

United Way's Participate to Graduate says you gotta be in it to win it.

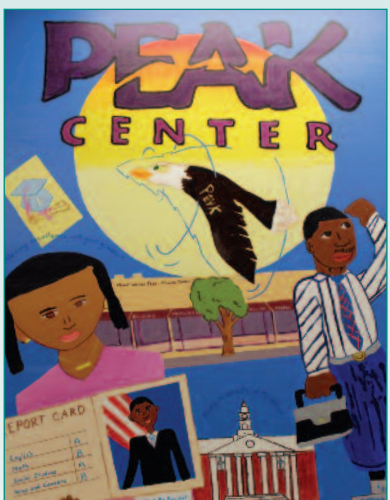
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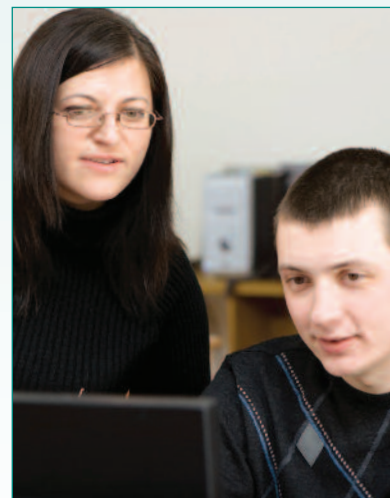
As part of a larger goal to help young people make safe and healthy decisions in their lives, **Participate to Graduate** encourages youth to stay in school through graduation. This initiative tackles the problem of critically at-risk youth, so often immune to traditional efforts to keep them engaged in school. **Participate to Graduate** partners make sure this vulnerable group can look forward to a better future by guiding them through school with intensive advocacy efforts, family outreach, and academic and social service support. >>



The stakes are huge for these young people, as well as for the lives they touch and the communities they live in. By staying in school until graduation, teens are more likely to make safer, healthier decisions, and can look forward to considerably brighter futures. The community benefits from reduced crime, homelessness, substance abuse and incarceration rates.

The extra mile In Mount Vernon, surrounding at-risk youth with extra help and giving them a safe haven to spend afternoons and evenings can be the reinforcements that keep him or her on track in school. Participate to Graduate offers young people afterschool services such as employment, delinquency prevention, leadership programming, academic support and health and enrichment programs. The program follows up by keeping a close eye on the teens’ academic progress and school attendance.

By reaching out to this very vulnerable group of teens, United Way and its partners are making a significant impact in turning young lives around for the better.



Standing up for kids In Yonkers, Participate to Graduate works with critically at-risk 10-17 year olds and their families. These teens are at either high risk of being assigned a negative designation (PINS – Person In Need of Supervision), or are living with a parent or guardian charged with educational neglect due to the youth’s truancy. Participate to Graduate actively advocates in the school on behalf of the student, while working with families to resolve conflicts.

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Participate to Graduate Partners
 Family Services of Westchester
 Westhab, Inc.