ERIE COUNTY, NY

Taking the “It Takes A Village Organization” to the Next Level

MY IDEA FOR CHANGE

My project aims to serve under-educated residents within the community who are reentering the workforce from prison to provide technical skills by turning my organization, It Takes a Village, into a 501C3 organization and move into a permanent building to increase our productivity.

It Takes a Village (ITAV) seeks to take people on a path from Apathy to Activity so that they can change their lives. This vision is founded in the philosophy that it is necessary to look at the whole person - mind, body and spirit - and how their past may have shaped their present. ITAV helps participants recover or cope with past hurt, distorted core values, poverty, and the resulting toll on their mental health. The goal is to help them develop the motivation, pride and relationships to learn how to become self-sufficient, healthy, and productive citizens. Participants in ITAV’s program are active participants who are engaged in creating their own road to a brighter future. We believe everyone deserves a chance to overcome their past and become the person they were meant to become.

The goal of this project is to prepare to create an application for ITAV so that it can transition to an official 501c3 nonprofit organization. Through the process of creating the framework for organizational growth we hope to identify short-term goals and strategies to reach those goals. The outcome of this project would be materials to help prepare for future funding applications as well as the completion of a 501c3 application as a goal.

WHERE THE CHANGE WILL HAPPEN

The training center is now in Amherst. The service area is expected to cover the whole county with collaboration and partnerships with other organization satellite organizations.

Planning a Change

ACTIONS TO MOVE IT FORWARD

Complete the application for 501c3 Status
Launch 2015 programs
Recruit participants

RESOURCES NEEDED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

Funding, Facilities, and Partnerships

FUNDING RANGE

$10,000 - $15,000 for legal assistance

STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT

IDEA PLAN ACTION

About the Champion...

Beverly Newkirk is founder and Executive Director of “It Takes a Village,” a community action organization aimed towards promoting the mental, physical, and spiritual well-being of inner city residents of all ages, and thus empowering them to become productive citizens. In addition, Beverley is involved with community organizations such as the Coalition for Economic Justice and the Partnership for the Public Good. Beverley joined the Champions for Change program to receive guidance on how to apply for “It Takes a Village” to become a 501C3 non-profit, and thus receive funding. Additional funds will allow her organization to expand its already impressive reach and continue to improve the lives of hundreds of Buffalo residents.

Beverly Newkirk
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