

It Only Takes Eight Weeks To Inspire a Life!

It's easy: Provide an enthusiastic low-income student with an internship this summer at your place of business.

About the Program:

The Chicago Lights Job Training and Career Development Program is a ten-month educational experience that serves high school students who come from some of Chicago's most economically challenged neighborhoods. Through this opportunity, students gain the insight and tools necessary to break the cycle of poverty and get a head start in planning for a satisfying career and keeping a great job.

Program Components:



Internships

- *8 weeks/16 hours per week
- *June 21st – August 12th, 2010
- *real life experience
- *stipends provided

Classes

- *career exploration
- *résumé writing
- *interviewing
- *professional etiquette

Computer Skills

- *typing
- *Microsoft word
- *Microsoft excel
- *internet research



By providing an internship for a Chicago Lights student, your business:

- ✓ gains an entry level “employee” for 8 weeks at no financial cost
- ✓ participates in a meaningful civic partnership
- ✓ has the opportunity to help break the cycle of poverty

All fields of business make great internship sites:

Law, Consulting, Accounting, Non-profit, Education, Government, Healthcare, Retail, Banking, Marketing, Media, Architecture, Advertising, etc.

To create a meaningful internship, sites provide the student with:

- entry level activities
- exposure to the operations of the business
- professional mentoring and feedback about their performance

Stipends:

Stipends are issued weekly by Chicago Lights and are provided through foundation grants. There is no financial cost to internship sites.

Importance of the Program:

Chicago's students face many obstacles to becoming successful in the workplace. Their schools have low median attendance and graduation rates and high median drop-out rates. The increased likelihood that students will drop out of high school, combined with their lack of skills to secure and sustain employment positions them to enter the cycle of poverty.

The youth in the Chicago Lights Program have the desire to succeed, but have few opportunities to acquire the information and role models that will help them be successful. Many of the students come from families who live at or below the poverty level, where heads of household have not attended college and are not pursuing a career of choice. Students need positive adult role models for graduation and pursuit of higher education and a career.

The Program Works:

“James has been a tremendous asset in our office and has worked well with our entire staff. We were so pleased with his work that we have hired James as a temporary full-time staff member until he returns to school in early September.”

Joyce Sigmon - American Academy of Implant Dentistry

“My second week at the job is continuing to boost my self-esteem. I am starting to interact in some of the meetings. Everyday I am given more responsibilities. My intelligence level is steadily rising. I feel more confident about myself. I am so happy I was picked for this position.”

Crystal - Chicago Lights Student – age 15

To participate or for more information, contact Tanya Uyigue at tuyigue@fourthchurch.org or 312-274-3828.