



WorkBridge is a community based program for male and female youth ages 10 to 21 involved with the Allegheny County Juvenile Court. WorkBridge serves Allegheny County Juvenile Court by providing youth with opportunities to obtain meaningful paid employment, complete court ordered community service, and develop competencies in accordance with the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice.

THERE ARE FOUR COMPONENTS TO THE PROGRAM:

Community Service, Employment Initiative, Stipend Program, and Community Repair Crew.

- COMMUNITY SERVICE:** With hundreds of community service sites, WorkBridge places, monitors and reports to The Court the progress of the youth. The Community Service component provides youth ages 10-21 with the opportunity to perform court ordered community service.
- EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE:** Provides youth ages 16-21 job training workshops and assists with finding meaningful paid employment opportunities. The program is designed to serve The Court by assisting with the collection of restitution payments.
- STIPEND PROGRAM:** Provides youth ages 10 to 15 (too young for employment) to perform community service in exchange for a stipend to pay their restitution.
- COMMUNITY REPAIR CREW:** Provides youth 14-21 with court ordered community service, opportunities for competency development through training in six areas of minor repair/construction. The six areas include basic tools and safety, interior wall repair, window replacement, painting, carpentry and plumbing.

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

Value to the Community:

WorkBridge provides a valuable service to non-profit agencies and the community, by helping the agencies to meet their goals and serve more of the needs of the community effectively. In 2014, over 30,000 hours of volunteer service were contributed by the youth to the community.

Benefits to Youth:

- Reinforces the concept of accountability and responsibility for one's actions.
- Provides exposure to a positive work setting and promotes interpersonal skills and self-esteem.
- Provides an additional source of positive adult supervision and monitoring.
- Provides the opportunity for constructive and instructive use of youth's time.
- Provides on the job training.
- Reinforces the feeling of ownership and pride in the community for the youth who contribute.

■ EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE:

Value to the Community:

In 2014 the Employment Initiative component in Allegheny County had 843 work sites and collected over \$60,000 in restitution. However, restitution is only an adjunct benefit. Studies show that youth who are engaged in employment are 82% less likely to recidivate. Further, by enforcing the restitution component, they complete the terms of their probation much faster than those youth not enrolled in this type of program, generally in 4-6 months.

Benefits to Youth:

- Provides youth the skills to interview and find a job.
- Offers youth a job coach during the work experience.
- Allows youth to repay the victim of their crime.
- Youth enter the workforce and gain valuable experience.
- Youth who work are less likely to re-offend.

■ STIPEND PROGRAM:

Value to the Community:

The Stipend Program is for those youth under the age of 16 who cannot legally work but who owe restitution. The Stipend Program permits youth to perform community service in exchange for a stipend which pays their restitution.

Benefits to Youth:

- Allows youth too young to work to pay restitution.
- Provides exposure to a positive work setting and promotes interpersonal skills and self-esteem.
- Youth participate in community service and gain valuable experience.
- Youth are less likely to re-offend.

■ COMMUNITY REPAIR CREW:

Value to the Community:

The Community Repair Crew provides youth ages 14 to 21 with court ordered community service, opportunities for competency development through training in six areas of minor repair/construction and provides victims of vandalism, burglary, and other crimes with immediate and tangible work assistance. In addition, victim awareness and victim impact classes are provided.

The Crew has installed wheelchair ramps for victims of shootings; repaired doors, windows and locks; painted for victims of tagging and other vandalism; and repaired dry-wall. They have also helped revitalize community centers and assisted in clean-up.

Benefits to Youth:

- Youth learn relevant skills, transferable to the trades.
- Program builds self-esteem as youth gain knowledge and practice skills in the community.
- Victims and youth humanize one another.
- Youth can gain OSHA and SafeServ certifications.
- PACTT (Pennsylvania Academic and Career/Technical Training Alliance) affiliated.

To learn more about Abraxas WorkBridge
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