



Hope Employment & Learning Academy

Ms. Alyssa Smith, Regional Program Director
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HISTORY:

- Founded by the late Reverend Ty Schenzel, to address the issue of hopelessness in the hearts of children and youth by providing tangible expressions of HOPE
- North Omaha location opened in 1998
- Fremont location opened in 2014
- Consistent mission through the years, with addition and strengthening of programs and updated strategies



MISSION:

The Hope Center for Kids strives to faithfully inspire hope in the lives of youth and children through education, employment, collaboration and faith.



Strategies

- **Educational Support (K-12th Grades)**
 - Children's & Youth Academic Success Time
 - Goal-Setting
 - Parent/School Connections & Outreach
- **Employability Training (High School Students)**
 - Social Skill Development through Children's & Youth Programs
 - Year-round Paid Youth Employment Training through the Hope Employment & Learning Academy
- **Youth Development (K-12th Grades)**
 - Character & Social Skills

Strategy: Educational Support

- **Children's & Youth Academic Success Time**
 - Provides daily homework support and educational support activities
- **Goal-Setting**
 - Helps young people plan for success in each of their classes
- **Parent/School Connections**
 - Strengthens communication between home, school and afterschool setting
 - Visits schools to connect with students and teachers
- **College preparation**
 - Assists with ACT prep, college and scholarship applications
- **College Visits**
 - Help motivate for college preparation and develop vision for post-secondary education
- **Service Learning**
 - Teaches the value of servant leadership and provides meaningful experiences

Strategy: Employability Training

- **Social Skills Instruction & Development through all Programs**
 - Provides the foundation for success in the classroom, at home and in the community
 - Positive discipline model, rooted in Boys Town instructional models
- **Hope Employment & Learning Academy**
 - Year-round paid youth employment training
 - Year 1: Skills workshops
 - Year 2: Internal and external internships
- **Employment Skills Workshops**
 - Financial Literacy, Health and Relational Wellness, Organizational and Study skills, Job-readiness Skills
 - Guest speakers, Site visits, Mock interviews
- **Small Group Mentoring**
 - Goal-setting, Strengths Coaching, Conflict Resolution Skills
- **Career Planning**
 - Helps develop a vision and plan for the future, including post-high school education and employment

These Strategies Respond to Community Needs and Produce the Following Outcomes:

Graduation from high school

The ability to get and keep a job

Character development and
healthy life choices

Youth Participants

Year	School Year 10 th – 12 th Grades	Summer 9 th – 12 th Grades, ages 14-19)
2014-2015	43 (67% successful completion)	51 (94% successful completion)
2015-2016	48 (56% successful completion)	57 (93% successful completion)
2016-2017	38 (74% successful completion)	64 (in progress)

**310 Youth (unduplicated) provided with
employment training since 2012**

Community Collaborations

- Empowerment Network
- Village Basketball Alliance (VBA)
- STEP-UP Omaha! (with the City of Omaha)
- Midlands Mentoring Partnership (MMP)
- University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO)
- Creighton University (CU)
- Boys Town
- Gallup
- Bank of the West
- Heartland Workforce Solutions (HWS)

Next Steps

Strengthen bridge to permanent employment after program completion

Extend 2-year program into 3-year program

Provide skill-building and employment opportunities for alumni and families

See community transformation through increased employment opportunities for youth and adults

Kenisha's Story

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