Youth and Workforce Development Initiatives

In 2014, Episcopal Community Services began providing workforce development for young adults ages 14 through 25. For many, workforce development means pairing people with jobs, but at ECS, it means so much more. In fact, workforce development means something different to each young person we serve.

To put it simply, we focus on strengthening talent and providing opportunities — opportunities that build skills, boost self-esteem, create pathways, and promote sustainability for each participant. For many youth, this is their first time entering a professional setting. Their first time going on a job interview. And, if you're lucky, you have a mentor to turn to for support — someone who can teach you the ropes as you chart your career path.

Instead of simply providing a job, we focus on strengthening talent and providing opportunities. We tap into our network of connections and promote sustainability for each participant.

At some point in each of our professional lives, we need to call for some help. We tap into our network of connections and promote sustainability for each participant.

At Episcopal Community Services, qualified participants are connected to internships, boosting their resumes and offering real-world experience. And since internships are often unpaid, ECS covers compensation, providing interns with a fair, sustainable-wage and transportation costs. ECS has developed strong bonds with various employers who inform us of the skills they seek in their employees, allowing us to tailor our training of participants — leading them to temporary, meaningful employment. While some offer jobs, others, just as valuable, provide mentorship to participants.

Navigating one’s way through a competitive job market and landing an entry-level position is no easy feat. Job listings often remain hidden and leave even the most eligible candidates in the dark. At Episcopal Community Services, we believe that every person deserves a life of stability, wellness, and independence. By providing the skills and resources necessary for sustainable employment and financial security, our workforce development initiatives honor that notion, and honor each person served.

When you're young and looking for your first job, that help could be asking a friend to put in a good word if your employer is hiring. Help could be as simple as practicing your firmest handshake with somebody before a big interview. And, if you’re lucky, you have a mentor to turn to for support — someone who can teach you the ropes as you chart your career path.

Preparing Tomorrow’s Workforce

At some point in each of our professional lives, we need to call for some help. We tap into our network of connections to advance ourselves.

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CONTACT US
For more information or ways to get involved, contact Jessica Main, MSW, LSW, program manager, at 215.351.1406 or jessicam@ecsphilly.org.

Investing In Brighter Futures

As privately-funded programs, Seeing Youth Succeed and The R.I.S.E. Initiative depend solely on the support of our generous investors. These individuals, parishes, and institutions make what we do possible. As partners in this work, together, we have been able to make a lasting impact in the lives of young people with ambitious dreams and unwavering determination.

ECS is tremendously appreciative of the commitment, dedication, and exceptional financial support received from:

- The Lenfest Group LLC
- The McGeen Family Scholarship Fund at Modern Group Ltd.
- The Philadelphia Foundation
- Philadelphia Youth Network
- The Scholler Foundation
- Frank and Pamela H. Bern
- St. Christopher’s Church, Gladwyne
- St. David’s Episcopal Church, Radnor
- St. Thomas’ Church, Whitestown
- Trinity Episcopal Church, Ambler

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Preparing Tomorrow’s Voters

At some point in each of our professional lives, we need to call for some change. We tap into our network of connections to advance ourselves.

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Letter From Our Program Director

In 2014, Episcopal Community Services began providing workforce development for adults ages 18 through 25. For many, workforce development means finding a job they enjoy; for ECS, it means so much more. In fact, workforce development means identifying opportunities for each young person we serve.

To put it another way, we focus on strengthening talent and providing opportunities — opportunities that build skill, boost morale, offer connection, and promote sustainability for each participant. For many, this is like having a personal mentor. This last time going on a job interview, this is like having a personal mentor. This last time going on a job interview, they were stepping into a new professional setting. With the education and mentoring they received, these adults had the tools they needed to make these areas of what it means to be committed not only to their professional development, but also to their personal growth.

In the beginning of our journey as we build these foundations, similarly, our programs are in the beginning of their “firsts.” And, it’s much more than just our programs for growth, there is also great possibility in the future of each person served.

But, at ECS, it means so much more. In fact, workforce development means identifying opportunities for each young person we serve.

The R.I.S.E. Initiative

Youth Succeed is a Philadelphia-based, private-public partnership that supports the development of young people ages 18 through 25 with one-on-one career coaching, employment, and career coaching, employment and career coaching.

The R.I.S.E. Initiative, which serves more than 300 underserved and disconnected youth, is on the soft professional skills gain through project-based learning, critical thinking, accountability, and ultimately, preparing each student for success in college and career.

Along with working the traditional pairs city youth with summer jobs. The R.I.S.E. Initiative supports young adults ages 18 through 25 with one-on-one career coaching, employment and career coaching.

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- The Philadelphia Foundation
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- The Scholler Foundation
- Frank and Pamela H. Serra
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- St. David’s Episcopal Church, Radnor
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“Rising To Success

Chris is a determined guy with a good head on his shoulders. His goal has always been to work in the information technology (IT) field, but he wasn’t exactly sure of how to launch his career.

He first heard about The R.I.S.E. Initiative through his brother-in-law who had participated in Seeing Youth Succeed (SYS). “One has no opportunity to find employment, make a better resume, and have more-effective interviews,” he said.

When it comes to interviewing, Chris says his nerves can sometimes get the best of him, as each interview构筑了 naturally and in person at ECS was especially helpful. “I built more confidence ... they made me feel more prepared,” he shared.

His in-person mock interview, fittingly, was with ECS’ senior director of information technology and innovation. Chris did so well that what was meant to be practice turned into an actual interview, leading him to gain internship where he gained first-hand experience of working in an IT department.

“I don’t know where I would be if I didn’t know about this program. I’m just so grateful that I have been told about this place.”

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Looking back at his time with R.I.S.E., Chris added, “I don’t know where I would be if I didn’t know about this program. I’m just so grateful that I have been told about this place.”