



PHOENIX

INTERNATIONAL INC

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INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

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ATLANTA GA ILP Program Overview

Phoenix International Inc. is a GA corporation seeking contract with the State to begin operations of an Independent Living Program for the State's Youth. We will work with youth from the ages of 18 to 21 to assist in their development and transition from group home life to independent living. We will do this through the delivery and instruction of various life skills we deem as necessary for the development of not only a productive, but a successful citizen. We will operate out of offices in the heart of Midtown Atlanta located at 1230 Peachtree St. Our offices will include meeting rooms, study rooms, and instructional space for our program participants. Participants will be housed in 1-3 bedroom apartments located around the city with close proximity to MARTA, making it easy for them to get to, school, jobs, internships, as well as classes and workshops at our Midtown offices which are located directly across the street from the Art Center MARTA Station.

Mission: Our mission is to lift our participants' mindsets, experiences, and aspirations far above and beyond convention to create both a drive and capacity for success and a culture of Beyond within as many as we possibly can. Just as the mythical fire bird rose reincarnated from its' own ashes and flames, Phoenix calls all those with whom we work to rise Beyond Efficiency, Beyond Expectation, and Beyond Excellence.

Vision: Our vision is one of a far brighter tomorrow, one in which our participants will light the way as the Great Phoenix to lead their peers fueled by the knowledge, experiences, and drive instilled in them while in our program. They will be Well Rounded, Healthy, Mentally Strong, and Civically Minded. Not only will we have given them the keys to future successes, but we will have given them incentive and drive to never again settle for mediocrity or anything less than the very best life has to offer.

Our Board of Directors has years of experience in Government Service, Nonprofit Development, Teaching, Youth Direction, and Social Work. The board is as follows:

CEO and President Maurice D. Ravannah

COO and Treasurer Dr. Floyd H. Hardin III

CCO and Secretary Nancy Williams

Purpose

The purpose of this program is to assist youth in successfully transitioning from life in State funded Group Homes and the Foster Care System into Independent Living in which they will have the key life skills and tools for not just survival but for success and upward mobility.

Goals

We have both short and long term goals; our chief long term goal is to expand on a successful ILP throughout the state fulfilling the mission wherever need exists. Our Short term goals include the following:

- Organize well informed and easily deliverable workshops and classes
- Secure a contract with the State to fund the ILP
- Build our first contract of 30 to 90 participants to capacity
- Develop internship/mentorship programs for our participant
- Arrange community service and volunteerism events

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CORE CURRICULUM

The philosopher Thomas Hobbes said:

The life of man, solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.

and

Prudence is but experience, which equal time, equally bestows on all men, in those things they equally apply themselves unto.

He built a philosophy out of a bleak existence and dismal beginnings. They shaped his world view in such a way as to reinforce the ideal that life must be negative and the only thing pure is knowledge. This is but one example of how a troubled past can shape not only one man's outlook but an entire philosophy moving forward into the world.

The participants in Phoenix's programs have similar backgrounds to Hobbes, many from homes broken by death, disease, crime, or poverty. If we can instill in them key life skills while introducing them to glimpses of what life has to offer; perhaps we can change or enlighten their world view and philosophy.

Ours' is a philosophy of Beyond. We are willing to go one step further than everyone else is willing to go. Be beyond efficient, beyond expectation, and beyond excellence. We deliver this philosophy through both our curriculum and our programs. The curriculum includes the following:

Home Economics

Home Economics or FCS Family and Consumer Science is the study dealing with the management of the home and community. Phoenix's HE/FCS modules deal with the essential skills our participants will need to fend for themselves in the real world, from cooking and cleaning for themselves, to negotiating utilities, and budgeting household bills and resources.

Financial Literacy

Financial literacy is the ability to understand how money works in the world: how someone manages to earn or make it, how that person manages it, how he/she invests it (turn it into more) and how that person donates it to help others. Though this is a broad and pivotal field of study the traditional education system does little to expose students to its real world applications. Phoenix intends to bridge that gap for our participants in covering such topics as budgeting, taxation, saving, investing, credit, and insurance.

S.T.E.M.

STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education. We focus on these areas together not only because the skills and knowledge in each discipline are essential for student success, but also because these fields are deeply intertwined in the real world and in how students learn most effectively. Phoenix's STEM module is an introduction to these fields as well as remedial and or refresher basics. An additional goal of this module is to assist participants in rising to the standards of entry at colleges if that is their chosen path.

Communications

Brilliance is wasted if it cannot be properly conveyed. Communications is the basis for all interaction in society. Phoenix intends to give its' participants a better chance at success in instilling a good grasp of interpersonal, professional or business, and leadership communications. This module will also entail resume writing, interviewing skills, and speech and or presentation delivery.

Etiquette

Proper Etiquette is most necessary for success in the business world. Phoenix wants to give its participants not only a shot at self-sufficiency through obtaining a job, but a shot at excelling in the business world. Our etiquette module is one tool to help make that happen. This module will include instruction, demonstration, and immersion exercises on business dress, formal dress, fine dining, and cultural awareness.

Our internal Program offerings are as follows:

Fit to Rise

Physical fitness and nutrition are great parts of overall health and wellbeing. Phoenix is very adamant about this aspect of our participants' health and wellness. We have contracted a Marine, trainer, and coach to help show the participants safe and efficient ways to remain physically fit. He will administer training once a week, advised them on exercises they can complete on their own 2 to 3 times a week to maintain wellness, and will oversee an annual Presidential physical fitness assessment, complete with customized recommendations for each participant's improvement. He will also instruct and oversee personal gardening projects for the students to show them how they can grow small quantities of their own organic herbs, fruits, and vegetables.

High Minded

The right state of mind is often the difference between absolute success and total failure. So often we see youth loose opportunities because they are ill equipped to respond to negative emotional or social stimuli around them. These traits are amplified within our underprivileged youth. High Minded is Phoenix's mental wellness and emotional intelligence workshop. The workshop uses introductions to meditation, journaling, and mindfulness along with instruction on ethics and exercises in compassion to help our participants elevate their mindset in the use of higher order thinking. When participants realize they are not just lumps of bio matter programmed with rote responses, and that they have the ability to analyze, think, and generate proportional responses they have a much better chance of attaining and maintaining success.

Rise to the Task (Technology-Aptitude-Skills-Knowledge)

Rise to the Task is a mentorship/internship program. The goal of the program is to instill work ethic and employment skills to participants of our Independent living program while elevating their work, and life experiences. The goal of this program is to broaden the participants' horizons, help them to build their resume thereby making them more well-rounded and marketable, as well as to expose them to the inner workings of jobs they would otherwise be unlikely to have access to, while conveying skills they will need to successfully navigate the working world.

Phoenix will reach out to local business owners and professionals and inquire as to their interest in both paid and unpaid internships. We will create agreements with these professionals to employ or intern our participants with particular skills and experience schemes in mind. (Interns should not just be “gofors”). They should be involved in key business tasks or observation.

Once agreements are met with these professionals they will be invited to periodical career fair opportunity meetings with our applicants. Here they will showcase their given internship opportunities either in person or remotely by video.

Participants who have completed instruction in business communication, professionalism, resume writing, and interviewing will then choose what internship they will apply for. Before their application is submitted they will complete mock interviews with Phoenix staff to insure they are ready to move forward. The final interview will be completed by the professional. The participant will then have regular scheduled hours to attend work. The professionals will submit periodic progress reports to Phoenix regarding the participants standing.

Participants will have the chance to switch to new opportunities if they choose to broaden their experiences.

Beyond Service

Phoenix staff and administration is of the opinion that civic mindedness is key to the success of all citizens. When we become solutions engineers for others, we are rewarded in kind by the creation of opportunities. With this in mind we intend to show our participants that while they may have come from humble beginnings there are others in similar circumstances, and some in worse that they can be instrumental in helping. This sort of empowerment will show them just what they are capable of and in helping others it will inspire them to help themselves.

Phoenix Staff has amassed a list of nonprofits and other organization that are in need of volunteers to further their missions to help our less fortunate neighbors. In addition to their scheduled classes and internships, students will be scheduled regularly for community service events with organizations such as Hands On Atlanta, Trees Atlanta, and Habitat For Humanity. These interactions can prove to build communications, social, and leadership skills in our participants as well.

One service event will be required per week. This too will help each participant to build their resume, making them even more well-rounded and marketable. Phoenix staff may take students out of town for specific service events to give the students more experience than the neighborhoods they are used to

Soar Beyond

Soar Beyond is Phoenix’s broadened exposure program in which we will expose the students to some of the finer things in life. It is our opinion and goal that proper exposure is the proper incentive for success. Students will already have their own backgrounds and the experience of volunteering and working with the less fortunate, the experience of interacting with professionals who have achieved varying levels of success, now this program will build on that exposure to show students glimpses of affluence. Examples will be introducing students to travel and cultural events at local museums, art galleries, fine dining establishments, etc. once they have completed the Phoenix Etiquette workshops. Not only will this give them invaluable

memories and experiences but it will prepare them for a future of success. The social graces and skills this will instill will prove both necessary and helpful in the professional work a day world once they leave our program.

Out of the Ashes

It is important to show and or to remind the participants of both their personal power and the strength of community. Phoenix employs various team building methods, but chief among them is our Out of the Ashes Project. Each year teams of participants will be tasked with researching a service project of their own. They will complete the necessary research. They will organize and execute the project. They will then present the project to the organization to share their experiences and what they learned. These can be anything from a carwash fundraiser for a local charity to a community cleanup. Their only real limit is their imagination. The teams will be ranked in order by total number of service hours for the year. The top ranking three teams will then present their service projects and annual service record to the body and a vote will be held for the winning teams. First and second place teams will win a prize and or a scholarship.

The Nest

Our underprivileged youth have no shortage of good ideas and entrepreneurial thought, though they typically have substantial barriers to entry in business due to lack of capital, credit, and knowledge. While developing our financial literacy curriculum Phoenix administration decided to inspire students with entrepreneurial aspiration by creating a business incubator project. We call that project The Nest. The goal of the nest is to further what students have learned in our financial literacy workshops and allow them to put that knowledge into use while learning business functions, such as basic market research, how to write and present a business plan, how to leverage credit to obtain funding for their business, how to stay organized, how to share your vision, and motivate a staff, and basic accounting principles. Participants will have a chance to complete a business project to showcase what they have learned at the end of each year. Participants will receive guidance and assistance every step of the way by Phoenix's trained business managers and professionals. Phoenix will offer a number of business grants and/or loans to participants whose business plans are approved by the board of directors.

Fly Towards the Crown

Many participants may wish to go to college. This is truly a worthwhile pursuit and one that Phoenix will support them in to the best of our abilities. We will work with the Morehouse College Alumni Association to assist participants who may wish to attend Morehouse. Students who academically are not yet able to be admitted to the college may be eligible to join through the PSP or Pre-freshman Summer Program. We will assist students in these academic aspirations through tutoring, as well as application counseling and assistance.

The Push

Much as eagles push their young from the nest to teach them to fly, Phoenix will eventually have to part with participants once they age out of our program. We endeavor to instill all the necessary life skills for success in each of our participants before they leave us. The Push is our final evaluation, assessment, and assistance to participants who are reaching the terminal age in our program which is 21 years of age. We will evaluate participants' records through our curriculum assessments, and through reviews of each of our programs. We

will revisit their initial needs assessment, and their interest assessment to give advice on next steps to take, such as applying for jobs and or school if they have not already. We of course will endeavor to have this sort of placement completed before students actually age out to give them their best chances of success.

Thank you for your interest in our program. For more info or to contact us visit our online home:

www.PhoenixRises.org