

Project Destiny Inc.

*2023-2024 City of Pittsburgh STOP the
Violence Community Investment Grants*

Project Destiny, Inc.

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FollowUp Form

Quarter Three Activities Update

Greetings, STOP the Violence grantees!

As the City of Pittsburgh prepares to update our stakeholders on the impact of this process, we need to gather some evaluation-focused information about your programs. Please answer the following survey about your services and activities from the third quarter following receipt of your grant award.

Thank you!

Organization Name*

Please enter the name of your project/program in the box below.

Project Destiny Inc.

Did you spend any of your STOP the Violence grant funds during this period?*

Yes

How did you spend the funds?*

Please check all categories that apply.

Staff Compensation (including benefits)

General Operations

If you chose "other", please describe.

Tell us how many people your organization/group served from the following age groups during this period.

Ages 0-17*

203

Ages 18-30*

26

Ages 30+*

91

Programs and Services*

Provide a brief description of any programs or services your organization or group provided in alignment with your STOP the Violence proposal.

Youth and Family Engagement Program (YEP): YEP provides youth with educational, character-building, and service opportunities while empowering families to enhance communication and collaboration. Incorporating trauma-informed care, violence prevention, and mentoring, the program promotes youth development and family engagement.

After-School Program: This program offers a safe space for youth to socialize and engage in educational and recreational activities. It supports academic success and community belonging, featuring skills development in organization, time management, goal setting, health, social-emotional learning, citizenship, leadership, literacy, STEM, and recreation.

Summer Camp Program: A vibrant six-week summer camp that emphasizes personal growth, creativity, and community engagement, providing enriching experiences for children and youth. It also offers young adults aged 17-21 valuable work experience and personal development opportunities.

Did you partner with any other organizations or groups during this period?*

Yes

Did your organization intentionally engage officers from the Pittsburgh Police during this period?*

Yes

Did you use STOP the Violence logos in marketing and media (social or traditional)?*

Yes

Give a brief description of your STOP the Violence during this period*

1. Pittsburgh Police from Zone 1 came to summer camp and afterschool program to engage with students.
2. A licensed professional counselor was contracted to do Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) groups with Northside parents of at-risk children and youth who have been exposed to community violence. Groups were held twice monthly.
3. Preparation to create a Scouting America troop at the after-school program began with training development and volunteer recruitment strategies.
4. An experienced social worker was hired to fulfill the role of Director of Children and Family Initiatives to improve and expand clinical and trauma informed prevention and intervention programs.
5. Afterschool program participated in national Lights On Afterschool Program by bringing in Grammy Award nominated producer to give youth hands on music production experience to foster creative expression.

Is your organization planning any public activities in the next few months?*

Yes

If "yes", please provide a brief description.

Project Destiny will host and facilitate STOP the Violence Focus Groups for adult and teen residents of the Northside to hear the impact of community violence, risk-factors, and ideas for programming, etc.

Does your organization need capacity-building support?*

Yes

On what areas of focus would you like your capacity-building support?

Fundraising

Marketing

Share Your Stories*

Upload a clip or provide text to share one or more specific stories (please avoid using full names of clients/participants) that illustrates the impact of your work.

Shalaya is one of the new Kindergarteners in the after-school program this year. When Shayla first came to the program, she was very timid and quiet. While doing homework Shalaya didn't express much confidence in her abilities. Since then, Shalaya has shown much progress socially and academically. Shalaya has opened up more with staff and peers and has been more vocal lately. Shalaya has wanted to join more group games and has expressed the urge to want to learn games that the older students play. She has been successful at this and learns rather quickly and remembers how to play the games (i.e. Phase 10) Academically, Shalaya has improved so much in the area of identifying letters and sounds of letters, and she even attempts to sound out words before being told to do so while doing homework. With the use of flash cards for numbers and learning resources, Shalaya has been able to increase how many numbers she can identify and count to.

Another after-school program student is Brandon. He had been struggling with his spelling tests and receiving low grades. More emphasis was put on studying spelling words and flash cards were made and utilized. About two weeks later Brandon was so excited to share that he received a 100% A on his spelling test. He was excited and proud of himself. Brandon's teacher has confirmed his progress.

A youth in our Youth and Family Engagement Program had a rough time in high school and was in danger of not graduating. With the support of our Family Life Liaison, she was able to complete high school and get a job at her sister's hair salon as a braiding designer. She also moved to her sisters because it was easier for her to get to work. Shortly after working at the salon, her adoptive mother got sick. She moved back home and cares for her adoptive mother instead of working in the salon.

A young mother was behind in her rent and utilities. She was only working a part-time job, and it was hard for her to make ends meet. Mom was also going back and forth to court with her daughter which caused her to be laid off from her full-time job. We connected mom to the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, and she

went to one of the housing clinics and was able to get her rent paid as well as her utilities. Our Family Life Liaison also assisted the mother in her job search, and she was also able to get a full-time job on the Northside near her house at a personal care home.

Another family benefited from our behavioral health interventions. Brandi, a single mother of two boys in middle and high school, was overwhelmed and depressed. She participated in a 26-week dialectical behavior therapy (DBT) group provided by our contracted licensed professional counselor and gained skills to manage her emotions needed to function daily. As a result, her relationships with her sons have greatly improved and she has successfully returned to the workforce as an employee of UPMC. Moreover, her son Aaron who attends a downtown charter high school, began therapy with our clinical social worker and has experienced significant benefits from sessions. He now reports that he is less withdrawn and adopting a healthier sleeping pattern. When he first engaged in counseling, he was retiring to his bedroom at 5:30 pm and sleeping until morning. While still preferring to participate in solitary activities in his room, he is delaying his bedtime by four hours.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

No files were uploaded