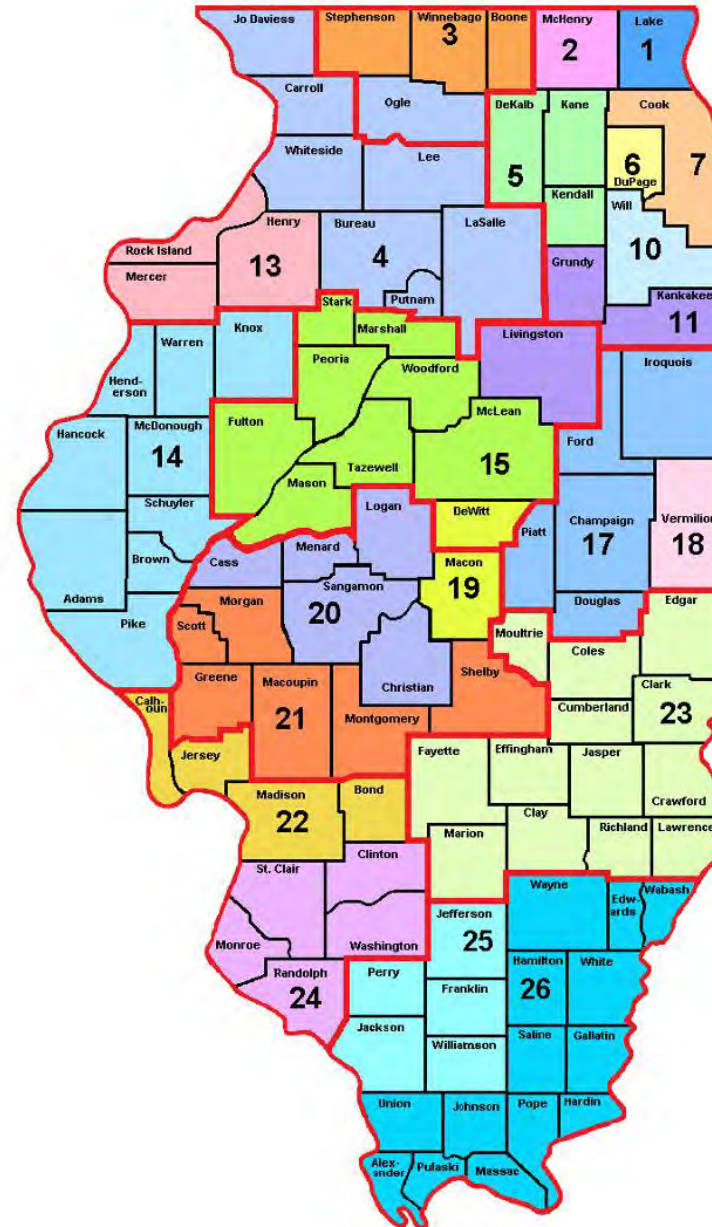




# Learning About Curt's Cafe

10/6/21

# Where is Your Local Area?



# Which partner do you best represent?





## **Karen Smith**

- Vice President of Operations and Student Development
- [karen@curtscafe.org](mailto:karen@curtscafe.org)

## **Rick Marsh**

- Board President
- [rick.marsh@comcast.net](mailto:rick.marsh@comcast.net)

## Our Mission

- Curt's Cafe improves outcomes for young men and women (15 - 24) living in at-risk situations through workforce and life skills training.



# Our Results

- Over 450 graduates since 2012



## Video

- [https://grouptheatertix-my.sharepoint.com/personal/spike\\_spikemanton\\_com/\\_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Fspike%5Fspikemanton%5Fcom%2FDocuments%2FEnjoli%20show%2Emp4&parent=%2Fpersonal%2Fspike%5Fspikemanton%5Fcom%2FDocuments&originalPath=aHRocHM](https://grouptheatertix-my.sharepoint.com/personal/spike_spikemanton_com/_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Fspike%5Fspikemanton%5Fcom%2FDocuments%2FEnjoli%20show%2Emp4&parent=%2Fpersonal%2Fspike%5Fspikemanton%5Fcom%2FDocuments&originalPath=aHRocHM)





**Hope**





## Poll/Chat

- Poll: Have you heard about Curt's Café?
- Chat: If you have, in what context and how was your experience?



# How do we do it?

## Our Cafes:

- Evanston (original location)
- Highland Park
  
- Current Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 8:00 - 3:00
- Breakfast, lunch & catering



# How do we do it – Our Program

- Workforce Training
  - FOH, BOH
  - Curriculum (workbook)
- Life Skills
  - Budgeting, Problem Solving, Time Management, Ripple Effect, etc
- Experiential Trips
  - Bahia, Nike, Mini Golf, Museums, etc

C's Story





# How we do it - Our Participants (Students)

- Referrals
  - EPD Outreach, YJC, YOU, Moran, PO Officers, schools
- Families
  - Mom's, siblings, cousins, girlfriend or boyfriends
- Other Grads



# J's Story





# How we do it - Our Staff/Board/Community

- Each cafe: GM, Kitchen Manager, SSP
- Rick Marsh & Board
- Volunteers



# P's Story

---



## What does it cost?

- Stipends (Show Tiered Programming One Pager)
- Register Sales & Donations



# Challenges

- Covid/Post Covid
- Goals of SS vs Operations
- The streets





- We work with young adults from the ages of 14 – 24.
- Our students have multiple challenges in their lives – from homelessness, lack of family support, education issues and food insecurity.
- Many have spent time in the justice system
- Many of our young women live in unstable and unsafe housing dealing with rape, violence, neglect and often mothering at young ages.
- *Curt's Café – There are no "Throw Away" young folks for us.*



## History

- Susan Trieschmann, founder and Executive Director
- Original owner of Food for Thought, has been in the catering business for 30+ years
- Original member of Restorative Justice Evanston
- She saw the impact of incarcerating youth and vowed to make a difference
- Finding an alternative to incarceration with a work force development program
- Hence...Curt's Café – 9 years to date



## Our Program

- Our program is different than most workforce training because we teach in a working café that is accessed by the public, providing a learning experience for both our students & community.
- The goal for our students is to attain a job, keep that job, secure safe housing and to become contributing members of our communities.
- The obstacles are huge. Felony records, ID's, documents, anger, teen pregnancy, sexual assault, domestic violence
- Our focus: Creating a supportive atmosphere, gaining trust and caring while demanding a commitment.







## Social Service Providers

- Individual and group therapy
- Tools and Information to make healthy choices
- Resolve legal issues
- Housing
- State ID's and Drivers Licenses



## Mentors

- Realized the power and importance of mentors in their own lives
- Strong commitment to giving back
- Provide trusting honest relationships
- Meet regularly with students



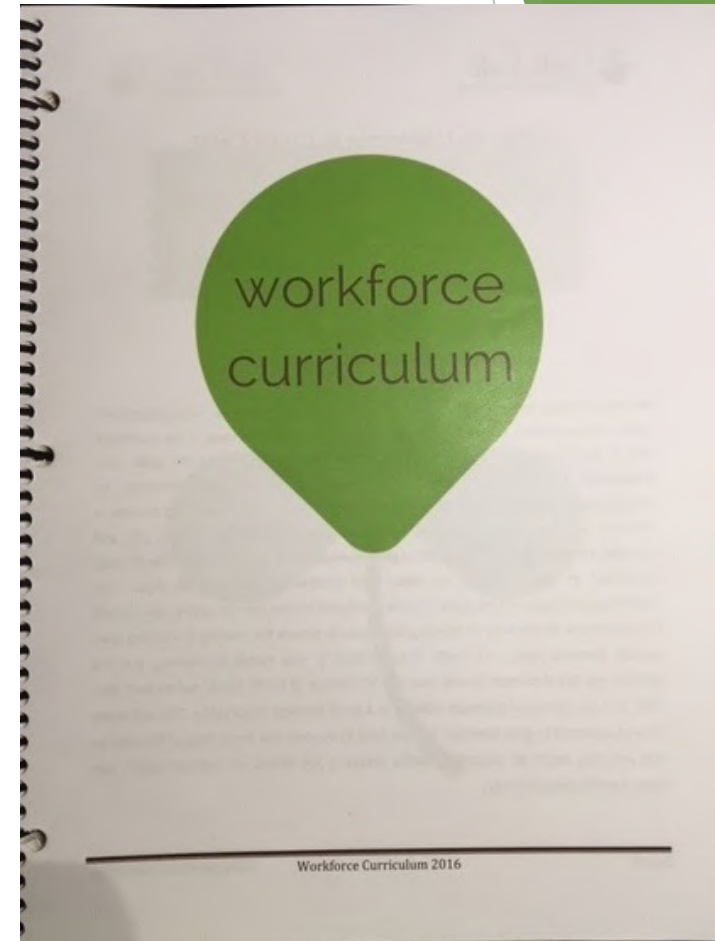




## Work Force Curriculum

- 203 page document
- Completed by each student
- Focus on 3 core competencies

Workforce  
Experiential  
Life Skills





## Workforce

### Front of the House

- Greeting customers
- Register Training
- Cash handling
- Barista Skills





## Back of the House

- Safe Food handling
- Knife Skills
- Food Preparation
- Menu training
- Catering







## Life Skills

- Reliability
- Communication
- Professionalism
- Resume Building
- Interviewing Skills
- Job Application





## Experiential

Passion House Coffee Roasters

Bahai Temple

Shorefront Legacy

Food For Thought Catering

Roosevelt University Library

Mitchell Museum of the American Indian

Holocaust Museum

Industrial Council of Nearwest Chicago

Big Delicious Planet

National Museum of Mexican Art

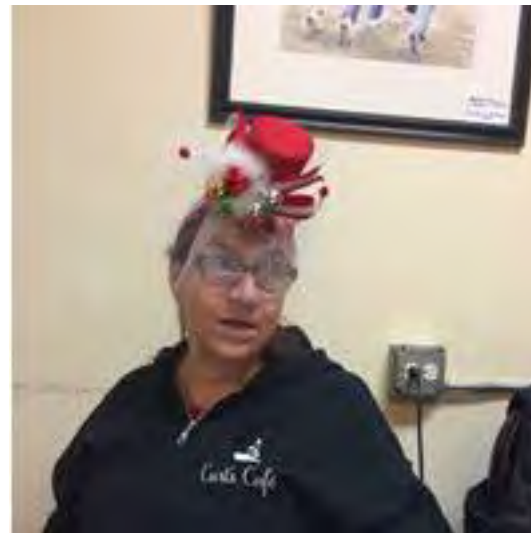






## Outcomes

## Return on Investment





## Return on Investment

- Job Placement
- Education  
GED and College





## Reduced Recidivism

- Typical Rate for this demographic is 87%
- Of 195 graduates, only 3 have been reincarcerated
- Cost of training program per student \$9,000 per year
- Cost of incarceration - \$147, 767 per year







## Community

- Bridges a gap
- Provides the opportunity for recognition and humanization of difference





Curt's Café

Cultivating Unique Restaurant Training

Q&A

