

Reconnecting Disadvantaged Youth Project W.K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Reconnecting Disadvantaged Youth Project (RDYP) is funded through the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to support Lighthouse Academy and Hope Academy of West Michigan as they provide students with educational opportunities and job skills training. RDYP is an expansion to the seven key best-practice educational attributes that Lighthouse Academy and Hope Academy are built on. These attributes express the core values of this initiative of building student academic success and bright futures via rigor, relevance, and relationships. After an application process, several students will be offered paid internships as a final step to help our county's most disconnected and disadvantaged youth advance their education and develop into young adults that are engaged citizens of our community.



W.K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION

Helping Communities Stand Up for Children



PROJECT PURPOSE

- Provide educational opportunities
- Offer life skills
- Develop job skills through part-time paid internships

The ultimate goal is to help students aspire to their greatest potential beyond receiving their high school diploma, whether it be military service, technical training, apprenticeship, or college. This project provides a tremendous opportunity to help students develop job skills while also meeting educational goals.

RECONNECTING DISADVANTAGED YOUTH PROJECT

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**LIGHTHOUSE
ACADEMY**

**HOPE
Academy**
OF WEST MICHIGAN

**HOPE
Academy**
OF WEST MICHIGAN



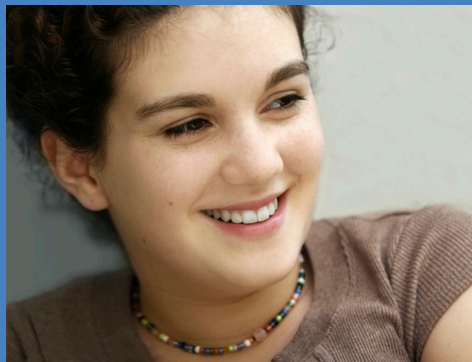
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**LIGHTHOUSE
ACADEMY**



*The staff here
“don’t quit, they
keep trying to help”
— Lighthouse Student*



WHO WILL BE ACCEPTED INTO THE PROGRAM?

There is an urgent need for an educational option that works for disconnected youth. Lighthouse Academy and Hope Academy provide that option by providing a program which is comprehensive in nature, focused on strengthening academic skills as well as life skills, and sense of a moral order. By doing so, these schools give youth a more hopeful future and benefit the community in which they live.

Students of both Lighthouse Academy and Hope Academy of West Michigan have the opportunity to be a part of the new Reconnecting Disadvantaged Youth Project (RDYP). **Ten students will be chosen for part-time paid internships provided through the RDY Project each trimester.** These students are accepted based on their performance in the required courses leading up to these internships.

A number of businesses have partnered with Lighthouse Academy and Hope Academy to encourage disadvantaged youth to strive for success. Our hope is that through these paid internships, our students prove to be great assets within the partnered businesses to the point where there could potentially be offered full-time employment at the completion of the program.

MISSION STATEMENT

Lighthouse Academy and Hope Academy of West Michigan provide positive learning experiences and renewed hope to students in Kent County who are struggling to be successful in school by offering strong academics, counseling services, life skills development and career exploration services in a holistic and effective approach.