

Profiles in Leadership

LaKeldra's Story

Oldest sister sets family example. Brought jobs to Wichita.



LaKeldra was one of the early students enrolled in our academic tutoring program and soon joined our, Youth Empowerment Group. Most days she could be found just hanging out at Hope Street. LaKeldra's mom felt this was the safest place to be and encouraged her involved.

Lakeldra was a key leader of a three year campaign to return summer jobs for youth to Wichita. After changes in federal workforce legislation reduced the number of federally funded youth

summer jobs in Wichita from nearly 800 to zero, LaKeldra fought to create more summer job opportunities for youth. After a three-year campaign engaging their Local Workforce Investment Board, she helped create a new training and employment program for youth in Wichita. The first year as a pilot program Youth Summer B.E.A.T. provided training and employment for 30 Wichita youth and expanded to 50 jobs the next year. As part of this campaign she even travelled to Chicago to meet with top officials from the Department Of Labor.

LaKeldra is the oldest of many sibling to go through Hope Street. She recently graduated from a trade school in Texas for medical office assistants.

She writes, "I always assumed the military was my only way out, but Hope Street staff helped me explore all my options and I decided that continuing education was the right thing for me."



From the Director

The greatest testament to the power of Hope Street Youth Development is in the lives of young people that are changed everyday.

This series contains a mixture of current students and graduates of Hope Street.

We provide these stories because we know that the work of youth development is not abstract philosophy but instead personal, intensive work with real people. These are their stories.

We measure our success by the differences that we make in the lives of individual students, because its the only true measure of leadership development.

I hope these stories will help you believe in the work of Hope Street as much I do, and that you consider joining us as we make a difference by changing lives.

Aaron Fowler
Executive Director



The mission of Hope Street Youth Development is to provide opportunities for youth to build power and reach their full potential so they may think for themselves, speak for themselves, and act for their community

For more information how Hope Street Youth Development is making a difference and changing lives, visit other Profiles in Leadership at www.hopestreet.com/profiles/

If you want to get involved or help support our work please visit www.hopestreet.com/involved/ or call (316) 263-7325