

BROTHERS EXCELLING WITH SELF-SUFFICIENCY TO THRIVE MOBILE PRODUCE AND FOOD SAFETY PRACTICES PROJECT

Proposal Request: To utilize two greenhouses located at the Gibsonville Sheriff's Prison Farm for the establishment of a hydroponic garden that will be used for training and production.

BEST: Brothers Excelling with Self-sufficiency to Thrive is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization that was founded on character development and utilizes formal mentoring as its main vehicle of delivery. BEST uses holistic and collaborative approaches to assist adolescents and young adults who have high risk factors. For the most effectiveness of services, BEST extends additional services to our participants' immediate family members.

The mission for this project is to expose young people to career options and leadership skills using hydroponic gardening to build responsibility, accountability, prosocial skills, and a renewed worldview that will be a motivator for attitudinal and behavioral change.

The targeted population is adolescents and young adults, between the ages of 14 and 24, from identified "hot spots" in Greensboro that have a history of undesirable activities. These areas are also high poverty and its residents have lower socioeconomic status. Another characteristic of these areas is that these communities are also recognized as food deserts. Select youth are referred by the Greensboro City Police Department who will benefit from long-term, holistic and collaborative services and support, thus creating a network of health and safety. Such efforts will create an environment that causes a transformation that will strengthen the individual, family, community, and society.

It is our goal to provide quality services that will enable these young people to realize and embrace their full potential. They will be exposed to additional career option as well as opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge and skills within their communities.

With a grant from USDA/NIFA and the expert support of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University Agricultural Extension Department, we will establish a hydroponic garden from which produce will be grown and delivered to the youth's communities. The youth will be taught food safety from the seedling to the table. Such efforts will motivate and encourage the youth and his/her family to become more conscious about food safety and nutritional preparation. Equipping the members of the communities with newly discovered knowledge and ready access to fresh fruits, vegetables and herbal seasoning, these communities will be able to practice healthier food selections, preparations and consumption.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra J. James
Executive Director

REJECTING THE PRE-DETERMINED DESTINY:

EMPOWERED TO EXPLORE & EXERCISE OUR FULL POTENTIAL