

fact sheet

Skills for Life & Work

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

St. Paul

A **United Way** Community Partner

Community Need: Skills for Success

- In Minneapolis and St. Paul, less than 50 percent of at-risk children are reading at grade level in the third grade. Students who struggle with reading in the third grade are unlikely to finish high school. (Twin Cities United Way, 2009; National Research Council, 1998)
- During 2008 in Minnesota, 71 percent of white students scored proficient or better on 7th grade reading assessments. By comparison, 37 percent of African American students achieved a score of proficient or better. (Minnesota Minority Education Partnership, Inc., 2009)
- About 60 percent of manufacturing companies say high school graduates are poorly prepared for entry-level jobs. (Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy, 2009)
- Many Americans lack the skills to manage their finances and plan for a financially secure future. Mortgage defaults, bankruptcy filings, late payments, credit card debt and payday loans are on the rise.
 - One in every 10 Americans reports being late or missing a mortgage payment in the last year. (National Foundation for Credit Counseling, 2008)
 - Seven percent of adults are either getting calls from collectors or seriously considering filing for bankruptcy. (National Foundation for Credit Counseling, 2008)
 - Fifty-nine percent of the adults in Generation Y (ages 18-29) pay their bills on time every month. (National Foundation for Credit Counseling, 2008)

changing minds, bodies & lives



Our Response: Building Skills to Support Achievement and Self-Sufficiency

Skills for Life & Work empowers people of all ages to learn new skills and experience success. Although Skills for Life & Work is a relatively new addition to our organizational chart, there is a long tradition of learning at the YWCA St. Paul. The new department centralizes and strengthens learning opportunities and allows the YWCA to be more responsive to urgent and emerging community needs.

The first services were launched to focus on helping youth build basic skills. By improving basic skills, at-risk youth are better positioned to experience success, stay in school and overcome barriers to employment, self-sufficiency and education.

Core Programs

Helping Students Succeed

Project Able (PA): Provides tutoring in math and language arts to ensure students in grades K-8 are meeting minimum academic progress standards. Services are available at no-cost to eligible students from St. Paul Public Schools.

Learning to Read, Reading to Learn

YW Reads (YWR): Helps students in grades K-3 to improve their reading skills and ensure they are reading at grade level by the end of third grade. Services are available at no cost to eligible students from partnering St. Paul Public Schools.

Moving People into Work

YW Works (YWW): Breaks the cycle of poverty by

helping people move from welfare to work. As a contractor of Workforce Solutions, a department of Ramsey County, YWW delivers culturally-specific employment services to African American participants of the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP).

What You Can Do to Help

Whether volunteering to assist with tutoring, donating books or making a financial contribution — **you can make a difference.** Ninety-two cents of every dollar goes directly to services for women, children and families.

Skills for Life Work by the Numbers:*

Total Served: 84 young people

Demographics:

People of Color	Low-Income
95%	100%
Single Parent Household	At-Risk
Data Not Available	100%

Total Annual Investment in Building Skills: \$252,590

*Based on 2009 Program Data