

overview

DESCRIPTION: Amachi Texas, an initiative of Big Brothers Big Sisters, uses a proven and vetted model of one-to-one mentoring to break the cycle of intergenerational incarceration in Texas. Amachi Texas intervenes in the lives of children of Texas prisoners to ensure they become productive, safe and healthy members of society. In the program's short four-year life, it has been endorsed by the Governor of Texas, the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and the Texas Youth Commission. Amachi Texas has been named the benchmark agency of a national \$18 million replication of the program. In addition, it has been recognized by the White House and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (US Department of Justice) as an exemplary prevention program.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY: Amachi Texas is seeking \$4.1 million over two years to double the size of its program, which will enable Amachi Texas to recruit 2,600 new mentors and support 2,600 new Big/Little matches for children of prisoners.

NEED FOR CHANGE

An American crisis is on the horizon. If left unchecked, the rapidly growing number of prisoners coupled with the high probability that children of prisoners will follow in their parents' footsteps will result in a devastating drain on society.

- From 1980 to the present, the prison population increased 280%.
- One in 100 adults (1.6 million) in the United States is incarcerated, which is equivalent to the combined populations of Seattle, Boston, Atlanta and Washington, DC.
- Children of prisoners are five times more likely to commit a crime than children without an incarcerated parent.
- More than 50% of incarcerated Texas youth have a parent who is, or has been incarcerated.
- There are approximately 170,000 adults in Texas state prisons, each of whom have an average of 2.5 children.
- Of those 400,000 children of prisoners, without intervention, 7 out of 10 will follow their parents into prison.

OPPORTUNITY FOR SOCIAL IMPACT

While local programs for children of prisoners exist in Texas, no other comprehensive, proven, statewide solution exists to serve these children. Amachi Texas is uniquely positioned to transform the future of children of prisoners who will otherwise likely end up as prisoners themselves.

- Big Brothers Big Sisters sets the gold standard for results-based mentoring. Children in BBBS are:
 - 46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs
 - 52% less likely to skip school
- Amachi Texas changes the path of children of prisoners:
 - More than 5,000 children have been served in the program's four-year history
 - Fewer than 1% of Amachi Texas children enter the criminal justice system
- Due to its access to an extensive database of children of prisoners, only Amachi Texas has the information necessary to take the solution to target more children and rapidly increase its scale.

SOCIAL INNOVATION IN ACTION – THE AMACHI TEXAS MODEL

Amachi Texas breaks the cycle of incarceration through a unique model:

ONE-TO-ONE MENTORING: Amachi Texas uses the proven, results-based Big Brothers Big Sisters model for one-to-one mentoring. Mentors are caring adults who commit to at least four hours a month for at least one year, and often for several years. All mentor trainings, match activities and college/work force readiness programs are customized to children who are at risk for repeating the cycle of incarceration.

SUPPORTED MATCHES: Relationships between a mentor and a child are established and supported throughout the life of the match. A trained Match Support Specialist provides resources and guidance to combat any challenges which may arise.

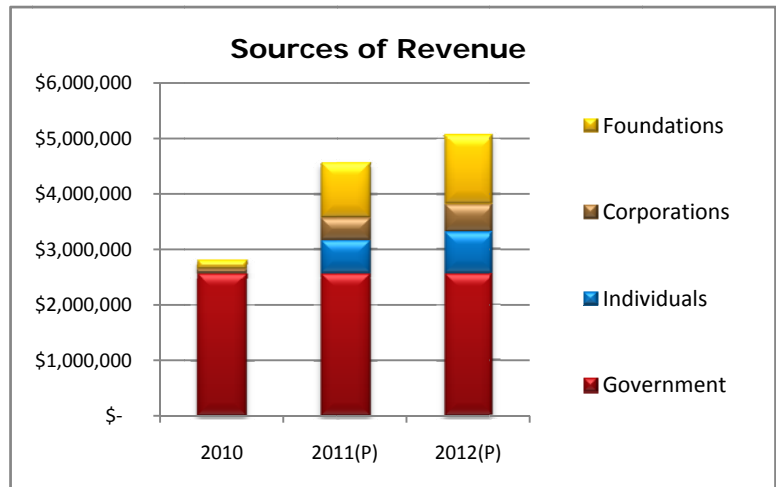
CHANGED LIVES: Children develop caring relationships with their mentors, who act as positive role models and help change the children's lives. Children in the Amachi Texas program learn to make better decisions, communicate more effectively, stay in school and ultimately thrive.



FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Amachi Texas has developed a strong base of support from state government, which has allowed the program to establish itself over the last four years. The next phase of the program's growth and expanded impact will rely increasingly on funding from philanthropic sources.

Over the next two years, Amachi Texas is seeking investments totaling \$4.1 million from individuals, foundations and corporations, which will allow the program to double the number of children served.



GOALS AND PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

PROGRAM AND ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH: Below is a summary of the key measures Amachi Texas will track to demonstrate progress, capture lessons learned and make course corrections as needed. *Note: Fiscal year is Sept 1–Aug 31.*

	FY 2009	FY 2010 (P)	FY 2011 (P)
Program Performance			
Number of active matches at end of prior year (5,000 matches year-to-date)	975	1,463	2,682
Number of new matches	1,300	2,600	2,600
Total Amachi Texas matches served	2,275	4,063	5,282
Organizational Health/Capacity-Building			
% of operating revenue from private sources	10%	44%	50%
Total revenue	\$2.85 million	\$4.6 million	\$5.1 million

SOCIAL IMPACT: Currently, the Amachi Texas program uses the metrics below to measure its impact on children. Amachi Texas is working to develop enhanced evaluation tools to provide a deeper understanding of its program's impact.

Community Problem	Amachi Texas Solution
31% of Texas prisoners are functionally illiterate.	Since 2006, 96% of Amachi Texas children have been promoted to the next grade level.
70% of children of prisoners will follow their parents to prison.	Since 2006, fewer than 1% of Amachi Texas children have been referred to the criminal justice system.
Only 17% of Texas prisoners are high school graduates.	88% fewer Amachi Texas youth were placed in an alternative education program from year prior to their match. 84% of Amachi Texas youth go on to graduate high school.
Children of prisoners are five times more likely to commit a crime than children without an incarcerated parent.	Independent studies show that an at-risk youth after one year of having a Big Brothers Big Sisters mentor is : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs • 33% less likely to become violent

invest

Ways to Invest: Financial

- \$25,000: Implement male mentor recruitment marketing campaign for one year
- \$10,000: Train 250 new mentors for one year
- \$ 5,000: Organize match activities for 250 new matches for one year
- \$ 1,000: Recruit, screen, match and support one new match for one year