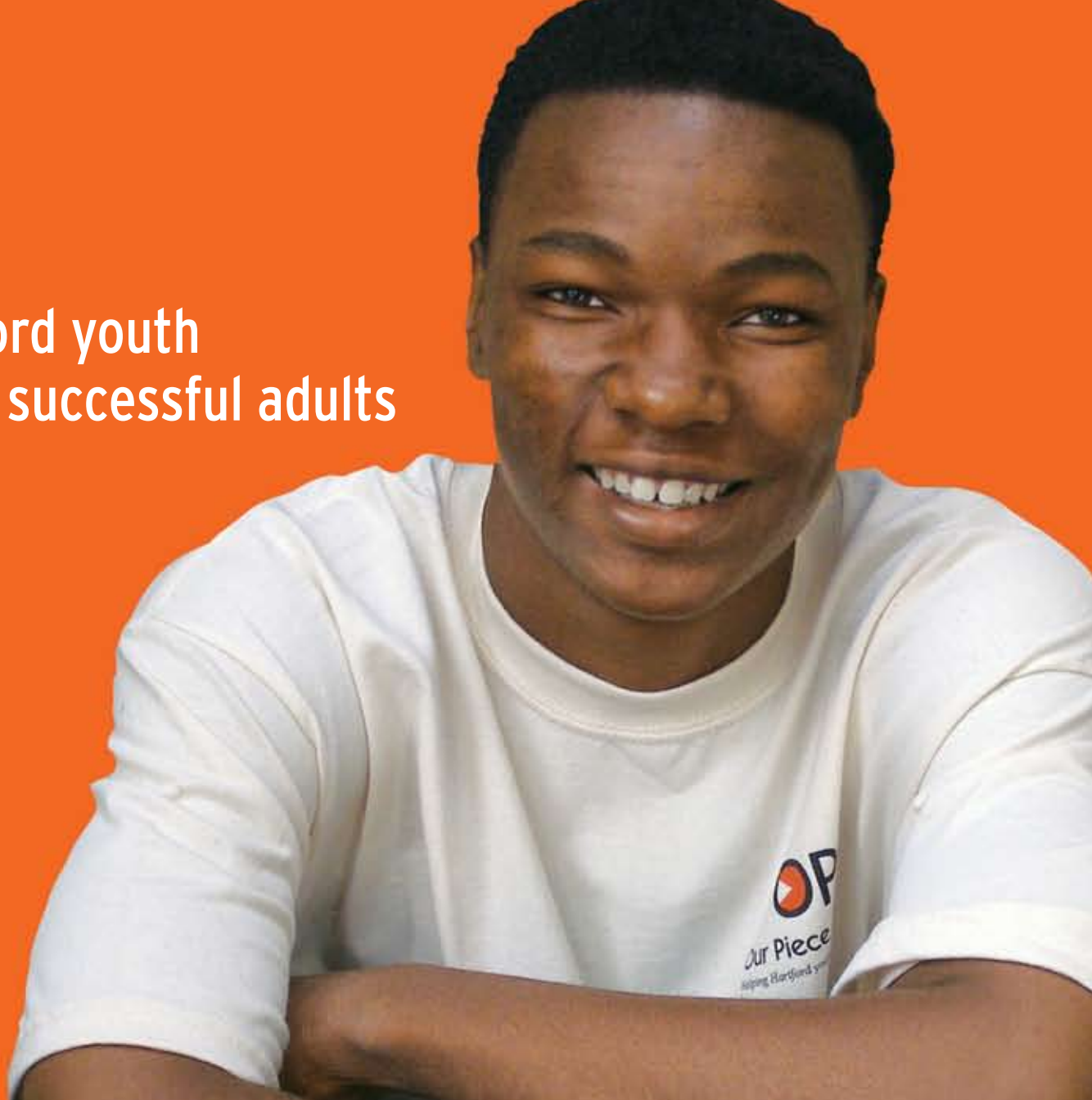


Helping Hartford youth
become successful adults

Our Piece of the Pie®

Annual Report 2006



OPP® is a not-for-profit youth development services organization. OPP engages youth with a comprehensive program of education, employment and personal development opportunities that help drive long-term education and employment outcomes. With innovative services and proven strategies, coupled with established models and best practices in the youth development field today, OPP helps Hartford youth become successful adults.

Who We Are



SEPTEMBER 25, 2006

Dear Friends, Colleagues and Supporters,

This has been a pivotal year for Our Piece of the Pie as we implemented the results of an in-depth research study and embarked upon a strategic plan that will serve our youth, our organization, our city and our regional economy for years to come.

OPP's new business model is focused on Hartford youth and the long-term education and employment outcomes we know we can help them achieve. Young people take a variety of very different paths to OPP, and we are here to ensure all of our youth embark upon their own unique pathway to success.

We hope you take a few minutes to look through this booklet and learn more about our pathways to success and, most importantly, about our youth who consistently confirm what we know so well: Hartford youth can achieve success.

We are proud to have the support of so many high caliber funders. OPP is an organization that depends upon the ongoing generosity of donors. As we continue to implement our ambitious new strategic plan, we will seek additional partners who share our commitment to Hartford's youth.

We'd like to extend our sincere thanks to our dedicated board members and staff—and to partner organizations, local schools and colleges, and federal, state and city agencies which collaborate so effectively with us.

Sincerely,



LARRY GREENBERG
CHAIRMAN



BOB RATH
PRESIDENT & CEO



Programs and Services

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

OPP offers a relationship-centered approach, utilizing current best practices in the field of youth development to help youth access and attain the education, employment and personal skills that lead to success.

We are focused on two core elements of youth development practice: *first*, youth should have individual plans that map a realistic path to help them achieve their personal goals and aspirations; *second*, all young people need caring adults who can advise them along their journey. Youth who are OPP members meet regularly with their Youth Development Specialist, a life coach who actively engages them in the community, providing them with practical guidance and motivation to persist to higher goals.

OPP YOUTH BUSINESSES = EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

This year our award-winning Youth Business program engaged 378 younger youth, age 14 to 18, in six businesses designed to provide them with learning opportunities while they earn modest stipends based on attendance. Youth businesses include:

CRUNCHTIME YOUTH MUSIC RECORDING – produced a music CD, *TRUE STORY*, with original lyrics and music written and recorded by youth, as well as public service announcements for local radio stations.

ECHOES FROM THE STREETS YOUTH NEWSPAPER – produced three editions this year covering local news, culture and life stories.

JUNIOR ART MAKERS (JAM) – produced and sold greeting cards, painted murals and created original clothing and fashion accessories.

RIVER WRIGHTS BOAT BUILDERS (RWBB) – built four skiffs for the Vermont Trout Club and a 13-foot Mill Creek Kayak.

OPP works to help youth achieve long-term education and employment outcomes.

EDUCATION – Obtain vocational certification or graduate from a two or four year college program

EMPLOYMENT – Move into full-time, unsubsidized employment, military or national service

CITY SCAN – surveyed and reported on community needs in the Blue Hills neighborhood and New Britain.

YOUTH CHORE SERVICES – provided 2,394 hours of service to frail and elderly residents in the South End and Parkville areas of Hartford.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND PLACEMENT SERVICES

OPP develops employment opportunities with area employers for job-ready youth. It also provides referrals and interview opportunities as well as job coaching as needed after employment. This year, 189 youth were placed in unsubsidized employment. Another 262 youth who were not ready for the workplace experienced our “Young Professionals’ Academy,” a program that combines job readiness training with emphasis on workplace ethics, effective communications and employer expectations. Additionally, 232 youth were placed in work internships.

EDUCATION SERVICES

OPP offered academic tutoring to 191 youth this year, and provided 189 youth and their families with comprehensive college and career guidance services. Through our retention outreach, OPP maintained contact with 189 youth enrolled in college, coordinated a job fair with the Mayor’s office and MetroHartford Alliance for Hartford college youth and area employers and assisted college youth to obtain internships as well as summer and part-time employment.

HARTFORD AMERICORPS

Hartford AmeriCorps members provided more than 42,000 hours of service in the city this year, including reading, tutoring and homework help for 700 elementary school children, and community service projects that helped revitalize and rejuvenate neighborhoods in Hartford.

OPP CHILDCARE SERVICES

OPP Childcare Services, a nationally accredited childcare program, provided high quality childcare services for 40 Hartford children, age 3 to 5, including two children of OPP participants. OPP Childcare Services is working toward prioritizing available childcare slots to serve the children of OPP youth.



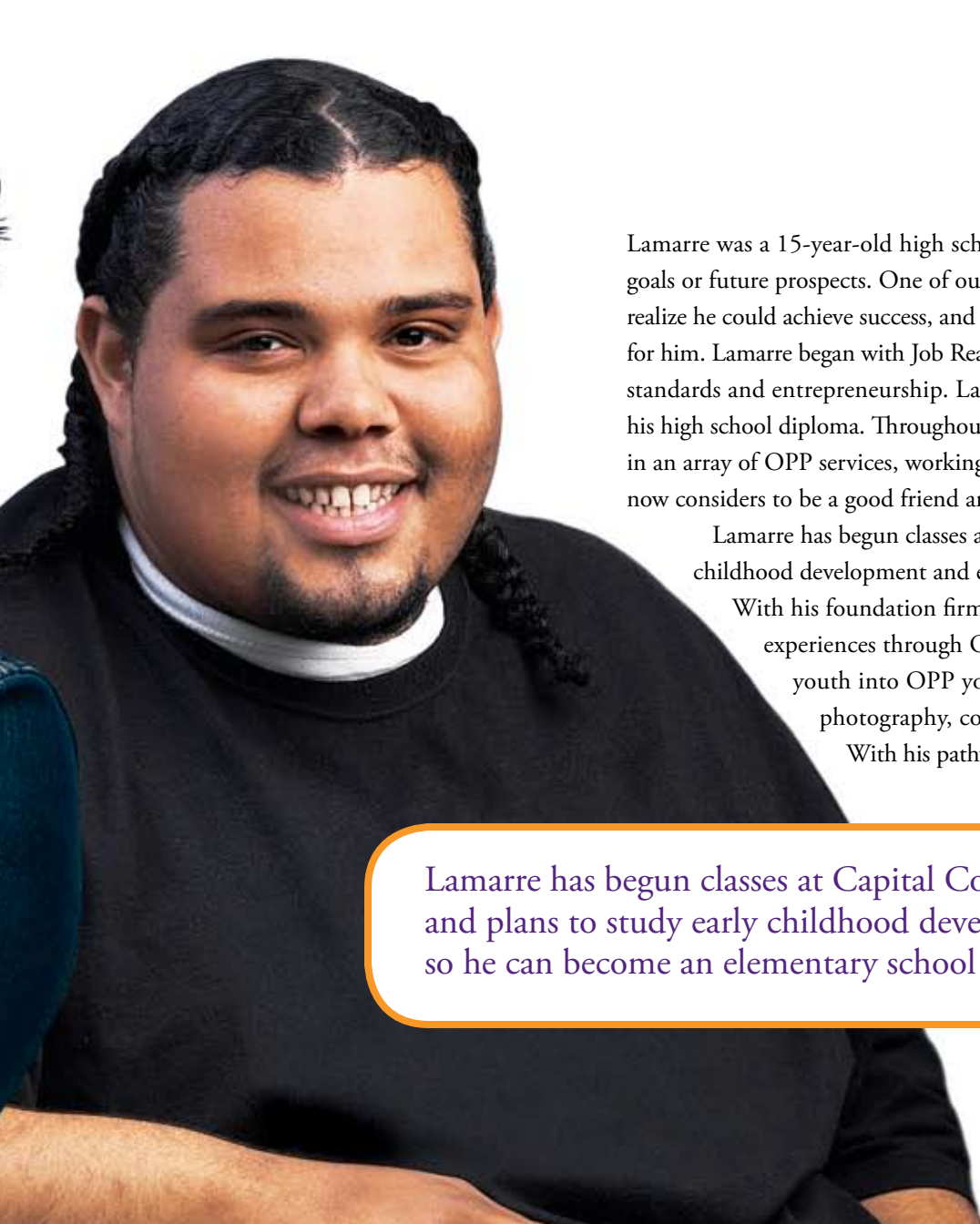
Natasha Reyes

Natasha was only 13 years old when she gave birth to her daughter Emelysha. At that time, Natasha was attending high school and trying very hard to juggle the demands of school and motherhood. Eventually childcare issues led her to quit school. An OPP Youth Development Specialist reached out to Natasha and helped her put together a plan that incorporated education and career development opportunities, but also recognized her responsibilities as a mother. Because it was personalized to her goals and her life situation, the plan worked for Natasha.

Today, Natasha has a high school diploma and has taken classes at Capital Community College. She took part in OPP's Job Readiness Training and completed an internship at Hartford Hospital and the Connecticut Children's Medical Center. She is currently working full-time at Popeye's in Hartford. Emelysha is 8 years old, and doing well in school, and Natasha's son Jorge, age 3, is thriving at OPP's Childcare Center. In another two years, when Jorge begins elementary school, Natasha plans to return to Capital Community College as a full-time student. Her work internships had a tremendous impact on her decision to train to become a medical assistant. Meanwhile, she knows she can rely on the dedicated staff at OPP to continue to help her achieve success.

OPP helped Natasha put together a plan that was personalized to her goals and responsibilities as a mother.





Lamarre Luna

Lamarre was a 15-year-old high school drop-out when he came to OPP in 2001 with no goals or future prospects. One of our talented Youth Development Specialists helped Lamarre realize he could achieve success, and the two worked together to develop a plan that would work for him. Lamarre began with Job Readiness Training where he learned life skills, customer service standards and entrepreneurship. Lamarre also returned to school, and, in 2005, he received his high school diploma. Throughout those important development years, Lamarre participated in an array of OPP services, working closely with his Youth Development Specialist, whom he now considers to be a good friend and role model.

Lamarre has begun classes at Capital Community College and plans to study early childhood development and education so he can become an elementary school teacher.

With his foundation firmly in place, Lamarre now uses his own life lessons and experiences through OPP's "Street Team" to recruit and engage out-of-school youth into OPP youth centers where he leads programs in job readiness, photography, computer skills, and hip-hop culture for Hartford youth.

With his pathway to success clear, Lamarre has a very bright future ahead.

Lamarre has begun classes at Capital Community College and plans to study early childhood development and education so he can become an elementary school teacher.

Outcomes and Achievements

July 1, 2005 marked the beginning of a new era for OPP with its focus on serving Hartford area youth ages 14 to 24. Central to our three-year strategic plan is the core belief that every youth should have a plan for his or her future based on personal strengths and aspirations—a reality based plan with challenging benchmarks clearly mapped out and progressively achieved. Further, OPP knows that to achieve these outcomes, youth need a caring adult who can help them navigate the pathways at critical transition points, helping them stay on track to meet their goals. Youth come to OPP through many doors—referred by friends, guidance counselors and social workers or because they are eligible for federal and state resources provided through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and other programs. OPP's youth development services (or youth case management services) provide the platform for pathways to success.

OPP has high expectations for the youth it serves and for its organization, setting ambitious challenges. OPP's goals are to help youth attain a college degree or post-secondary vocational credentials and/or to obtain long-term gainful employment. OPP rigorously tracks and measures its performance by the youth's achievements and progress toward the long-term and intermediate benchmarks that mark a successful transition to adulthood. In Year One of our strategic plan, we are proud of the achievements of our youth and will track these same measures over a significant period of time.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

In 2005–2006, OPP worked with over 1,600 youth, engaging them in education and employment goal planning and helping them navigate a pathway to success.

OPP provides comprehensive youth development services to Hartford area youth. Youth may receive services through a membership pathway or are eligible to receive case management services through WIA.

1,108 OPP Members 581 WIA Eligible Youth

LONG-TERM EDUCATION OUTCOMES

- 2 OPP members graduate from 4-year colleges
- 133 Youth obtain credentials

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION ATTAINMENTS

- 127 Youth attained a high school diploma or GED
- 42 Out-of-school youth returned to school
- 39 Members are on track to enter college–Fall 06
- 88 Members are on track to return to college–Fall 06
- 158 Members were promoted from grade to grade
- 127 Members on track to re-enroll in Adult Education–Fall 06

LONG-TERM EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

- 24 Youth employed or engaged in national/military service for 6 months or longer

INTERMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

- 232 Youth placed in internships/subsidized employment
- 189 Youth entered employment and retained it for 30 days or longer

Financial Report

BALANCE SHEET

Unaudited June 30, 2006

Assets

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Current Assets | |
| Cash | \$ 927,836 |
| Accounts Receivable | 236,973 |
| Prepaid Expenses | 22,246 |
| Total Current Assets | 1,187,055 |

Fixed Assets

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Property & Equipment | 76,290 |
| Less Accumulated Depreciation | (72,018) |
| Total Fixed Assets | 4,272 |

Total Assets 1,191,327

Liabilities

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Current Liabilities | |
| Accounts Payable | 66,048 |
| Accrued Expenses | 175,128 |
| Deferred Revenue | 131,797 |
| Total Current Liabilities | 372,973 |

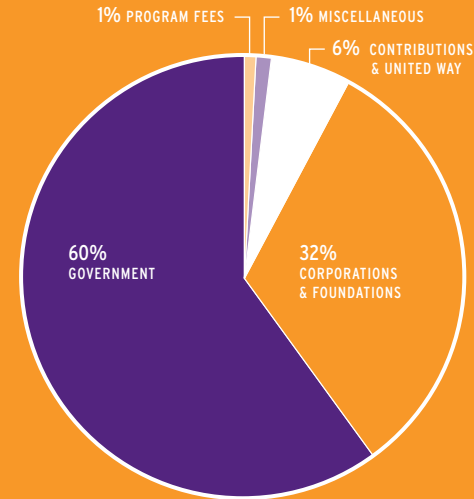
Total Liabilities 372,973

Fund Balance

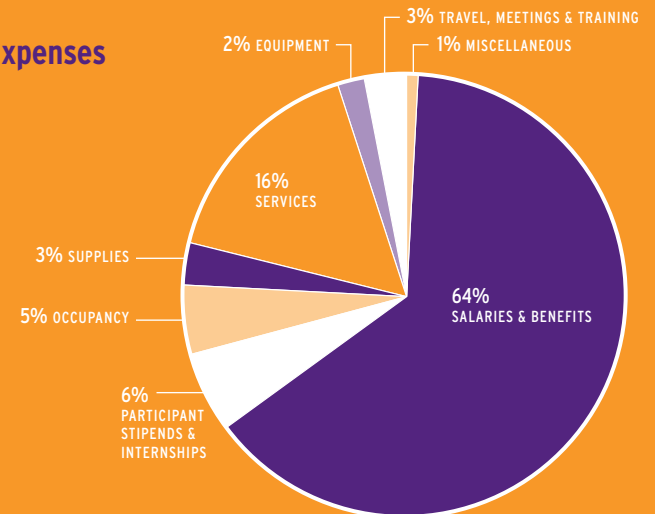
| | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Beginning Fund Balance | 609,192 |
| Net Income (Loss) | 209,162 |
| Total Fund Balance | 818,354 |

Total Liabilities & Fund Balance \$1,191,327

2005-2006 Unaudited Revenue Sources of Funds



2005-2006 Unaudited Expenses



2005–2006 Funding List

FOUNDATIONS

Annie E. Casey Foundation
(Making Connections Hartford)
Charles Nelson Robinson Fund
Edna McConnell Clark Foundation
Ensworth Charitable Foundation
Fisher Foundation, Inc.
George A. & Grace L. Long Foundation
Hampshire Foundation
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative
Nutmeg Foundation

CORPORATIONS & UNITED WAY

Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Citigroup Foundation
CT Policy & Economic Council
CT Voices for Children
Greater Hartford Arts Council
ING
Lincoln Financial Group Foundation
Mass Mutual (thru the United Way)
NewAlliance Foundation
Northeast Utilities Foundation
Phoenix Foundation
St. Paul Travelers Foundation
United Technologies Corporation
United Way of the Capital Area
Webster Bank
Youth Service America

GOVERNMENT

Capital Workforce Partners
City of Hartford–Community Development
Block Grant
Corporation for National & Community
Service
CT Commission on Community Service
CT State Department of Education
Bureau of Health & Nutrition Services–
Childcare Food Program
Department of Children & Families
Department of Labor
Hartford Public Schools–I Can Achieve
Office of Workforce Competitiveness
Public Allies Connecticut / RYASAP
State of CT–Department of Higher Education
State of CT–Hartford School Readiness Council
The Village–21st Century Learning

SUPPORTERS

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Michael Sullivan
William Sullivan
Sullivan & LeShane Public Relations
John Sundean **
The David A. & Claire O. Smith Family Fund
Daniel Theriault
Neil Tilow
Maria Tordonato
Jodi Wasserstein
Walter Wichowski
William Wilcox **
Linda Wilhelm
Donald Wilson

* Former Board President

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Daniel Browne, Treasurer

Claire Burns, Vice Chairman

Denise deFiebre

Dan DiFiore

Larry Greenberg, Chairman

John Harris

Colin Karsten

James Shea, Secretary

John Sundeau

William Wilcox

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Lisa Mottola, Vice President, Administration

Kathleen Quinn, Vice President, Youth Development Services

John Thomas, Assistant Vice President, Support Services

Marie McFadden, Manager, Development & Sustainability

Hector Rivera, Director, Youth Development Services

Donna Cathey, Director, Experiential Learning Services

Chanda McDaniel, Director, Youth Employment Services

Lucy Carmona, Educational Coordinator

Zohra Ayub, Coordinator, Hartford AmeriCorps

Kim Beale, Director, Childcare Services





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Cover Story

Michael McBean

In spite of challenges he faced as a youth in the foster care system, Michael has found ways through OPP to ignite his passion for writing and music. In 2002, at age 15, Michael joined OPP's youth newspaper, *Echoes from the Streets*, where he learned about journalism, developed strong writing skills and interviewed influential musicians, writers and business associates.

After two years in journalism, Michael put his writing talent into music, creating his own songs and performing them for CrunchTime Youth Recording, another OPP youth business. Although Michael occasionally struggled with his increasing success and how to balance that with other issues—battling with family problems, a low self-image, and the stigma of foster care—he became a Youth Assistant for CrunchTime. In this role, he acted as a positive role model for younger youth and became an invaluable assistant to the business managers. Over the past five years with OPP, Michael has matured and developed professionally. Michael is currently a sophomore at Curry College in Massachusetts, where he is studying Music Therapy with an extended interest in Sociology and Psychology. Michael continues to count on his relationship with OPP, and at nearly age 20 now, he has set his long-term goals to advocate for foster care youth and counsel youth and young adults with behavioral problems. He wants to help other young people succeed just like he has.