



## 2020 Project Progress Report

1800 Days Dream Development Corporation was established in 2015 with a primary goal of addressing the Achievement Gap in Dane County, Wisconsin. The founder of this Madison-based Non-Profit organization is Bishop Harold Rayford. Who went door to door in Dane County, working tirelessly to raise awareness of the simple ways minority and poor communities of Madison can engage with the area school districts to ensure all children are ready to succeed day one of their formal education. 1800 Days represents the number of days from birth to Kindergarten.

In 2018, 1800 Days expanded its scope beyond the first 1800 days of life, to any 1800 days, and to include family support in all future endeavors.

In 2019, 1800 Days partnered with Dane County Department of Human Services to address another major problem in our beautiful community, Truancy. Truancy is perhaps the silent killer of dreams of children in Dane County. Together with DHS and all service providers in the area, 1800 Days has developed a system that is making a difference. We are providing family support for the families with truant children. We are also providing moral support as well.

We see this effort as a sort of pilot program, that will lead to real and measurable progress in the reduction of truancy in Dane County.

Over the past 90 days, we have worked with families over 50 children and families to get children back on track. We have also developed an overall plan to getting families to a place of self-sufficiency. We have worked with families to develop and establish dream boards which was a family centered activity that allowed families to highlight where they see themselves and their children. Through the vision boards, we have been able to highlight the strengths that individual families have and also work with them towards achieving their goals.

As a result, we partnered with families and connected them with DVR, W2, and also worked to get childcare into place by assisting them find suitable childcare that was affordable for them. Likewise, as an agency we were able to assist with getting registration fees. Similarly, our Family Development Specialist has worked with participants on developing resumes, cover letters, and we have also discussed mentoring opportunities.



The next level for us is also super focused. In 2020, we hope to expand our support to include the following:

1. Transportation support - The program would provide transportation services to those students who are unable to utilize transportation via the district, and whose parents/guardians have transportation barriers. This would be made possible by increasing the gas vouchers and also establishing contracts with local taxi companies.
2. Individualized Tutors - We would also hire part-time tutors to provide individualized tutoring sessions to ensure that each child is performing academically in key subject matters. This will enable students to feel good about their ability to catch up.
3. Incentivized attendance rewards – Getting students back in class will be easier when counselors are able to give the students small food cards from their favorite snack shops. Imagine a student getting a \$10.00 gift card for making it to class all week. That card could be a small incentive, that incentive will be coupled with the improved support of a tutor and family members. A winning formula.

1800 Days is looking forward to serving more families. We believe supporting families is the key to turning the tide in Dane County.