



LYDIA
Strengthening Children & Families

LYDIA URBAN ACADEMY-ROCKFORD & WORK STUDY PROGRAM

Working with students to build a strong foundation
for their future.

LYDIA Urban Academy (LUA)

- Mission: LUA is dedicated to the belief that anyone can learn if given personalized guidance and the proper academic environment. It is our mission to supplement academic learning with training for a successful transition into adulthood by providing students with the opportunity to learn how to:
 - Think critically
 - Problem solve
 - Build self-discipline
 - Accept personal responsibility
 - Demonstrate respect for authority, peers, and themselves

Here's How... Academics

- ▣ In addition to a core curriculum expected at any high school, LUA students are required to complete an additional curriculum designed to develop skills necessary for independent living. These skills include:
 - Applying to and financing post-secondary education
 - Obtaining and maintaining employment
 - Personal finance
 - Maintaining a healthy lifestyle emotionally, socially, physically, mentally, and spiritually
 - Understanding and taking advantage of educational opportunities
 - Learning the importance of serving in the community and having empathy for others

Here's How...Character Development

- High School is a time for students not only to pursue academic goals, but also to develop their personal integrity. Our weekly schedule includes devotional times, teacher-led discussions, and, when needed, one-on-one counseling.



Why a Work-Study Program?

The Benefits for the Students

- The work-study program gives our students the opportunity to finance part of their education while gaining critical job skills.
- The students gain an invaluable learning and work experience by working 8 hours per week (two 4 hour days or one 8 hour day).
- Working with adults in an adult environment helps students understand the importance of acting responsibly and professionally. Students are given feedback in order to help improve their work ethic and skills.

Why a Work-Study Program?

The Benefits for You

The work-study program allows you to help disadvantaged high school students pay for their education through meaningful employment, while at the same time retaining reliable entry-level help for your company. It's a unique opportunity to invest in a young person who is striving to succeed in life.

How Does it Work?

- An LUA staff member will talk to you about your company's needs, then identify a student whose skills and interests provide a good fit.
- A company may request one student or up to as many as four students a week.
- The student(s) will work for eight hours a week during the school year, for either four or eight hours at a time.
- Instead of paying the student a salary, your company will contract with LUA for the employee's services. The contract fee is tax-deductible as a business expense and covers much of the cost of the student-employee's tuition.

From the Students

“After I got kicked out of high school, I figured out pretty fast that I was going nowhere. My degree from the Urban Academy opens up a whole lot of doors for me, though. **I’m really glad they didn’t let me give up on myself.**”

-Moises, Class of 2005



A Company's Opinion



“We hired a student to assist me with basic secretarial tasks, and the arrangement worked out well for both us and for her. She proved to be cooperative, polite, and able to interact well with the staff. We kept her very busy.”

-Valori Uhle, Executive Assistant, Rothschild investments, Chicago

How Can YOU Help?

- Support a student through a paid work study placement (\$3,000 per year)
- Provide a work study placement while another agency supports the placement financially
- Support a student financially while another organization provides the work placement



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