

Franklin University

## FUSE (Franklin University Scholarly Exchange)

---

Learning Showcase 2016: A Celebration of  
Discovery, Transformation and Success

International Institute for Innovative Instruction

---

10-7-2016

### Meeting People Where They Are, Creating a Bridge Out of Poverty

Stanya M. Greathouse  
*Teen Start Inc.*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://fuse.franklin.edu/ss2016>



Part of the [Public Economics Commons](#), and the [Social Welfare Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Greathouse, Stanya M., "Meeting People Where They Are, Creating a Bridge Out of Poverty" (2016).  
*Learning Showcase 2016: A Celebration of Discovery, Transformation and Success*. 22.  
<https://fuse.franklin.edu/ss2016/22>

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the International Institute for Innovative Instruction at FUSE (Franklin University Scholarly Exchange). It has been accepted for inclusion in Learning Showcase 2016: A Celebration of Discovery, Transformation and Success by an authorized administrator of FUSE (Franklin University Scholarly Exchange). For more information, please contact [karen.caputo@franklin.edu](mailto:karen.caputo@franklin.edu).





# MEETING PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE, CREATING A BRIDGE OUT OF POVERTY

TEEN START INC. 1994-2016

Stanya M. Greathouse MA, M Ed , October 7, 2016

## Abstract

The poverty rate is a key economic indicator often used by policy makers to evaluate current economic conditions within communities. Teen Start Inc. targets persons experiencing generational poverty by offering programs that supports young parents and their children providing culturally competent programs to "improve human capital through education, employment, intergenerational transfer of knowledge and social bridging capital" (Payne, 2012).

## Program Goals

- Teen Start Inc. works with existing grass root youth development programs to provide structured evidenced based Educational, Enrichment and Prevention Programming.
- Advocate for children prevention programs while assisting interested stakeholders with developing and enforcing policies.
- Involve members of the community, developing long-term collaborations to raise public awareness around minority health disparities, youth and family violence and homelessness.

## Agency Mission, Funding, Stakeholders

Teen Start Inc. exists to enhance the social development of children, teens and young adults through life-skills education, mentoring, experiential learning and cultural exposure that will promote self-sufficient adults. Our vision is to cultivate responsible, self-sufficient, prepared and employable youth with a commitment to rebuilding their communities.



Teen Start Inc. provides *Training, Encouragement, Empowerment and Nurturing* building *Strength, Talent, Awareness, Respect* and *Tenacity*. Our programs consist of structured experiential services to urban and rural families, Life-skills Training, Workforce and Independent Living Skills Development, Life Coaching/Mentoring Services, Housing Support and Employment Training, Community Organizing and Program Development for Specialized Populations.

## Program Model

**Understanding and Working with People From Poverty requires a cognitive framework and knowledge of barriers to everyday life**

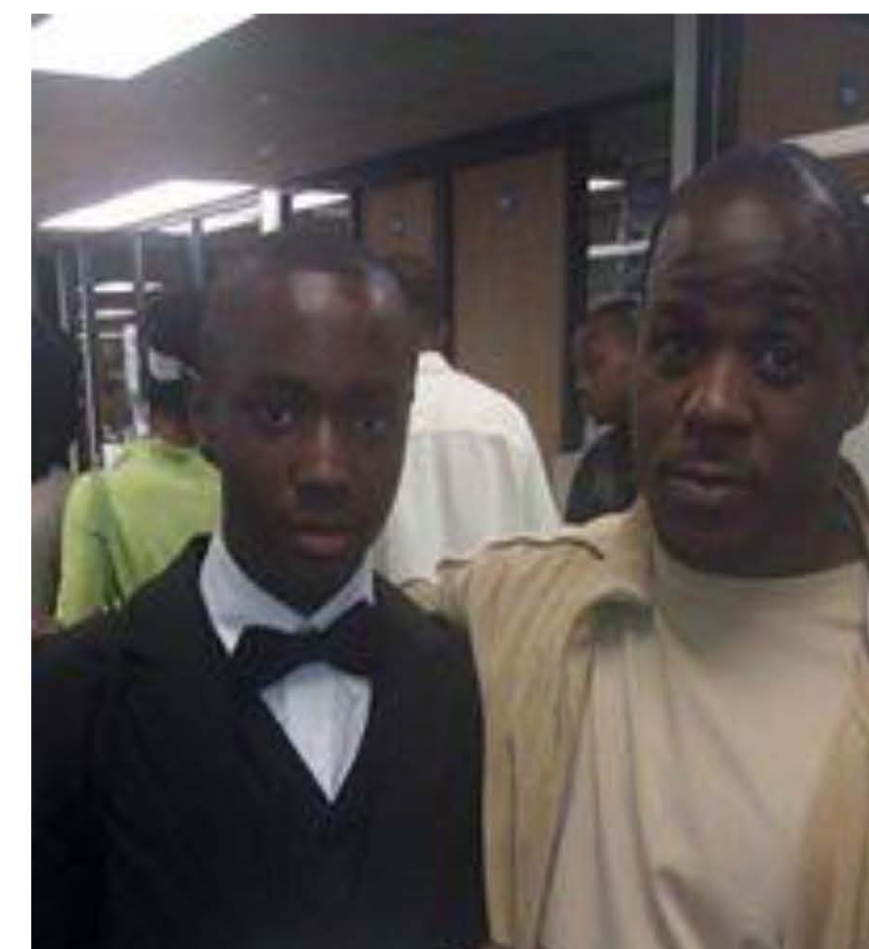
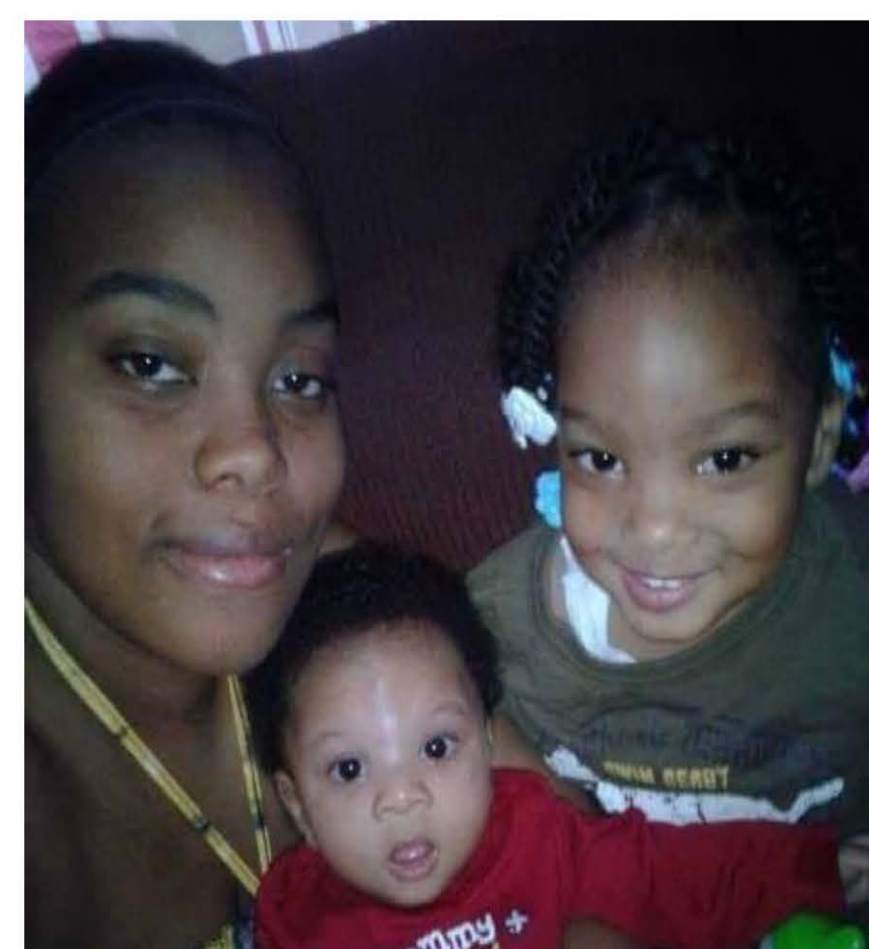
*Generational poverty and situational poverty are different.*

**Generational poverty** is defined as being in poverty for two generations or longer. **Situational poverty** exists for a shorter time and is caused by circumstances like death, illness, or divorce.

The framework used is based on patterns with exceptions based on hidden rules of the class in which they were raised. Despite the increase of income of an individual, many patterns of thought, social interactions and cognitive interactions remain with the individual. Schools and businesses operate and utilize middle-class norms whose rules differ from those experiencing generational poverty. Below are key factors to consider:

- When poverty is multi-generational the cycle is difficult to break.
- Families living in poverty experience barriers to housing, employment, childcare, medical coverage and other basic needs.
- Families experiencing generational poverty are not equipped with the tools necessary to move out of their situations primarily because they are focused on surviving the ongoing issues/challenges that consume them daily.
- Planning for the future is difficult due to the ongoing struggle to meet basic needs.
- We must have an understanding of a persons hidden rules in order to teach them the hidden rules of middle class that will make them successful at school and work.

Teen Start Inc. provides culturally competent service delivery working with families to help them overcome everyday barriers by meeting them where they are, developing human capital through relationships and education at the micro level.



## Highlights

- Teen Start Inc. has served over 11,500 children and families in Cuyahoga, Franklin and Delaware Counties, OH.
- Over 20,000 meals served to children during summer months
- Nationally Accredited Summer Camp (ACA)
- 500 families and 50 vendors participated in Minority Health and Wellness Fair
- 118 single young moms participated in Workforce Development Program receiving industry recognized training and certifications
- 93% High School Graduation Rate
- 123 College Graduates with Associates Degree or Higher

## Volunteer Opportunities

- Pre-Teen Enrichment Summer Camp
- Afterschool Tutoring Literacy Program
- Life Skills Workforce Development Project
- Violence and Homeless Prevention Project
- College Prep and Mentoring First Generation Students
- Back to School Bash and Supply Collection
- Annual Minority Health and Wellness Fair



## References

- Cepeda, Esther J. (2013) Overcoming Generational Poverty, *Washington Post* 5 July.
- Payne, Ruby K. (2003) *Understanding and Working with Students and Adults from Poverty*, Poverty Series Part 1, *A Framework for Understanding Poverty* (2012)www.ahaprocess.com

## Contact Info

Coleen Smitley  
Project Coordinator  
3963 Cleveland Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43224  
E-mail:  
teenstartinc@gmail.com

