



NEWSLETTER: FALL 2022

"The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit."



Greetings from Dr. Barb Brady

Executive Director, Inspiring Dreams Network

As a relatively new non-profit, it has been exciting to see Inspiring Dreams Network continue to grow into an organization that is bringing credible resources and valuable training to the adults who dedicate their lives to serving youth in West Virginia, as we work to build stronger more connected communities through positive youth development. Through grants from The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, we've been able to bring free training

opportunities to youth-serving organizations in Putnam, Kanawha, and Clay Counties. We also continue to provide training on a fee basis to school systems and other organizations throughout the state. Check out our training opportunities [HERE](#). If you are not one of our grant-funded counties and would like us to provide training and support to your organization, please reach out to me at drbarbbrady@inspiringdreamsnetwork.org.

We are also grateful for grants from the Pallottine Foundation of Huntington that have allowed us to create a dynamic youth development portal filled with vetted resources for youth, families, and adults who serve youth. I want to thank our dedicated board members and VISTAS for their vision and hard work and our partners who continue to share their expertise to diversify and promote our training efforts. We're excited to share some of our recent efforts and new exciting opportunities that are coming your way.

HAVE A BLESSED AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!

What's New With IDN?

[COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS](#)

We are excited to offer a new opportunity

for our partners... mini info-sessions, or COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS, that feature people, programs, and resources to improve youth development in WV.

Anyone is welcome to tune in, including youth, families, and the adults who serve youth. Our goal is to support our network to build stronger, more connected communities that engage and inspire youth to reach their potential. While we hope you can join us live to ask any questions you have, our spotlights are recorded and can be accessed [HERE](#).



NEW TRAINING: SUCCESS COACHING AND MENTORING

Inspiring Dreams Network's Success Coaching and Mentoring trainings utilize a reform-focused advocacy model. Success coaches practice transformative leadership and support by first building a relationship of trust, truth, and empowerment. The



focused concepts and steps are designed to transform students from the status of “at-risk of academic failure” to a trajectory of improvement and empowerment. The success coaching model focuses on clear and tangible steps of student engagement, grit, perseverance, and responsible reactive behavior choices. These practices help students to witness the correlation between these steps and improvement, leading them to believe that success is possible for them.

IDN offers an overview training for leaders that provides information for them to decide if they have the staff and funding to implement the program. For schools and other youth-serving organizations/agencies that want to be trained, IDN offers one or two-day training for coaches. The trainings are culturally-responsive and evidence-based -- a hybrid model of standards from the University of Minnesota's Check and Connect Program and the United States Department of Education's Graduation 2020 Program.

IDN's highly-professional success coaching trainers embody the vision of supporting youth in reaching success in education in the direction of their passion so that they may achieve their dreams. During the work, success coaches often observe the specific needs of their mentees and are skilled in recognizing and carrying out referral procedures with the utmost discretion.

We are excited for these trainings to become available in early 2023!

**IDN is Now Offering STARS
Credit and Other CEUs for**

Our Training

IDN is a WV STARS Training Provider



Through WV STARS (State Training and Registry System), early care and education practitioners are required to receive a continuum of specialized training for certification and career mobility purposes. In order to provide CEUs through STARS, organizations must complete an extensive approval process. Inspiring Dreams Network is now an official STARS entity. We are able to provide continuing education units through www.wvstars.org. We have already had 4 trainings approved and awarded credits to several childcare and early education professionals. IDN will continue to seek approval and award STARS credit for our ongoing, qualified training. If your organization needs specific training for your staff, reach out to us.

Nursing and College Graduate Credit Offered

IDN also partnered with Brenda Isaacs and Kanawha County Schools to provide nursing CEUs and Concord College to offer 3 hours of college credit for our August Youth Mental Health First Aid Training in Greenbrier County. We are excited to continue this for future training opportunities.

IDN is Partnering with MUSHTAC to Offer CEUs

Inspiring Dreams Network is pleased to partner with the Marshall University School Health Technical Assistance Center (MUSHTAC) to offer continuing education units (CEUs) for Licensed Professional Counselors, Alcohol and Drug Counselors (ADC), and Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselors (AADC). Thanks to partners like Marshall, we are able to bring you the training you need to keep your certification current. Reach out to us if you want to partner with IDN and MUSHTAC to provide training for your organization.



CURRENT PROJECTS

**Tri-County Training Project:
Supporting At-Risk Youth Through
Coaching and Community
Connections**



Inspiring Dreams Network was awarded a Year II grant by The Greater Kanawha

Valley Foundation to expand our training and capacity-building project to Kanawha and Clay Counties while continuing to work with Putnam County.

IDN is providing several training opportunities to adults who work with youth in several youth-serving partner organizations, including *4-H and Girl Scout Clubs, Camp Allegheny, Greater Kanawha Valley YMCA, DHHR Child Care and Afterschool Programs, Education Elevators, Mission WV, Clay CARES Team, Clay County Project AWARE, WV Statewide Afterschool Network*, and more. The goal of the project is to build the capacity of volunteers, leaders, and staff to better support the needs of the youth they serve, particularly in the areas of improving mental health and overall well-being.

IDN has provided various training opportunities such as Understanding, Overcoming, and Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES 101, 102, and 103), Mental Health 101, Youth Mental Health First Aid, and Connections Matter. Other planned trainings include Navigating the State's Premier Web Portal (www.cfww.com), Dispelling the Myths of Autism, Suicide Prevention, Success Coaching and Mentoring, and more. Reach out to drbarbbrady@inspiringdreamsnetwork.org to request a training.

ACEs and COVID-19 Issue Brief Series

Inspiring Dreams Network (IDN) partnered with the ACEs Coalition of WV to develop and release a 5-part **COVID-19 and Kids** Issue Brief series to support four stakeholder groups with their ongoing work with youth, including *educators, caregivers, youth-serving professionals, and legislatures/community leaders*.



The series combines the expertise of ACEs Coalition members in their respective fields, representing WV KIDS COUNT, IDN, Marshall University, WV Dept. of Education, Supreme Court of Appeals of WV, TEAM for WV's Children, Southern Highlands Community Mental Health Center, and more.

Check out the issue briefs on our [website](#)!

Check out our Youth Development Resource Portal!

IDN has been awarded a Healthy Communities Grant through the **Pallottine Foundation of Huntington**. Through this grant, IDN has developed a Youth Development Resource Portal to provide free resources to support West Virginia youth and their network in areas they commonly struggle with, such as academic, career, mental health, and social supports. The resource portal targets three

broad stakeholder groups: youth, families, and youth-serving adults.



IDN in Review: A Quick Glance at Our Recent Accomplishments



VISTA UPDATES

Meet IDN's first Summer Associate VISTA and newest Board Member, Candace Smith

Candace Smith is from Lincoln County, WV, and she recently graduated from WVU this past Spring with majors in Sociology and Philosophy



and minors in Psychology and Pre-Law.

Candace served as IDN's first Summer Associate VISTA with AmeriCorps. During her service, she contributed to the expansion of our Youth Development Resource Portal, created an interview guide and training needs survey to conduct community needs assessments, collected data from local youth-serving adults to learn how the pandemic affected students' mental health, worked to sustain established partnerships with stakeholders and seek out new ones, maintained and updated the

organization's databases, and attended training for grant-writing, facilitating focus groups, and fundraising.

After completing her service with AmeriCorps, Candace joined IDN's Board as the Co-Chair of the Marketing and Outreach Committee, adding a young, fresh perspective as a recent college graduate.



John Barton: IDN VISTA Experience

“Why did I join VISTA? To find the helpers.” Last winter, John Barton stepped down from the Board of Inspiring Dreams Network and committed to a year of service as a VISTA. “IDN’s mission is focused on strengthening the community support network for youth in West Virginia. Joining VISTA allowed me to help an organization I’m passionate about

supporting and connect with other people across the state who are doing good work.”

In the past year, Barton has collaborated with several local groups working on youth mental health in West Virginia. “I recently presented ‘Stages of Change’ for Regrounding Our Response (WVROR) and am currently developing a toolkit for the WV ACES Coalition’s new training curriculum.” He also wrote about Neurodivergence & Accessibility for the WV Education Alliance’s new Social Emotional Learning toolkit (SEL 2.0). With over twenty years of experience teaching in West Virginia, training and curriculum development are two skills Barton finds useful when working with other groups.

Barton says his greatest challenge this year was going virtual. “I love the potential of online education -- It overcomes so many barriers to accessibility, but engagement & learning in a virtual environment is a completely different beast; you can’t just present information the same way you would face-to-face and expect similar results.”

“My greatest accomplishment of the year...would be IDN’s Training Portal.” Barton helped curate a collection of over 500 resources for local community groups, parents, and youth on a variety of topics including mental health, suicide prevention, trauma, and LGBTQ+ support. “The goal is to create a library of all the

essential trainings & knowledge West Virginia communities need to support youth.”

His next plans are to develop trainings for autism, neurodivergence, accessibility, & a best practices guide for virtual training.

CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE.

Your donations are appreciated.

Partnering with us will increase the capacity for success of WV youth. Dreams can be inspired, and a better life can become a reality. Imagine West Virginia's future when we have stronger, more connected communities that inspire youth to embrace their potential and strive for their dreams.

Our capacity to improve the lives of youth by supporting the adults who serve them is limited only by funding.

We invite you to DONATE. No donation is too small, and your donation is tax-deductible.



[DONATE](#)

PARTNER OPPORTUNITIES

Education Elevators is Hiring!

Looking for part time work that's personally gratifying on a flexible schedule while earning extra money? Education Elevators is looking for part time program coordinators to manage some of our new programs next fall. Ideal candidates are current or retired counselors, elementary and special education/resource teachers, family support specialists, or others that are detail oriented and passionate about children!

About Us

Education Elevators connects a West Virginia-based business or organization with a local elementary school to create a mutually beneficial partnership. Volunteers ("Elevators") from the partner business mentor students in need of one-on-one attention who attend the partner school. By impacting individual students, we respond to fundamental needs in our communities.

Our Mission is to elevate the abilities and aspirations of students to make them more confident in themselves and more receptive to learning.

If you are interested in learning more about the position please contact allison@educationelevators.org.

www.educationelevators.org



Inspiring Dreams Network
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