Prosperity Center for Financial Opportunity

4th Fiscal Year: July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

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.
Message from the Director

Since the Center’s inception in 2013, I served as the Employment and Education Program Manager and Employment Coach for the Prosperity Center and I am thrilled to carry the torch as the Director. I believe that our mission is powerful, our partnerships are distinctive and our staff is passionate. My goal is to work diligently to increase our impact, broaden our reach, and build stronger collaborative efforts with new and existing partners.

As the Prosperity Center embarks on its 5th year, we are certain to run into challenges and experience many successes but the mission will remain true. Moving forward, I will jointly collaborate with my highly committed team of Advisory Board members, Rockhurst University leadership, operational partners and staff to develop clear strategic goals. Together we will look realistically at the Center challenges and opportunities with a high sense of purpose, always striving to uphold our mission and keeping in mind our number one champions – our clients!

Helping people regain their sense of self and redefine financial security is what we do at the Prosperity Center. We work with clients from all walks of life—those with no income to high-income earners. Staff and I, along with a network of community agencies, have helped the Prosperity Center and our clients obtain their goals. We appreciate the trust our clients have placed in us and value the role we play in their lives.

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
Bundled Services are delivered through individualized long-term coaching and group workshops and are integrated in order to reinforce one another.

Financial Coaching and Education

Employment and Education Coaching

Access to Public Benefits and Income Supports
Year 4 Workshops

Workshops are an additional and essential part of our client engagement towards achieving our goals and outcomes. The social interaction with likeminded peers has proved 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.

VISION BOARDING:

Clients walk through a powerful presentation and visualization process enabling them to have greater visual clarity as they CREATE THEIR FUTURE!

EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE WORKPLACE:

Employment experts agree that tech skills may get our clients an interview, but soft skills will assist them in landing the job—and help them keep it!
HOME BUYER EDUCATION

Acquiring assets is certainly a long-term dream for some of our clients. Thanks to our co-facilitator, Community Services League and banking partners, National American Savings Bank and Arvest Bank we are now able to provide additional resources and education to make that dream come true.

FINANCING YOUR EDUCATION

In partnership with Blue Hills Community Center and Money Smart Month, the Prosperity Center held a free information session discussing finance options for traditional and non-traditional students. Topics include completing the FAFSA, student loan options, scholarships, and options for parents trying to finance high school education, and more.

DEALING WITH DEBT: STRATEGIES AND TOOLS

During this interactive forum, Center staff provided tools and resource for debt management, dealing with debt collectors and alternatives to high cost credit.
Meet the Wandick’s: Recently enrolled with the Prosperity Center, husband and wife team, George and Stacy came to the program as he was completing his last semester of nursing school. After hearing about our program through George’s scholarship benefactor, both he and his wife quickly integrated into all of the Center’s services. As with all clients, we screened this family for federal benefit programs and it was determined that George and Stacy were eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). For this motivated family of seven (7), we connected the family with the Harvesters SNAP Hotline. Stacy and George were approved to begin receiving $332 monthly SNAP benefits.

George has successfully passed his nursing courses to pursue his long-term goal of becoming a Registered Nurse. George’s and Stacy’s sacrifices will soon pay off as George walked across the stage to receive his Associates Degree in Nursing at Penn Valley Community College December 17, 2016. As a result, of the family SNAP approval, George was also eligible to receive a WIOA scholarship of $500 through the Full Employment Council to cover his State Boards exam and work related clothing and supplies.

Today, George has obtained gainful employment with a local hospital as a Registered Nurse, and is currently pursuing his Bachelors of Science (BSN) in Nursing. Since becoming a client of the Prosperity Center, the Wandick’s have increased their net income and net worth by over 30%, and increased their credit to be approved to purchase a new family vehicle. Through our VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) site, they received a federal refund of over $4,000 and are planning to take their first solo vacation, in over 6 years.

Overall, the Wandick’s are excellent Prosperity Center clients, they are coachable, determined, goal oriented and in 100% supportive of one another.
VITA – Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program

Served 102 ● Total AGI $1,615,240.00 ● Federally Returned $57,090 ● State Returned $8,671

During the first quarter of the calendar year, tax preparation activities were one of the Prosperity Center’s primary focuses. In addition to the three core areas, the Center is a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. VITA sites offer free tax help to people who generally make $54,000 or less. The Center’s tax preparation services were offered February 11th, 2017 – April 8th, 2017 every Saturday to the larger community and during the week for Center clients.

Because of the Center’s yearly volume increase, the Prosperity Center is now a year-round Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site. Being a year-round VITA site demonstrates the Center’s mission in that we empower individuals and families to make positive choices to accomplish their financial goals and achieve economic freedom. Outside of the typical tax season months, the time period between January 1 and April 15 of each year, the Center offers free tax preparation to Prosperity Center clients.

Volunteers were the key to reaching our goal. The Center received volunteers from Next Step KC, permanent volunteers and Prosperity Center volunteer. It will remain our continued effort to onboard additional volunteers to increase the Center’s capacity to prepare more returns.

From our advisory board members, to our partners and anyone who’s graciously taking the time to read this. As we embark on our fifth year, 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!
The following **four** strategies is a summary of how the Prosperity Center will advance in its commitment to excellence in providing community engagement and opportunities for continued learning by expanding upon marketing, outreach and diversifying funding to now include ongoing opportunities for real meaningful engagement with operational partners.

**Strategy I Strengthening our Team** - Because we can only realize our goals by working together, the Prosperity Center will nurture a more unified culture among staff, advisory board members, operational partners (existing or new) and funders. This culture will be characterized with open communication, collaborating, mutual respect and accountability.

**Strategy II Marketing and Outreach** - As the Prosperity Center moves into its fifth year, we will strive to inform the community of Center services and engage clients. We have learned that strategic outreach and marketing will need to be revamped and incorporated into our service delivery. Marketing and outreach include retooling the Center’s website and social media platforms, as well as marketing collateral to retain new and existing clients.

**Strategy III Engaging through the Power of Partnerships** - To ensure that the Prosperity Center will remain in the city for good, the Prosperity Center is actively working to increase its capacity working with and through partners and community agencies.

**Strategy IV Connecting Through the Coaching Model** - The coaching model has transformed the client-coach relationship. Connecting through the coaching model allows the clients to be accountable for their successes and ultimately contributes to their short-term and long-term goals.

**With Gratitude...**

The Prosperity Center extends our deepest thanks to every individual, business and organization that made donations in fiscal year 2017: 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](mailto:Tiffany.Vincent@rockhurst.edu) or 816-501-4249.
THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS:

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