

WHUR Selects STRIVE DC for "Office of the Week " Segment

STRIVE has been chosen as the WHUR "Office of the Week" by DeeJay Tony Richards.

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The Steve Harvey Morning Show in conjunction with Tony Richards, Radio host from WHUR (96.3) has selected STRIVE DC as the "Office of the Week". Mr. Richards will arrive at STRIVE DC at 9:00am on Thursday, February 19, 2009 and will interview the staff, graduates and participants at STRIVE DC.

"I am so excited!" exclaimed STRIVE DC's Executive Director, Chris Hart-Wright. "Now more than ever we need people to support organizations that help the unemployed support themselves and their families. WHUR's visit will enable STRIVE DC to get more citizens involved with assisting their neighbors change from being unemployed to employed."

Mission & Services

STRIVE DC trains chronically unemployed people in the Washington, DC area with the skills to find and keep a job by providing job-readiness training, personal assistance in job placement and two years of supportive services. The training and follow-up set STRIVE DC apart from other employment programs. Together they produce low-cost, fast entry into the workforce and high job retention rates. All the services are provided free-of-charge to participants.

History & Goals

STRIVE DC was established in August 1999 to eradicate the District's high unemployment statistic and fill the void of effective programs seeking to accomplish this. Although independently funded and governed, STRIVE DC is just one of a network of centers modeled after the acclaimed East Harlem, New York STRIVE employment program that was established in 1984. Like its national model, STRIVE DC seeks to place 75-80% of its graduates in jobs and have 75-80% of those placed still employed after two years.

Accomplishments

STRIVE DC works. Since opening in 1999, STRIVE DC has graduated over 1,500 participants. In 2008 the program graduated 153 people and provided job placement and supportive services to an additional 350 graduates. Recently an analysis of the 2004 graduates was conducted. The class of 2004 had 116 graduates, of which 77% found jobs with 77% still being employed two years later. 48% of those graduates were ex-offenders of which only 10% were re-incarcerated.

Population Served

STRIVE DC's clients are adults (17 and over) from the inner-city who may be school dropouts, have troubled backgrounds, no work history, no income and, by their own assertion, no future. Their attitudes reflect failure and rejection – as children in school and as young adults. Many are ex-offenders, homeless

or both; some are survivors of childhood abuse and domestic violence. More than a few have experienced addiction. When they come to STRIVE DC, they have reached the end of the line, with tragedy ahead.

Approximately 76% of STRIVE DC's participants come from Wards 5, 6, 7, and 8, the wards with the highest unemployment rates. On average the program graduates 150 people per year and provides support services to 350 people.

For more information about the program and volunteer opportunities, contact STRIVE DC at (202) 484-1264.

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