyles are stressed throughout the program. Healthy snacks are provided.

The Littles Project will be fortunate to have a corp of volunteers, who will be dedicated to these programs. As well as dedicated staff. People from the community that are healthy examples of what a positive role model is. They will have the knowledge, the skills, the understanding and most of all the patience to guide and mentor our youth. Some of these people have been in similar positions that many of the youth we serve are in. The mentors that lead our programs have overcome many of the struggles that our youth face today, and are winning at life. These mentors want to give back to their community, especially the youth. It is important to The Littles Project to provide a safe haven for our youth.

Population Served

- Youth 7 to 17 years old
- More than 60% come from single parent families and/or live with a grandparent or other caregiver.
- Virtually all participants that qualify for the free lunch program and are considered low-income.

Outcomes and Evaluation

At least 75% of participants will complete the program measured by attendance.

At least 65% of participants will demonstrate academic improvement as measured by quarterly report cards, mentor progress reports, and tutor feedback.

At least 50% of participants' families will increase the number of hours spent in reading activities with their children as measured by pre and post screenings and Littles Bonus Bucks program tracking form.

Partners

The Littles Project strongly believes that the formula for providing effective, cost-efficient and high-quality programs includes collaboration with many community organizations. The Littles Project partners with the following groups:

- Beulah Heights First Pentecostal Church
- National Institute on Drug Abuse(NIH)
- DrugFreeWorld.org
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People(NAACP)
- Fraternal Order of the Eastern Stars(O.E.S.)
- S.W.E.E.T. Potato Society
- Manny's Barbershop

Sustainability of the project

To serve eligible youth, virtually all of whom are unable to pay for services, The Littles Project has developed a fundraising plan which includes initiating an annual fund drive targeted to individuals; an annual banquet/auction; funding request to civic clubs and organizations; and corporate and foundation grants.

Publicity

The Littles Project will be pleased to acknowledge your contribution with appropriate signage at the facility and all sponsored events. In addition, we would make mention of your gift in our quarterly newsletter, as well as on our website.

