

# Every Body's In



## COMMUNITY BENEFITS REPORT

**A Call for Responsibility & Action for  
Educating & Developing Our Youth**

2017

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Prepared by  
GrayHall LLP for Every Body's In

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EVERY BODY'S IN is publishing this report to the community because serving the community has been a cornerstone of EBI's work since its founding in 2013. EBI is a locally initiated effort to engage all citizens—everybody—in the education and the development of youth. Schools as part of the community have a role in educating children and youth but the rest of the community has an even bigger role.

In her book, *Community Educators: A Resource for Educating and Developing Our Youth*, Dr. Patricia Moore Harbour emphasizes the role of community educators by saying, although schools hold a central place in educating young people, community-based education efforts greatly enhance and support formal educational institutions. Community education efforts, she goes on to say, expand educational opportunities by encompassing social development, civic involvement, vocational training, and leadership development, all of which are essential for success in the 21st century.<sup>1</sup>

EBI offers relevant learning opportunities for community members and educators; endeavors to create forums for students voices, particularly related to promoting school and life success; and provides opportunities for community educators to network and become engaged.

The goal of EBI is to support a broad spectrum of people to self-identify as community educators and to link their talents, interests and organizational work in an effort to support youth both in and out of school. Search Institute has found that the most significant factor in a young person's success is a meaningful relationship with an adult. Such relationships--whether the "lesson" is about math, planting a garden, balancing a checkbook, or any other transfer of knowledge--serves to motivate the youth. That motivation, in turn, can positively affect their family, as well as the adult community educator.

Increasingly, students' educational success is dependent on collaboration and partnership. As we look forward to the future in K-12 education, Every Body's In community network is needed to provide communication and coordination to build and sustain relationships between education systems, and the community at large, provide a one-stop contact point for networking useful to both educators, students, and the general public; and to promote school and life success for all students, according to EBI stakeholders contacted for this report. Stakeholders said, Every Body's In empowers community members to be stronger advocates for students. The EBI network realizes that improving students' school and life success is a work in progress, but believe that together, they are making a difference. If you have any comments or questions, please share them with EBI at: Youthprise, 615 1st avenue NE #125, Minneapolis, MN 55413, Phone: 651-402-8622, Email: [everybodysin@youthprise.org](mailto:everybodysin@youthprise.org), Web: [youthprise.org](http://youthprise.org)

<sup>1</sup> *Community Educators: A Resource for Educating and Developing Our Youth* was published by the Kettering Foundation in 2012. The foundation encourages and supports research on how democracy works in various fields such as education, health, housing, etc.

# Community Benefits

EBI's community benefits are programs and services that improve access to knowledge about K-12 student success in the St. Paul community. Its purpose is to strengthen community-wide civic action and participation based on Every Body claiming a stake in the education and development of youth. Every Body's In shares the concept of community educators through events, forums, presentations, and guided conversation with smaller groups. As a result, adults—many of whom have felt outside of the formal education system—find their places as educators. They recognize and share their gifts, talents, and wisdom with youth in their families and community. Youth benefit from a collaboration between formal and informal education.

Years ago, young people learned skills such as changing the oil in a car or balancing a check book from their church, neighbors, family, employers, or other “non-teachers.” That support of youth by community educators has diminished over time and EBI works to re-engage all community members in the education and development of youth. EBI encourages Every Body to recognize the connection between school education and education in the community and to strengthen these connections with a goal of preparing youth to become responsible, civic-minded thriving adults.

Every Body's In is the only program in St. Paul with the sole purpose of linking a broad diversity of stakeholders (e.g., community members, educators, families, and youth) to educate and develop youth, which results in improved academic outcomes and an increase in community engagement. To date,

over 600 people have attended an EBI event, presentation, or convening.

The Every Body's In network brings together a continuum of support for families, children, and educators:

## Community Building

- Aligning with the work of professionals who regularly attend and participate in EBI meetings and forums focused on improving public programs and supports for children.
- Promoting the use of an Ambassador Toolkit which puts guiding principles in one place (any person can convene a conversation about community educators).
- Building a critical mass of people who are invested in educating and developing every child.
- Finding ways to work with communities to reduce education barriers.

## Family Support

- Introducing EBI to families and helping embed EBI tools into family systems so everybody can contribute to education of children and youth

## Learning Opportunities

- Promoting learning beyond the classroom.
- Building a learning platform for educators and families.
- Learning and interrupting factors that discourage school success as they come-up.
- Promoting a structure for conversations about democracy (the free and equal rights of every person and the responsibility of community members).

- Creating a framework for listening to each other's contributions and personal experiences and focusing on the work that is needed to improve public programs and supports for children.

## Influencing Transformation

- Advocating for the most desirable conditions in education (democratic design).
- Influencing systems that have the financial resources to support education.

## Lifting Student Voices

- Keeping youth consistently engaged in all of the different aspects of EBI.
- Including youth performances and workshops (in EBI events) that engage audiences in conversations about social responsibility, systemic inequality, community educators, and student resiliency.

## Tools

- Created and published the Ambassador Toolkit, which gives anyone the tools to convene a conversation about community educators and Every Body's In.
- Made available copies of *Community Educators: A Resource for Educating and Developing Our Youth* by Dr. Patricia Moore Harbour available to workshop participants.

## Commitments

Grew the EBI database to 216 commitments from people who pledge to share their talents, gifts, and resources to develop and educate youth. Commitments range from “I will use my position and influence to engage school leaders and school boards to engage

parents and community members in meaningful dialogue” to “Work more with my grandchildren educationally and spiritually—teaching them to know who they are.” Other examples of commitments:

- Work to help youth expand their artistic selves.
- Work with Glam Grams (Grandparents reading to children 0-3) to help parents, advance youth literacy, and use history as a bridge to the future.
- Communicate the need to promote community education in schools to my district administration.

- Connect EBI message to immigrant parents I know.
- Teach the children any and everywhere possible.
- Advance legislative agenda of education program choices; involve youth in convincing legislators; and call committee members for meetings.
- Start with my children and the children in my community sharing knowledge with them and other parents.
- I will commit to reading with a group of children for a few hours twice every week.

- Educate/share how I have and continue to bring out excellence in our black students.

### Free Programming

- Grants from many funders (see Acknowledgments) and in-kind contributions totaling more than \$100,000 covered community events, forums, and other learning sessions for community members, formal educators and youth.

## By the Numbers

### PARTICIPANTS



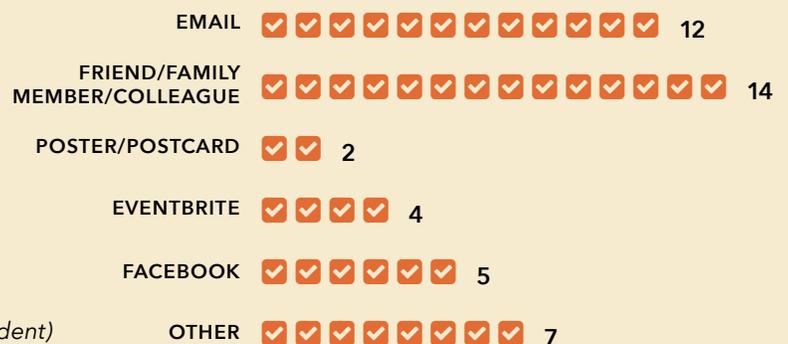
### LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



### HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE EVENT?

An example of how participants find out about Every Body’s In events is demonstrated by the figure to the right. At the 2016 forum, 33 people answered the survey question, “How did you hear about the event?” Most (14, or 42%) learned about EBI events from friends, family, and colleagues; more than a quarter (12, or 36%) learned from email; and several learned about the forum from multiple sources.

(More than one option could be mentioned per respondent)



# Community Impact

A cross-section of approximately 100 EBI participants who completed surveys (about a third each, at the 2013, 2014, and 2016 EBI workshops/forums) were queried about the impact of EBI's workshop/forum format. Nearly all expressed appreciation for workshops and how they are conducted. The 33 participants who completed satisfaction surveys following the 2016 forum were asked about the "Fostering Voice" youth performance that engaged the audience in conversations about social responsibility, systematic inequality, and resiliency through the eyes of youth. More than half (22 of 33 survey respondents, or 66%) rated the youth performance part of the workshop as "9" or "10," satisfied to-very satisfied. In 2016, participants were also asked about the "Call to Action Discussion," which focused on educating children and youth. Similarly, over half (18 of 33 survey respondents, or 54%) rated this aspect of the workshop "9" or "10". In rating the overall program, including both the performance and discussion, 19 of the 33 survey respondents (57%) rated the overall effort "9" to "10." As the figure below

suggests, all aspects of the workshop were rated "very satisfied" by well over half of the survey respondents.

Comments about EBI, from workshop/forum participants ranged from wanting to volunteer to support EBI to celebrating the value of youth voices. One person said, "A moving and inspiring event with youth focus." "I'll never ever give up on our young people," another stated. Describing their favorite parts of the workshop, participants named the performance, networking, conversations, and all three activities. Examples of comments:

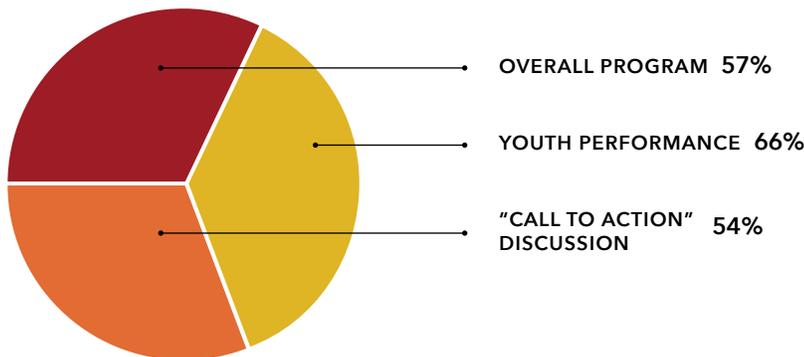
- The play was amazing, powerful and extremely emotional, memorable.
- I appreciated the youth presentation and police participation with the crowd.
- I liked listening and learning from younger folks.
- The community building activity (Circle) was good.
- I liked every part of it because each of us go through different things in life which the youth displayed in multiple parts of each scene.

- I'll remember the young lady who told the story about the youth having no home to go to after volunteering.

Following the 2016 EBI Workshop/Forum, interviews were conducted with four EBI volunteers (two men and two women) to get a better understanding of Every Body In's impact. Those interviewed described EBI's value to the community, it's strengths, challenges, and EBI's partners. Everyone that was interviewed agreed that it is very important for community members to be conscious of their community educator roles. "There is no other organization like EBI and it is giving to the community," one participant noted. It was also said that EBI provides a community for youth to use for networking.

Those interviewed expect EBI to grow to a level where it can compensate some of the people who commit time to the network's goals. Also suggested was, EBI can make greater use of collaboration to deepen its impact. The network's strong commitment, transparency, and message were said to be strengths. EBI's greatest strength, according to participants, is its cross-disciplinary network. EBI's relationship with police was noted as a very good partnership because "police need a better understanding of what is going on in the lives of young people," a participant stated. EBI recognizes that "developing our children is a connection to democracy," another participant acknowledged. In contrast, a challenge for EBI, according to those interviewed, is ensuring funding to continue and expand the network.

## WORKSHOP/FORUM SATISFACTION



# Service with a Higher Purpose

Based on data from Every Body's In stakeholders and review of EBI's work over the past three years, it appears that EBI's work is in service to a higher purpose: to work across systems (family, education, county) and to call for responsibility and action in educating and developing youth. EBI's focus is on improving public programs and supports for children. A core belief is that Every Body Has a Place in the Life of a Child! EBI aims to change attitudes from "they are your children" to "they are our children;" and transform the education discussion beyond simply reforming schools to the importance of citizen collaboration among the various sectors of the community including youth, parents, schools, businesses, and residents to foster active, engaged and thriving learners.

EBI hopes to change the direction of education by creating an integrated collective that is deeply communicative and connected to families, organizations, and schools. EBI envisions working with a broad diversity of stakeholders including, organizations, individuals, communities, families and youth. EBI stakeholders are:

- Adult education professionals
- Church/Faith based groups
- Community educators
- Community programs/projects
- Education administrators
- Educational institutions
- Families
- Formal and informal leaders
- Friends
- Funders
- Housing shelters
- Libraries
- Nonprofit organizations involved in education
- Parents and caregivers
- Schools
- Student teachers
- Students studying to be educators
- Young education professionals
- Youth leaders

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## Acknowledgments

Every Body's In is grateful for the investments of the following organizations and individuals that supported free programming for meetings, forums and other learning sessions for community members, educators and students.

### SPONSORS

Education Minnesota  
Greater Twin Cities United Way  
House of Hope Presbyterian Church  
Network for the Development of Children of African Descent (NdCAD)  
St. Paul Federation of Teachers  
St. Paul Foundation  
St. Paul Promise Neighborhood  
Unity Church-Unitarian  
Youthprise

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Concordia University  
Cultural Wellness Center  
GrayHall  
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Mentoring Young Adults  
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