



St. Patrick Center
Building Permanent, Positive, Change.

OUR mission

St. Patrick Center provides opportunities for self-sufficiency and dignity to persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Individuals achieve permanent, positive changes in their lives through affordable housing, sound mental health, employment and financial stability.



The BEGIN Training & Education Center A St. Patrick Center Employment & Training Program

The BEGIN Training & Education Center (BTEC) is an innovative educational program providing various training courses with a wraparound network of social support services. Emphasis is placed on collaboration with employer partners that provide practical application and experience, as well as industry certifications.

Clients interested in BTEC must be referred by a St. Patrick Center employment case manager. The BTEC programs are built on a holistic approach of helping individuals who are homeless and those at risk of homelessness to better prepare themselves for sustainable employment opportunities with livable wages and benefits, which will ultimately lead to financial stability and permanent housing. Critical to this objective is the successful matching of necessary skill sets to potential BTEC employer-partners. Employer-driven (outcome-based) training programs, which provide on-the-job as well as classroom training in both technical and soft skills, position St. Patrick Center clients to move beyond entry-level employment and into well-paying positions with career advancement opportunities with employers sensitive to the St. Patrick Center mission.

Employers play a critical role when they collaborate with BTEC to form and create a curriculum specific to their and their industries specifications. BTEC is seeking employer-partners that are interested in collaborating to develop an underutilized population of the workforce through training, to meet industry needs while creating opportunities to build permanent, positive change in the lives of St. Patrick Center clients. Current collaborations include the following:

St. Louis Housing Authority: Lead agency for the Sherwin-Williams Painters Training Program. To date, 121 participants from the St. Louis Housing Authority and St. Patrick Center have completed the training preparing them for employment as painters.

Amateur Softball Association of America (ASA): 14 St. Patrick Center clients graduated from the first training program on Opening Day, April 1, 2009. They received their ASA Umpire card, uniforms and equipment.

Project GO! Green:

- 1.) **Gateway Greening/City Seeds Urban Farm:** located across from Union Station, the City Seeds Urban Farm trains St. Patrick Center's homeless clients in green horticulture, preparing them for jobs in landscaping, nurseries, gardening retailers and other green-care jobs.
- 2.) **National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Center (NCERC) at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville (SIUE):** Working with the NCERC, St. Patrick Center's GO! Network trained 30 of the network's professional members in biofuels production and related fields.
- 3.) **Partnership for Downtown St. Louis/St. Louis Cardinals "Green Team" recycling program:** a green training initiative that recycles single stream recyclable materials for re-use and to keep our environment clean.

page 1



St. Patrick Center
Building Permanent, Positive, Change.

OUR mission

St. Patrick Center provides opportunities for self-sufficiency and dignity to persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Individuals achieve permanent, positive changes in their lives through affordable housing, sound mental health, employment and financial stability.

In Fiscal Year 2010, 72 clients graduated from employment programs in the BEGIN Training & Education Center.

Other St. Patrick Center Employment & Training Programs: The BEGIN New Venture Center; General Employment; Homeless Employment Program; Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP); Job Experience Training (JET); McMurphy's Grill; Project HERO; Veterans GO! Green.

Updated 3.25.11