

Executive Director's Report July, 2023

Programs

- Compass Early Learning Center:
 - Highlights from Annual Family Survey:
 - Parents want more engagement events and opportunities for connection with other parents
 - More than ¾ of respondents indicated they 'strongly agree' that the quality of education their child(ren) is/are getting is better than what they were getting before Compass
 - Parents indicated in the open response section that they have appreciated the linkage between Compass and Self-Sufficiency Center services, particularly financial assistance and food.
 - We should hear about our NAEYC status by 8/18/23.
 - If we receive accreditation, we will begin pursuit of Paths to Quality Level 4.
 - Level 4 will immediately increase our voucher reimbursement rates by more than 15% (over \$50k/year).
 - Scholarship recipients completed their first quarterly survey. Here are the primary findings:
 - 1 client made progress on their Bridge Tool – consolidated debts and moved from Tier 2 to Tier 4
 - 1 client set a goal for their scholarship savings to build a 6-month safety cushion and start savings to eventually purchase a new vehicle.
 - 4 out of 5 recipients indicated the scholarship was responsible for making it easier for the household to afford basic needs.
 - When asked if they felt they were in a position to work on a stability goal:
 - 1 said yes and was matched with a coach
 - 1 said no but wanted to connect with a coach to talk about how to build up to being ready
 - Total savings to families so far: \$22,300; average of \$2,780 per family
 - We currently have a waitlist of prospective staff members.
 - Stacy & Brittney will begin interviewing for the new classroom in October, hire in November for 2 months of training in program philosophy and classroom setup prior to the new room opening in January, 2024.
- Self-Sufficiency Center:
 - 2 new clients joined Your Path last month.
 - The Food Pantry has had challenges remaining stocked. We are serving about 20% more clients per month and food donations are dramatically lower. The development team, the program director, and I met to discuss a plan for getting through the remainder of 2023 and tentative plans for 2024. This question was posed (& I would appreciate if board members can consider it as well): If we if we have to make cuts in who we serve and what we serve them, where do/should/could we draw that line, and what are the pros
 - The Annual Client survey is out this month to SSC clients.
 - The next meet and eat will feature a presentation from the Excel Center about adult learning opportunities. A date and time has not yet been set, but it will be the end of August.

Personnel

- All positions remain filled 😊 We plan to begin the hiring process for the new classroom around October, to have staff start in November and train for 2 months.
- Compass Business Coordinator Kayla Haiflich had her son, Oakley Haiflich on August 1. Mom and baby are doing great!
- Bill C Brown & Assoc. will be coming in for a presentation about marketplace health insurance in late October. After that, they will be back to conduct 1:1 appointments and get staff enrolled.
- All job descriptions of Directors have been through an annual update, coming up next is program staff positions.

Finance

- A few trends within the reports to watch for – fundraising is slightly down from expected. Development Team has worked out a strategy through the end of 2023 and is already working on 2024 funding plans.

Fundraising & Outreach

- Please save September 7 for a supporter appreciation event at MCUM.
- Awaiting decision on several very large grants. Three additional grants applied for.
- Stewardship visit with Linda Raymond & Michael Cain.

My current projects:

- 2024 Agency Budget