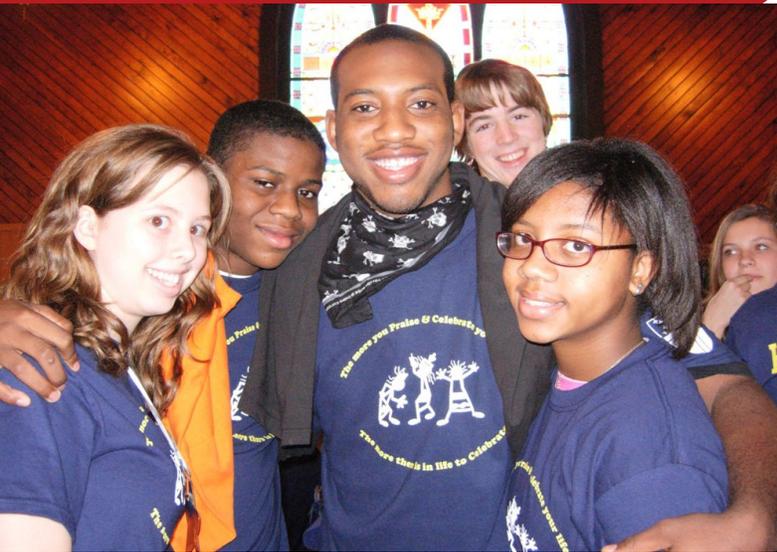


CROSS

walk

CROSSwalk TO WORK



WHAT IS IT?

- Pilot program to connect at-risk teens to summer and/or after-school jobs.
- Focus is on 15-19 year-olds coming out of the Workforce Readiness program operated by Youth Guidance, a leading service provider to CPS students facing challenges
- Cost to employers: Approximately \$3,500, all for wages. CROSSwalk takes no fee.
- Opportunity for employers to play a leadership role helping low-income teens look beyond the violence that defines so many of their daily encounters.

TEEN EMPLOYMENT

CREATES OPPORTUNITIES

TO LEAD, MENTOR AND BUILD

A STRONGER CITY

Crosswalk to Work encourages businesses, nonprofits and local institutions to hire at-risk youth for summer employment, and then connects them to job-ready young people eager for the chance to prove themselves.

We partner with the well-regarded social services organization, **Youth Guidance**, to identify appropriate 15-19 year olds that have successfully participated in the organization's employment readiness training.

CROSSwalk to Work is not a government program, though it reinforces existing public efforts to create jobs for young people. Our goal is to expand the range of options available and, importantly, to make summer jobs for youth affordable—even for smaller businesses and services providers that typically do not have the capacity to bring on summer workers.

WHY YOU SHOULD CARE

It's clear that low-income youth in our city are facing major challenges—barriers no teen should be expected to navigate without help. They deserve a chance to succeed, and CROSSwalk is working to give it to them.

The long-term implications of multi-generational poverty and ongoing violence in many neighborhoods is daunting. If we are to have a qualified, educated workforce in the future, we cannot leave a generation of low-income young people to languish. Those of us with the means and the will to change their outlook—to extend their horizons beyond the nearest gang boundary--have a responsibility to do so. CROSSwalk is part of that effort.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Do you have a summer job you could offer to a qualified teen who is otherwise at risk? Or, could you contribute to a fund that will help cash-strapped small businesses create summer jobs and make sure teens can afford transportation to get there, regardless of where they live? All of that will make a difference in a young person's life.

The cost to hire a **CROSSwalk to Work** teen is approximately \$3,500, depending on the hours and number of weeks to be worked. Wages are paid directly to the young person as part of your normal payroll. CROSSwalk is the connection point, helping manage the relationships that make these new jobs possible; we do not profit from the effort in any way.

Employers interview and select summer staffer from candidates referred by **Youth Guidance**, based on the performance of young people in their Workforce Development program. Youth Guidance will provide support for the kids as they move into positions. Employers should expect to manage them as they would any other young, new employee—keeping in mind that they are teenagers and will need on-the-job direction to succeed.

WHAT KIND OF JOB IS APPROPRIATE?

Any position that might be suitable for an intern or lower-skilled/entry-level person would qualify as a “CROSSwalk” job. That includes work in your mail room or copy shop, help with short-term coding/filing/organizing jobs or fill-in support for administrative staff taking summer vacations, among other things. You stipulate what you want/need, and we will help match you with the best potential candidates.

WHAT IS CROSSwalk?

CROSSwalk is an effort to engage a diverse range of faith communities, nonprofits, philanthropic organizations, neighborhood-based groups and businessowners around the issue of violence against youth in low-income neighborhoods.

What began as a solemn walk across the heart of Chicago to remember young victims of violence has grown to include some 50 partners and thousands of individual participants working on advocacy and education, and volunteering their time. Now, CROSSwalk is ramping up in new ways to support the particular aspirations of young people marked by poverty, most recently through the pilot **CROSSwalk to Work** program.

CROSSwalk is managed by the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago but is not based on any particular faith affiliation.



YOUTH GUIDANCE

Youth Guidance is a leading provider of outcomes-driven, school-based programs and capacity-building initiatives, serving more than 14,000 at-risk youth in 70 Chicago public and charter schools. It has been responding to the needs of the city's most vulnerable children for more than 87 years. CROSSwalk is proud to support their efforts.

Each Youth Guidance program addresses a community need that falls within one of three specific program delivery areas: Community & After-School, Counseling & Prevention and Youth Workforce Development. Ninety percent of students served are low income, and more than 95 percent are African American and Hispanic/Latino.

For more information, visit www.youthguidance.org



If you can hire one or more teens or would be willing to help fund a job for a young person, contact:

The Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows
Office: 312-751-3577 Mobile: 312-450-4959
JBBurrows@EpiscopalChicago.org