

CULTIVATING UNIQUE RESTAURANT TRAINING



Curt's Café
2017



Our five year record: Curt's Café has helped transform the lives of over 200 individuals.

Though the journey has not always been easy for our students, our professionals and volunteers have consistently offered a helping hand to the under-served young adults who are committed to positively changing their futures. A carefully structured program of work and life skills is augmented by love and true caring—and the students have eagerly responded! **Our students aren't "projects," but people and they know that we believe in each and every one of them!**



Our Story

Four or five at a time, for three months, 15 to 24 year old students work through a carefully monitored program of counseling, mentoring, life and career coaching, and job placement. Our two Evanston cafes offer real-time practice in everything from professional food preparation to customer service and personal acceptance among peers. Full-time social workers offer help with life skills such as anger management and personal budgeting. In addition, the Curt's community teaches those who, in the past, have experienced abuse, violence, homelessness and despair that it is possible to trust, grow, and change for the better. **Hope is possible!**

Our Student Stories

"Davis," brought by a probation officer who was trying to keep him out of jail, entered the program angry and defiant. He didn't want to be in the program, much less make changes in his behavior. After a challenging first month, Davis gradually learned to trust that not everyone was out to hurt him. Fast forward: he was employed for eight months, but made a mistake and was fired. After a few more bumps in the road he returned to Curt's and began anew. He is now Assistant Manager at a warehouse, is in stable housing, and is making good choices in his life. **We never let go.**

"Janelle" was quiet and docile, following the training program as it was shown to her, never making waves or associating with others. As time went on, her story unfolded: Having experienced homelessness, hunger, sexual abuse, and severe depression, she had learned to survive with her eyes to the ground and head down. After only two short months she was attending all the social and educational outings and sharing smiles and laughter with her peers. School was her goal. **She will start this fall at Oakton Community College.**

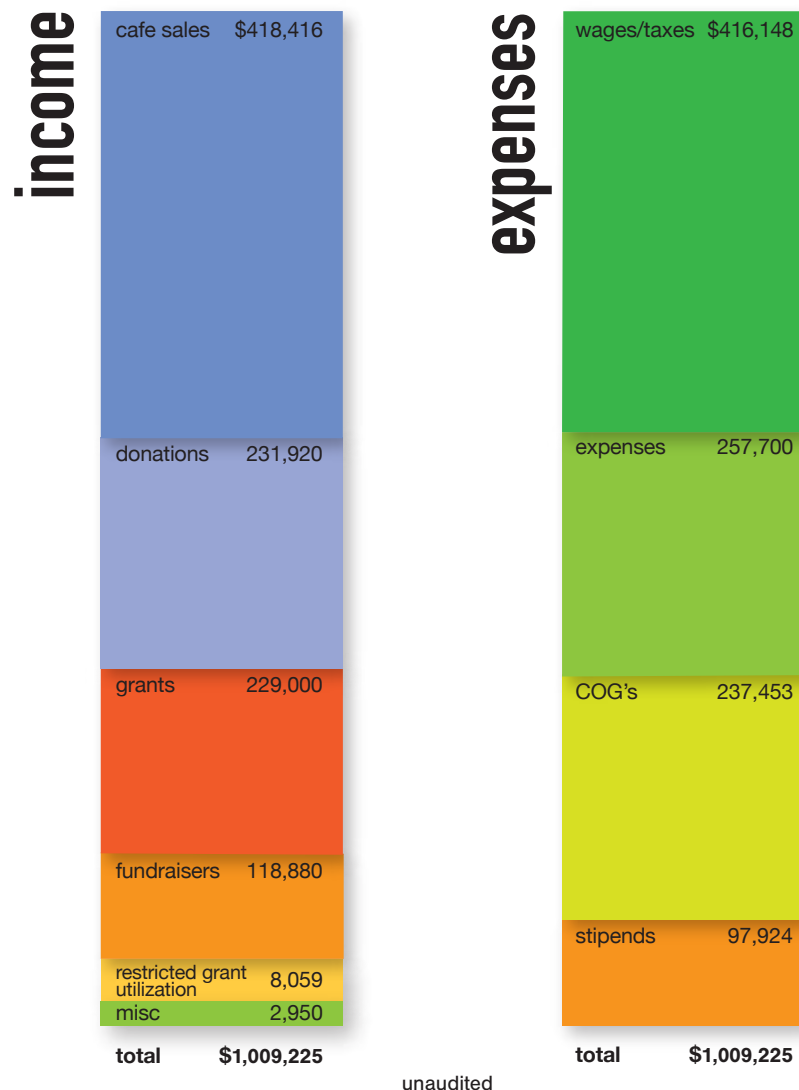
"Graduation is basically a cake and a box of Kleenex because we're all so proud of our graduates!"

Community Outreach, Community Partnerships

We can't do this alone; we are proud to work together with local organizations as we continue supporting students who request our help. In order to do this, we need your financial support!

Curt's leadership has spoken to over 40 local organizations this year to advocate for the needs of our young adults who are living in at-risk situations, and we are grateful for the continued support from both individuals and community groups. But our work continually expands; funds are truly needed. Consider helping those who need your help so much! Curt's is a 501C3 nonprofit; contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowable.

These are OUR kids, in OUR home towns!



What's New in 2017

1 We hired a trauma-informed social worker to help our graduates navigate new territory as they continue to learn in their jobs and grow in the community.

2 Our Strategic Plan has two goals: To identify an organizational structure to support our mission effectively and to provide a financial model for opening additional cafes serving more young adults.

Curt's 2017 recitivism rate: 0

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THANK YOU for the many "Gifts In Kind" that our students rely on every day to live their lives in dignity. And thank you to the students and teachers from Evanston Township High School, Northwestern University, Roosevelt University and the Kellogg School of Business.



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Curt's Café continues to be a valued support program for our youth and our community. We are growing as an organization and the young students are the beneficiaries. Our future remains bright and we are tremendously excited about our work.

Board President, Rick Marsh

CURT'S CAFE NORTH

2922 Central, Evanston
847.868.8385

See website for hours
www.curtscafe.org
info@curtscafe.org

CURT'S CAFE SOUTH

1813 Dempster, Evanston
847.563.8883

Catering orders + inquiries:
catering@curtscafe.org
Curt's Café is a 501C3 organization