

Teachers with a Cause

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Study skills session 2007.

TARGET Area Development Corporation brought potential teacher candidates to the first Grow Your Own summit in 2004. These candidates formed the nucleus of the current cohort of candidates, known as the *Teachers with a Cause* cohort. The Auburn-Gresham consortium received its initial grant in the first year of state funding, 2006, to serve the community around 79th Street and Ashland Avenue in Chicago, the headquarters of TARGET. The program is preparing candidates to be certified in the area of Early Childhood Education.

The partner organizations are:

**TARGET Area Development Corporation
Chicago State University
Chicago Public Schools**

The university is the fiscal agent on the grant.

The Cohort: The *Teachers with a Cause* cohort has 36 active participants, including 4 men. They are all African-American; their median age is 36. Twenty-one candidates had some college experience before entering the program. Thirty-one are employed, 25 full-time; 13 work in the schools. Sixteen have dependent children in their households.

The TARGET Area *Teachers with a Cause* GYO project is distinguished by its strong sense of unity and family. This cohort is composed of people from various family structures that are committed to strengthening, uplifting, and encouraging each other throughout the duration of the Grow Your Own teachers program. Over the past three years, the students in the *Teachers with a Cause* project have become an extremely close-knit, or as they would call it, a “tight” group of people. Some students within this cohort work together, have fun or do extracurricular activities together, and they all study together. Overall, the *Teachers with a Cause* project can be recognized for its ability to produce a very cohesive and loving group of students who are always willing to support, believe in, and inspire one another. There is no doubt that these students will be some of the best teachers in the community!



Mini-celebration for tutor with a few students before math class.

