



The Salvation Army
USA Central
From: Barbara Clemmons

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To: James Nauta/USC/SArmy
cc:
Subject: Arise Foundation – Brief Narrative Report

Since we have talked previously, you know that I am impressed with the materials received from the Arise Foundation. The foundation has been extremely generous in sharing both instructors and students' versions of several tools.

It is my opinion that many of our programs, both corps and social services, could benefit from their research and publications. For example, being committed to parent training. I especially support their series entitled *SPROUTS*. It concretely addresses the different phases of pregnancy along with child growth and development within the context of family responsibilities. It dynamically provides excellent documentation based upon research against promiscuity and early child-bearing. Covering prenatal care through reading to a child, the information creates a realistic overview of parenting. It promulgates the time commitment required to become an informed and effective parent.

The companion series, the *FATHERHOOD PROGRAM*, fills a gap in education. Few programs are written for fathers to help them learn how to become responsible parents and leaders of their family units. I especially like that is written appropriately but discretely to include varied maturation levels of inexperienced, misguided, troubled, or uninformed fathers.

I also commend the series entitled *CRITICAL LIFE SKILLS* for the forthright, current approach to major issues in today's society (i.e., Anger Management, Substance Abuse & Guns, Domestic & Sexual Abuse, Violence and Conflict). Each one of these topics is a critical area to share and study with at-risk, young, and all populations.

In summary and as an overview, I found the materials sent to me to be:

- addressing critical social issues
- written at appropriate grade level for at-risk populations and/or children & youth without being condescending or degrading (approximately 4th grade level)
- up-beat and innovative in presentation (pictures, comics, small booklets, posters, traditional lesson plans)
- comprehensive in information and evaluation
- targeted at gaps of services in society
- focused upon children, youth, and at-risk populations and issues
- inclusive of diversity in sex, race, economic levels, and age both in pictures and words
- progressive in role presentations among sexes, ages, races, opportunities
- structured with value-based, moral and ethical, and spiritual situations/solutions
- encouraging and motivational within reality-based circumstances and solutions
- user-friendly in both student and leader guidelines
- interactive in format while age and maturation sensitive

- entertaining to targeted age groups with varied approaches
- of high quality materials and creative presentation

Finally, I can readily endorse the use of *Arise* materials in various Salvation Army settings according to program mission including (but not limited to):

- shelter programs
- residential youth homes
- before/after school programs
- life-skills programs
- character-building programs
- summer camp programs
- parenting groups (selected)
- health/safety education sessions (all areas of programming)
- corps and social service programs

As with all materials, none are appropriate in every setting but must be used in agreement with mission and focus. In both mission and focus, TSA and ARISE agree with what Ms. King writes is the foundation's mission: "...since 1986 ARISE's mission is assisting at-risk youth to achieve their highest potential, enriching their own lives and those they interact with..." (Latasha King, enclosed letter)

Thank you, Captain Nauta, for sharing the *Arise Foundation* with me. I am excited about the publications and hope the company will attend the National Social Services Conference next year. Anything we can do to facilitate this possibility will be to The Army's benefit. New positive approaches in programming are always needed and welcomed. Cost-wise, Ms. King presents an encouraging willingness to work with TSA in every way possible.

I have enclosed a letter addressed to me from Latasha King because it lists all of the materials shared with TSA from the Arise Foundation. Any/all of the materials are in my possession and available for review. There are just too many to include with this report without request.

Additional Accolades Below



July 21, 2011

The ARISE curricula is an outstanding tool for at-risk kids that The Salvation Army works with on a daily basis. Our work with this population involves children who have moved from location to location, lived out of their cars, on the streets, and who have had to change schools frequently. These children have not been able to form relationships or establish roots because of the transient nature of their parent's lives. They have grown up with tremendous instability and it is reflected in their grades, and their feelings about themselves which translate many times into troubled youth who make wrong choices in life. They are some of the most vulnerable in our society because they do not have the opportunities so many others have and thus are often rejected and grow up with resentment, bitterness, and more often seek a group that will accept them. They can end up in gangs and eventually evolve into jail, or even death.

The Arise Life Skills materials are an invaluable tool for these children. Yet I would not forget those who grow up in supposedly good families, but still have not received the love and acceptance from their parents that is so necessary in formulating their self esteem. ARISE has risen to the occasion and provided a curricula that can reach and teach children of all ages and stages in their lives. There is inestimable value in the classes taught with the children being active participants throughout the class, which brings the lesson home and the principles learned. No more boring classes where they sit idly for an hour and try to stay awake listening to the teacher. There is excitement, and creative opportunities for them to use their God-given talents and to be validated for their ideas while learning the concepts that are so valuable to have the skills necessary to get through life.

In Salvation Army shelters, children might stay for only one night, yet because the ARISE lessons are made to stand on their own, the child can receive at least one complete life skill while in our shelter. These lessons were planned with all in mind and address the issues that challenge our children today. They give them the ability to cope, to build ego strength, to see value in themselves, and to escape the future that could lead to failure.

A critical component of this package involves the Master training and Group facilitator training provided by the ARISE staff. It ceases to be what it was born to be without the combination of both the training and the lessons. The lessons come alive, the children get involved and the principles are brought home in a way that has a lasting effect on a child's life. The difference between just looking at a lesson, and knowing how to bring it to life because of the training is the fundamental key to making this material so tremendously effective in reaching this special population.

In salvaging his own broken past, the dreams of a man and his wife, inspired by God, were fashioned into tools that have helped others to ARISE from the depression of hopelessness and come into the light of His sunshine through giving back what has been given to them.

May God abundantly bless the Benson's for their dedication, commitment and outreach to this vulnerable population and for tapping into the great potential that will reap great dividends for their future.

Most sincerely,

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