Service Opportunities

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**Company/Organization**  
“And Still I Rise” Youth Development Program (ASIR)

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United States

**Brief Organizational Background**

Project Background and History:
KMC Empowering Educational Corporation, Inc. (KMC-EEC, Inc.) is a 501(c)3 Tax-Exempt, Non-Profit Educational Corporation. KMC… provides educational and social-enrichment programs and resources to youth from the ages of 8 to 18 residing in the Strawberry Mansion area and Philadelphia region. KMC… has placed in motion a quality community model of best practices for outreach and focused educational development by the implementation of an innovative youth development program. The program is known as: “And Still I Rise” Youth Development Program (ASIR), and was established on May 8, 2013. Through collaborative partnerships with the school system, families, private and community organizations, our services are a powerful catalyst for change.

When the ASIR Program began in May of 2013, I was mentoring and tutoring 5 students. They were all teenagers. One year later, prior to our grand opening on May 10, 2014, we had 13 teenagers. After the grand opening the cry was so great for ASIR to accept younger students who were failing in school, not participating in school, and not going to school became inevitable that we had to open the program to younger students beginning at the age of 8. Today, ASIR now has close to 60 students on roll. Weekly, we are servicing anywhere from 88 to 120 students.

WE ARE SHORT OF STAFF AND NEED HELP! WILL YOU HELP US CONTINUE HELPING OUR CHILDREN?

Our outcomes, to name a few, since May 10, 2014 have been incredible. In July, 2014 we opened ASIR’s doors from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., from Monday to Saturday. During this short time span our students have mastered their Multiplication Times’ Tables from 1 to 10. They have also, learned all 50 States, and learned their numbers from 1 to 10 in Japanese, Spanish, and French along with the days of the week and months. We have seen our students reading and writing improve. Our students have learned and memorized parts of the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights Amendments. Public speaking and social skill building have all been at the center of our program focus this summer. Our students’ have engaged in STEM learning. They learned more about science, engineering, technology, and math over the summer. Our summer theme is: “TRANSFORMING THE
WAY I THINK ABOUT MY EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY…I AM AN ACHIEVER!

Our students are ready and motivated to return to school. In order to maintain this level of motivation our program is in desperate need of tutors and mentors during the school year! Their goal is to make honor roll. WE ARE SHORT OF STAFF AND NEED HELP! WILL YOU HELP US CONTINUE HELPING OUR CHILDREN?

THE HISTORY BEHIND THE NAME ASIR!

The name of the organization: KMC-Empowering Educational Corporation, Inc. was inspired by the great and late Dr. Maya Angelou’s poem, “And Still I Rise” (2001). After my revelation my vision was specifically meant to reflect and act upon the growing concerns of many parents seeking academic help for their children. I, therefore, felt an immediate urge to create and develop the ASIR Program, better known as: “And Still I Rise” a Youth Development Program in order to meet the needs of those young people wanting to excel in their academic studies and become positive role models in their families and communities. From ASIR, honorable credit is given to the great poet, Maya Angelou for inspiring me through the “AND STILL I RISE” Poem to move swiftly with this vision inspired by a revelation through a dream from God. My motivation to start the ASIR Youth Development Program in North Philadelphia, in the heart of Strawberry Mansion came from the cry of the parents and community citizens to help improve their children’s academic and social needs.

ASIR is a high-quality, safe, enriching, healthy, fun-filled, and creative afterschool, weekend, and summer youth development program with an emphasis on (STEM), science, technology, engineering and math for our youth. We use multidisciplinary approaches to education to solve problems, resolve conflicts, and increase social tolerance. This encourages self-esteem, self-development, and community improvement.

ASIR is designed to support youth from the ages of 8 to 18 in achieving their academic goals and aspirations through the delivery of personalized academic programs; such as, group counseling, retreats, training seminars, physical fitness and nutritional programs.

ASIR’s program offerings provide students with educational resources and opportunities they need to rise above adversarial circumstances that may threaten their ability to lead positive and productive lives.

Mission Statement:

ASIR’s mission is to provide life-changing assistance for young people through the delivery of sustainable educational resources. ASIR allows youth to rise above poverty through education, economic empowerment, and self-fulfillment.

Vision

Our vision is to eradicate educational inequalities and social disparities; which will empower our participants to become self-sufficient and competitive in a global economy.

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<th>Range of Services (i.e. tutoring, discrete projects, workshops, research, etc)</th>
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<td>The range of services includes the need for mentors and tutors to assist minority students with homework, afterschool. Reading, writing, and math tutors are the basic essential academic tutoring needs for our students to obtain greater knowledge and superior grades this year. Every 3rd Saturday are STEM workshops. We need tutors who can run innovative and creative Science, Technology, Engineering, and</td>
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Mathematic workshops. Positive social behaviors are also developed through the interactions with different cultures and teacher/student learning involvement.

**Population served:** (i.e. demographics, age range, educational level, cultural background, etc.).

The population served in ASIR ranges from youth 8 to 18 years of age. The youth are primarily African Americans males and females. We currently have two Hispanic males 12 and 13 years of age. School grades ranges from 6 to 12 grades. These students’ academic achievement levels are deficient wherein the lowest grades assessed through the ASIR Program are far below average. With tutoring and mentoring assistance our students are inspired to work hard to raise their academic achievement levels.

**Brief Description of Proposed Activity**

The day to day activities for our students would include the following: focus on homework and school projects, language arts, social studies, reading, writing, and math. These activities also include recreation time and social interpersonal and intrapersonal interactions for continued personal and positive community development.

**Main expectations of student interns (i.e. time commitment, frequency, duration, etc.). Please specify type of students required (undergraduate, graduate, & specific educational discipline if necessary).**

The main expectations at this time required of the intern student(s) can range from undergraduate freshman to senior interns who can commit to tutoring the students 3 to 5 days a week; Monday through Friday, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (20 hrs. per week).

**Benefit to Students**

While student interns may not be rewarded in dollars and cents for their volunteering services toward college credits necessarily, they do become more sensitive to create a better world for themselves and future generations. Temple University student interns volunteering in the ASIR Program will also benefit by gaining teaching experience and by helping to develop the community. Also, the students will benefit by experiencing the value of helping the poor, the needy, the deprived, and the disadvantage minority youth in the Strawberry Mansion community who desire to have a successful life without crime, drugs and other negative social activities by attending school regularly and earning better grades.

As you know, volunteering is not easy. It requires personal sacrifice and time that one could be spending elsewhere being paid. However, volunteering develops the need to serve society at large. Student interns for the
ASIR Program come with benefits such as: The understanding of the concept that “No man is an island and no man stands alone.” This concept in urban communities where minority students are struggling to acquire academic success along with their identity tends to eliminate reasons for harmful stereotyping and profiling of unethical behaviors! A great benefit is when “The haves” become more aware and sensitive to the needs of the “have not's.” Therefore, volunteering helps improve societal attitudes and eliminates detrimental pre-suppositional influences. This begins with the individual’s personal community involvement with different cultures and people. Volunteers’ are more likely to experience the positive effects or benefits of interpersonal transformation from being a person of isolation to a person of integration with public affairs within urban communities. When Temple Students assist ASIR’s urban minority youth in learning, their tutoring, we believe, will enable them to acquire the worth of selflessly caring for others while gaining skills and experience they might otherwise neglect to earn. This is the joy of life—helping others! Lastly, another benefit of student interns volunteering at ASIR is that Temple interns’ services will not go unnoticed when seeking employment. Interning at ASIR develops an excellent reputation for service above and beyond the call of duty, honor, and commitment as an American citizen. It is an admirable resume incentive for hiring managers when considering employment. Volunteers’ who offer their time and service to struggling communities are recognized by hiring managers as being a well-rounded and caring individual. Annually, our volunteers will be recognized by the Founder/President by way of a luncheon where all volunteers are honored with a Plaque and given a Certificate of Services signed by a State Official.

**Benefit to Organization**

The KMC-EEC, Inc.’s ASIR Program benefits by having knowledgeable tutors in the areas of reading, writing, math, etc., capable of helping our minority youth with knowledge and the opportunity to get better grades. ASIR’s source of inspiration and academic equipment will greatly improve the students’ attitudes and motivational qualities for going to school every day, learning and participating in the classroom. At the same time, another great benefit for this organization would be the outcomes of our students now being able to compete with their contemporaries in the academic arena knowing, now, that they are “SMART & INTELLIGENT.” So, the benefit of Temple sending ASIR student interns would be that our services provided thus far will reap the rewards of our students becoming honor students this year! It’s their goal!!!

**Service Location**

North Philadelphia, Strawberry Mansion: 3131 West Cumberland Street, Philadelphia, PA 19132

**Materials/resources to student interns (i.e. curricula, library, IT, & other community resources)**

The material resources available to student interns are as follows: Weekly curricula, access to the Philadelphia Library online, computers, printers, all supplies, and the community centers with which we are connected or partnered.