



The CYCLE Program's Impact on the Youth of the Cabrini-Green Housing Development

November 29, 2018



Welcome!

We're glad you are able to join us for Beating the Odds: The Cycle Program's Impact on the Youth of the Cabrini-Green Housing Development. Our webinar will begin shortly.





Webinar Agenda

- Introductions
- Life in the Cabrini-Green Housing Development
- The Cycle Program & Outcomes
- Roundtable Discussion
- Q&A



Introductions



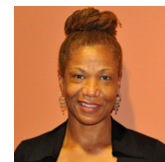
Greg Darnieder

*CYCLE Creator & Founding Director
Principal of College and Career Strategic Directions
Co-Author "You Can't Be What You Can't See."*



Kent Pikel, Ed.D.

President & CEO - Search Institute



Pat Ford, M.Ed.

*Executive Director - Steans Family Foundation
Former CYCLE Youth Participant*



Craig Nash

*Director of Community Engagement –
Chicago CRED
Former CYCLE Youth Participant*



Cyril Nichols

*Director of Athletics –
Chicago City Colleges
Former CYCLE Youth Participant*



David Gates

*Certified Energy Auditor
Board Chair – Educator Plus
Former CYCLE Youth Participant*



Life in the Cabrini-Green Housing Development

Growing up in the Cabrini-Green Housing Development: Youth's Perspective

- Poor schools, low expectations, racial prejudice
- Norms of early pregnancy – teen moms
- Everyday violence, gang membership, drugs.
 - “Every family has a wounded warrior”
 - “Dead or in jail by 21”
- Chicago police: “a rival gang”
- Social & spatial isolation: “caged in 4 square blocks;”
- Schools: “the bottom of the ladder in Chicago”
- Cabrini-Green housing
 - Rats, roaches, garbage, broken plumbing and electricity, dangerous elevators
 - “the worst public transportation system in Chicago”

“ Somebody was getting killed every day...at least two times a week there was a murder... there were basketball courts in Cabrini that nobody could play on because of sniper fire.
- Former CYCLE youth ”

The Cabrini-Green Housing Development Context late 1980s: Social, Economic, Racial Segregation

- ~15,000 residents in 4 square blocks, 100% African-American; 70% residents are children—"A hive swarming with children"
- 84% families on public aid, unemployed; ~90% single parent families
- 50% adults read below 6th grade level
- Few adult male residents— by one estimate ~150
- CPS: "the worst urban public education system in the nation". Drop out rate: ~65% [girls]; ~80% [boys]. Cabrini-Green Housing Development schools "the worst of the worst"





The CYCLE Program & Outcomes

CYCLE: Community Youth Creative Learning Experience

- Mission: Academic support, leadership development, positive youth development
- Programs: Tutoring, scholarships, leadership development: 1979-1992
- Context: Chicago's Cabrini Green Housing Development: "the nation's best-known & most vilified housing project"

“CYCLE taught us how to be proud of ourselves. Be proud of our family. Be proud of our surroundings.”
Former CYCLE youth

The CYCLE Program

- Tutoring:
 - ≈750 K-12 kids during the school year, after school and evenings
 - ≈350 kids for summer day camps (mornings)
- Scholarships:
 - 5 scholarship programs
 - Private school and college tuition for approximately 200 youth
- Junior Staff:
 - 200 Cabrini-Green Housing Development youth hired annually to implement various program components
- Enrichment:
 - Monthly trips, after school activities, summer mentoring

CYCLE Disrupted Outcomes for Cabrini–Green Housing Development Youth

During the CYCLE Program

- High school graduation rate:
 - Overall: ~80
 - Scholarship programs: 100%
 - Junior staff: 99%
- ~ 30% went directly to college
- Others got involved in other post-secondary opportunities—job training, military— or took GED
- Some girls became teen moms— but most all eventually took part in post-secondary training or went to college
- *“We all made gains no matter where we started from...maybe we took different pathways but we all have positive lives. Not one of us has turned into a criminal!”*



30 Years Later

- Professional accomplishments*:
 - 11 PhDs, 2 MDs, assorted MAs, teachers, social workers, law enforcement officers, urban planners, pastors, coaches... most all solidly middle class, even those who didn't go to college
- Personal accomplishments:
 - Stable family relationships, long-term friendships, satisfying careers
- The next generation:
 - Most of their kids involved in higher education, focused on mainstream careers & life styles—CYCLE planted a seed

** Junior staff & scholarship recipients*

What Mattered Most?

CYCLE participants point to 3 interrelated elements that made the difference in their lives then and now:

Exposure: “You can’t be what you can’t see...”

Mentoring: “Someone to walk with...”

Collective efficacy: “We were a force...”

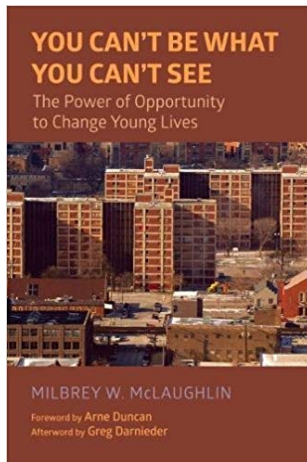
CYCLE Design Principles

- Get kids early, keep them through high school and into college
- Whatever is needed, whenever it is needed - 24 x 7 support
- Mutual accountability and responsibility - It’s all about relationships
- Never give up on a child - It’s adults’ responsibility to make it work
- Expanding horizons and ideas about “possible selves”– and providing strategies for achieving them

“ Seeing myself as part of something bigger and positive, not as a poor little black kid from Cabrini.”

Former CYCLE youth ”

The Book



- McLaughlin, Milbrey W. (2018). *You Can't Be What You Can't See: The Power of Opportunity to Change Young Lives*. Harvard Education Press.
- Foreword by Arne Duncan, and Afterword by Greg Darnieder
- Available online from Harvard Education Press and other online retailers.

About the Author

Milbrey W. McLaughlin is the David Jacks Professor Emeritus of Education and Public Policy at Stanford University, and the founding director of the John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities.

Roundtable Discussion



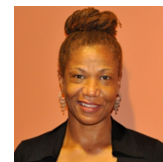
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