

CSBG SPOTLIGHT:

Quad Area Community Action Agency's Alternative K-12 School

by Jovita Tolbert

Located in Hammond, LA, one of Quad Area Community Action Agency's most successful youth programs is the alternative school entitled St. Amant Academy. St. Amant Academy serves low-income K-12 students who require a private school education but cannot afford it. These low-income children usually have special needs or are children who have been expelled from the public school system. Students at St. Amant Academy gain at least one educational level and show improvement in conduct and attitudes.

Since its inception, St. Amant Academy has grown to the point that it now serves over 400 students annually with a success rate of over 85%. Last year, the Academy had an astounding 305 graduates. Of this number, 98 graduates went on to post-secondary institutions and while another 68 graduates joined the military.

Notably, St. Amant Academy has great academics, a youth recreation program, teen pregnancy prevention program, Children Trust Fund, and other funding streams that mesh into a great and outstanding program that salvages the lives of many severed from the public school system here. CSBG provides core funds in the amount of \$75,000 which is utilized to supply staff, materials, equipment, facilities and other supplies for the Academy. Partners include Southeastern Louisiana University, Drug-Free Coalition, Money Answers All Things (MAAT), and Financial Literacy.

For more information on the St. Amant Academy, please contact Ms. Winnie Sibley, Executive Director of the Quad Area Community Action Agency, Inc., at (225) 567-2350 or quadeara@i-55.com.