Our Mission

The Prosperity Center applies an integrated approach, financial coaching, career guidance and access to community resources to empower individuals and families to make positive choices towards their financial goals to achieve economic freedom.

Our Vision

The Prosperity Center guides individuals and families on a path to improve and sustain their financial quality of life.
Who Comes to the Prosperity Center: Our clients are motivated and goal oriented adults who want to gain financial independence by managing everyday expenses and finding more than “just a job” 68% of clients comes in with the primary interest of Financial Education and Coaching but quickly engage with Employment and Education services.
Message from the Director

The past year proved to be another eventful year for our Center. We’ve mobilized our workshops, explored partnerships, became fully staffed, increased our Community Workshop attendance and more. Most notably, we are focusing on moving the needle in asset building and workforce development with the ultimate goal of transforming our client’s economic status. We aim to improve our service offerings, with not only educating our clients on acquiring major assets but protecting them. Also, ensure they are referred to livable wage jobs with benefit options and access to education credentials to increase their marketability.

As we continue to explore potential partnerships to build capacity, our #1 priority is staying true to the coaching model. I genuinely believe that our services are distinctive, by allowing the clients to remain the experts in their lives. The coaching relationship emphasizes the importance of using family goals and aligning tailored appropriate solutions empowering them to self-sufficiency.

With much trial and error, I am confident this upcoming year will bring more success than ever before! The Center’s growth has very few limits, and the possibilities are exciting. As we move forward to next year, we look to develop meaningful partnerships, improve the staff expertise, exceed our program outcomes and expand on our advisory boards industry knowledge.

Our staff is our greatest asset, and I’m proud to say we have a team committed to working together for the success of our Center. I want to thank all those that paved the way for the Center’s presence in our community. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to so many people, organizations and leaders who have supported, encouraged, and championed our work.

Tiffany E. Vincent
Program Director
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What we do

Our services are bundled, offering a holistic experience and care for the whole person. Clients take advantage of at least 2/3 or 3/3 services. Services are client-driven, future-focused and goal-oriented.

Financial Coaching and Education | Employment and Education Coaching | Access to Income Supports

Our Impact

When we put all our services together, it results in transformation not transactions – improving our client’s overall quality of life! The Center’s Coaches aim to empower clients to self-discovery to practice new financial, personal and professional behaviors. The cornerstone of our services model is allowing the clients to remain the expert in their lives.

Our Future

While we are proud of our successes, we want our impact and outcomes to match. Looking into the future, we want to emphasize credit as an asset, challenging our clients to visualize beyond today and loaning to own.

Also, we are actively securing an employment partners with which to build a long-term relationship with to assist our clients in securing sustainable jobs.

Lastly, we couldn’t do this work alone. It requires community partners and resources outside of our scope. Meaningful partnerships are vital to our work. We are continually working to identify mutually valuable partners.
CLIENT SUCCESS STORY: MEET SHERRI

Sherri walked into the Prosperity Center at the end of February 2019, unaware of the services the Center provided or how we could assist her. At the time she was working part-time, in search of permanent housing, and supporting her only son through his freshman year of college – as a single mother.

Part-time Sherri is a Lactation Specialist for a local Healthcare facility. She thrives at teaching moms how to breastfeed and educate them on the long-term benefits. However, Sherri was not making a livable wage. Living rent-free with her sister and brother-in-law, she needed something to call her own, a place where her son could come home to during his summer break. On top of everything else, her car required maintenance, new tires and insurance. After learning about the Center’s services and meeting the Coaches, she quickly learned that this was just what she needed.

As most clients do, Sherri met with the Financial Coach first to capture her baseline financial assessment. Al, the Financial Coach, instantly realized she had significant leaks in her budget, which included: eating out regularly and a $375.00 monthly storage unit fee. Other unforeseen expenses included $700.00 worth of traffic tickets. While working with Al, he determined she was eligible for subsided housing and SNAP benefits. Both applications were submitted and she was approved.

While simultaneously working with Meghan, the Center’s Employment Coach, Sherri immediately applied for several jobs to secure supplemental income. In May, she secured a full-time job at a local distribution center. Although her new position is not ideal and the location increased her monthly gas expense, her hourly wage doubled. After just one month, her new employer was so impressed with Sherri’s work ethic they invited her to apply for a driver position. It would mean an additional increase in wages and more hours.

Although balancing two jobs is challenging Sherri knows it is what needs to be done to accomplish her financial goals and support her son. Today, Sherri has given herself one month to pay off her traffic tickets. She has opened a savings account and has contributed to it monthly. She no longer has a monthly storage fee because she has moved into a two-bedroom apartment. Long-term Sherri is planning to purchase a home and continue her education in healthcare. But for now, she is enjoying quality time with her son while he is on summer break.
A MESSAGE FROM SHERRI:

“I was at my lowest point when I showed up to the Prosperity Center. I was the definition of homeless, which was largely due to my poor money management. I was embarrassed but I was humbled and relieved of the pressure of trying to keep juggling these bad ineffective habits. I decided to address the situation head-on I agreed to follow the instructions all the way through. I went to the office and signed up for orientation. Made my commitment, Al was firm and clear about what it would take to get a new skill set and relationship with money/life. He was honest, respectful and compassionate. He, for the first, time gave the encouragement and real talk I needed to change. It’s a long process but I have achieved some big goals that seem insignificant to most. I had money to fix my flat tire without robbing Peter to pay Paul. I have money for Khadijah in my emergency fund - it feels great not to have to borrow or owe someone”.
COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

Workshops are an additional and essential part of capacity building and ongoing client engagement. The social interaction with likeminded peers has proven to increase the retention and additional buy-in to our services. Whether educational or experiential, the consistent feedback is that our workshops are fun and inspiring.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

We participate in local events throughout the year in order to increase our visibility. These events provide relevant information and put a voice to the Center’s services, providing content so that potential clients can remember us to seek us out when needed.

HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

Financial literacy shouldn’t start in adulthood. The Prosperity Center has mobilized financial literacy and employment topics to local high schools. Topics range from basics of budgeting, interviewing 101 and soft skills.

For additional information on FY2019-2020 workshop topics and how to reserve your seat, please contact the Center at (816) 501-4239.
From our advisory board members, to our partners and anyone who’s graciously taking the time to read this. We recognize that our successes are not built solely on the Prosperity Center’s staff but our community donors, community partners and/or resources. We ask that you continue to keep our clients in mind when considering resources. In order to move the needle in our community, we have to build a united front and assist each other when applicable. Together we can be stronger than ever!

**Hire our Participants:** The Prosperity Center’s clients are motivated, trained and ready to work. Our client’s professional experiences range from entry level to executive management. Many of them arrive with years of work ahead of them, which gives you access to well trained and experienced workers, who are looking for long-term employment. Applicants are pre-screened to match your job openings. We utilize a competency-based coaching model that emphasizes soft skills and hard skills development. To learn more contact Meghan Freeman at 816-501-4243 or Meghan.Freeman@Rockhurst.edu

**Come for a Visit:** Schedule a visit to attend a Community Workshop, learn more about our services and see the unique way we start each day.

**Invest in this Work:** Your donation will be used to support expenses related to the training and development of our clients including, but not limited to – fees for credit scores, client incentives, community workshops and staff support.

**With Gratitude...**

The Prosperity Center extends our deepest thanks to every individual, business and organization that made donations in fiscal year 2019: Large or small, every gift you send directly benefits our work to help change the lives of struggling families who need creative tools to help them stabilize their financial circumstances.

For more information, contact Tiffany Vincent at Tiffany.Vincent@rockhurst.edu or 816-501-4249
THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS:
WE BELIEVE...

- That everyone who works has the right to a living wage; that training leads to better paying jobs; and that the key to long term, substantive change for people is a focus on careers.
- Clients are natural creative, resourceful and whole
- Clients are the experts in their own lives

WE VALUE...

- Our clients’ efforts to be better prepared for work and life; and we present them with opportunities and support them in pursuit of their goals.
- A warm, welcoming and inclusive environment
- Quality services

WE MAINTAIN...

- High standards and we have high expectations for ourselves our clients and our partners
- Unquestionable ethics demonstrated through transparency, honesty and fairness
- A nimble organization that responds quickly to changes in our environment and to the needs of our customers