



MACEDONIA ACTIVITY **COMMUNITY** CENTER

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L.I.F.E. SUPPORT
(Lifting Individuals/Families Excellence) and Support
*Excellence in what we do results in a love of lifelong learning and
a supportive involvement in the community.*

What is L.I.F.E SUPPORT?

L.I.F.E. Support refers to a variety of effective prevention and intervention services that aim to keep youth alive until they can become law-abiding citizens. Our L.I.F.E. Support techniques lifts and supports troubled youths through life-saving skills that will strengthen and enhance their quality of life. We continue to give L.I.F.E. Support until there is a meaningful recovery and juvenile delinquency is reduced.

Narrative: Macedonia Church of Lenoir County is a community-based Church that has served the community for over 145 years with devoted members seeking to spread love and empowerment within Lenoir County and surrounding communities. The Macedonia Church of Lenoir County Board of Directors established the Macedonia Activity Community Center (MACC) in 2019 with the mission to enhance the overall well-being of children, as well as adults, who have a wide range of disabilities, disorders, medical conditions, physical injuries, as well as mental health concerns.

Inspired by the belief that “the children are the future”, the MACC strives to uplift the community by promoting positive development in its youth, which led to the creation of the L.I.F.E. Support program.

The L.I.F.E. Support program is designed to help rehabilitate youths engaged in delinquent behavior and redirect them away from formal processing in the juvenile justice system, while still holding them accountable, but transforming their lives for the better. The L.I.F.E. Support program will provide prevention and intervention services to help “delinquent juveniles” and their families avoid court-imposed consequences, such as detainment in a youth detention center or jail, and provide ongoing support to ensure the juvenile continues on a positive path.

“Inspire People... Improve Community... Incorporate Change.”

In North Carolina, a “delinquent juvenile” is defined as “a child who is at least 6 but less than 18 years of age who commits an offense that would be a crime if committed by an adult, excluding 16- and 17-year-olds who commit motor vehicle offenses.” According to the Division of Juvenile Justice, “by providing lower risk juveniles who have been charged with non-serious offenses an appropriate consequence, these juveniles are afforded hope and the expectation and assistance in still being able to have a bright future despite their past mistake.

Of the juveniles who completed diversion plans, 79.1 percent of successful juveniles did not have further juvenile complaints made with Division offices in two years.” The L.I.F.E. Support program will serve youth from ages 10-18 who have been referred by the local juvenile justice system due to adjudication of delinquency. The L.I.F.E. Support program’s purpose is to transform the lives of troubled, misguided youth and place them on the road to success. It is a shared belief that even the most troubled teen can be redirected with the appropriate guidance, support, and opportunities. We believe that a youth selling drugs today has the potential to be a successful scientist, mathematician, or even entrepreneur in the future.

Research suggests that risk factors associated with juvenile delinquency or misconduct include but are not limited to: unfavorable home conditions, lack of parental supervision, abuse/trauma, low performance in school, substance abuse, pattern behaviors, and gang affiliation. Therefore, the L.I.F.E. Support program has established the following goals to combat most risk factors that may impact troubled youth:

L.I.F.E. Support Program Goals:

- Enhance social skills through social emotional learning activities,
- Provide youth with mentors assigned to support goal setting and monitor (track) achievement,
- Improve family interactions by providing parental support and education of appropriate parenting skills.
- Improve education and youth employment opportunities (youth employment opportunities will be key to helping a juvenile understand the value of hard work and independence and choose this way of living over the alternative of theft, burglary, or drug dealing),

- Provide wrap-around services that include full and extensive clinical evaluations and ensure youth are referred to the most appropriate services (mental health, behavioral, pediatrician, etc.) in their community.

Interventions will be aligned to address academic performance, behavioral issues, social-emotional development, and mental health support. The L.I.F.E. Support program director and designated staff will establish an intervention team that will be responsible for coordinating community resources to deliver evidence-based behavioral and academic supports, as well as mental health care for juveniles and their families, as necessary. The L.I.F.E. Support team will consist of (contracted specialists counselors, social workers, psychologists, behavior specialist, and education tutors/mentors), the L.I.F.E. Support program director and designated staff.

When should L.I.F.E. Support be started?

Youth Assessment/Evaluation (Day 1-10)

Youths referred to the L.I.F.E. Support program will be screened for social-emotional and mental health wellness within the first two weeks of enrollment, which will be administered by a certified counselor. The L.I.F.E. Support Team will analyze and utilize this data to determine and provide the appropriate level of support. The L.I.F.E. Support Team, along will develop an action plan for the at-risk youth that addresses academic, behavioral, and/or social issues. Assigned program coordinators and/or the program director will reach out to the juvenile's school principal and teacher(s) to collect key academic, behavioral, and social data such as attendance, grades, disciplinary referrals, and overall performance. Academic, behavioral, and social goals will be aligned to data and feedback gathered from the school and family.

Recognizing that parent involvement is essential, parents/guardians will be included in the development and review of the action plan. Parents/guardians will be required to sign an agreement that they acknowledge the action plan and agree to its terms of completion. The juvenile court counselor (who referred the youth) will be notified of the action plan and the youth's progress towards completion.

Focused solutions can produce big opportunities.

Failure to comply with evaluation and program recommendations will be reported to the juvenile court counselor.

Family Assessment/Evaluation (Day 10-15)

Families of youths referred to the L.I.F.E. Support program will be screened for social-emotional, mental health wellness, and parental support needs within the 2nd-3rd week of enrollment, which will be administered by a certified counselor. A social worker or family case worker (if already assigned) will evaluate and share results of the family's home and employment conditions. The L.I.F.E. Support Team will analyze and utilize this data to determine and provide the appropriate level of support for the parent/guardian.

The L.I.F.E. Support Team, along with the program director or designee, will develop a parental action plan, if deemed necessary. The plan will be reviewed with parents/guardians, who will be required to sign the agreement that they acknowledge the parental action plan and agree to its terms of completion. The juvenile court counselor will be notified of the parental action plan (if applicable) and progress towards completion. Failure to comply with evaluation and program recommendations will be reported to the juvenile court counselor.

*****Diagnosis:** The L.I.F.E. Support program will not use screening tools for clinical diagnostic purposes. Youths and their families will be referred to certified/licensed clinical specialists (mental health agencies, therapists, etc.) for clinical diagnosis. The L.I.F.E. Support program will partner with local mental health agency such as ENC Psychological Services or PRIDE in NC, that can provide therapeutic supports and agency-based psychiatric diagnostic and medical intervention services.

Intervention Action Plan (Up to 6 months)

After evaluations have been conducted for the referred youth (juvenile) and parent/guardians, the L.I.F.E. Support team will create an Intervention Action Plan (IAP). IAPs will be designed to last no longer than six months. L.I.F.E. Support program

*Establishing collaborative relationships of trust
with community partners.*

coordinator(s) will be assigned to each youth's case. The L.I.F.E. Support program director will be responsible for reviewing the progress of the juvenile within 10 calendar days of the start date of the IAP to ensure that the juvenile is compliant with the agreed-upon terms.

The L.I.F.E. Support program coordinator(s) will collaborate with all specialists (counselor, social worker, school principal/teacher, etc.) assigned to the juvenile's IAP and gather information to ensure the juvenile and the parents/guardians are in compliance with the action plan.

The L.I.F.E. Support program coordinator(s) will report findings to the L.I.F.E. Support program director. The L.I.F.E. Support program coordinator(s) must check at least every 30 calendar days to make sure that the juvenile remains in compliance with the action plan.

The L.I.F.E. Support program director will be responsible for ensuring that progress monitoring is occurring consistently, documented appropriately, and reported to juvenile justice or law enforcement agencies accurately and accordingly by L.I.F.E. Support personnel. All IAPs will be tailored to the individual, based on risk, needs, and other factors in the juvenile's life. No two action plans will be the same. All action plans, however, are subject to

Youth Diversion Program

Include the following preventive and intervention services:

- Individual counseling and/or therapy
- Family counseling and/or therapy
- Intensive in-home services
- Community service projects
- Mentoring,
- Family, Interpersonal, and Experiential skill-building,
- Tutoring or academic support, and
- Vocational development

Progress Monitoring

The L.I.F.E. Support team will conduct a progress monitoring review

at least three times within a six-month period (initial, mid, and end review) to update/modify/review action plans. The initial progress monitoring review will occur by the end of month 1, with the mid review occurring in month 3, and final review in month 6. The juvenile and their parents/guardians must be present for progress monitoring reviews. All changes must be shared with and acknowledged by the parents/guardians and the juvenile justice counselor. The program coordinator will be responsible for recording and updating the action plans accordingly. All changes must be approved by the L.I.F.E. Support program director or designee.

At the final progress monitoring review (month 6), the L.I.F.E. Support team will review the progress of the juvenile and his/her parents/guardians and determine whether goals have been successfully met. If the team finds that the goals have been successfully met, then the youth will be recommended to be “exited” from the program. However, if it is determined that the goals outlined in the action plan have not been met, then the team will recommend that the plan be extended for up to an additional 6 months.

When should L.I.F.E. Support be stopped?

L.I.F.E. Support Reporting and Recommendations

The juvenile justice counselor or law enforcement agency responsible for referring the youth to the L.I.F.E. Support program will be notified of updates regarding the youth/families’ progress towards the goals outlined in the action plan throughout the duration of the program.

The frequency of notification will be once per month for 6 months. If the youth (juvenile) or parents/guardians, violate the terms of the action plan agreement, at any point during the six-month monitoring period, the juvenile justice counselor or designated law enforcement agency will be notified immediately. The L.I.F.E. Support team may be able to extend action plans to up to an additional six months based on team recommendations and the juvenile’s progress through the action plan.

The primary focus is to lower youth incarceration; stop violent deaths; reduce the school drop-out rate; and create a safer community through rehabilitation and education rather than punishment and continuous interaction with law enforcement.

The MACC OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Physical Activities

Let's P.L.A.Y

P- Physical

L- Living for

A - Adults and

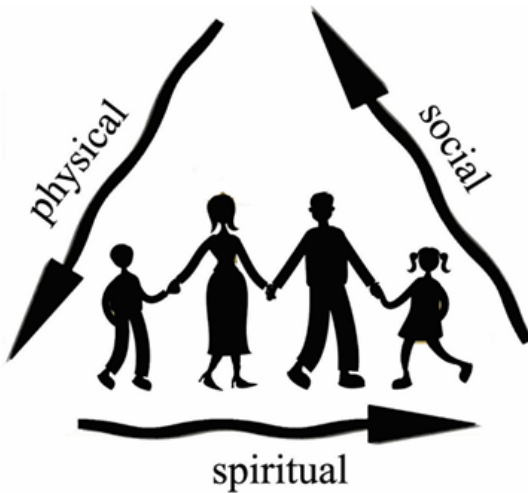
Y- Youth

Programs

- Prevention & Early Intervention
- Positive Youth Development
- Mentoring programs
- Counseling (Hurts, Habits, and Hang-ups)
- Life Skills Programs
- Financial literacy
- Senior Activities
- Elderly Care
- Comprehensive Community Interventions
- Bullying Prevention
- Physical Abuse
- Domestic Violence
- Drug Addictions/Recovery
- Co-Dependency

Children here live below the federal poverty line:

1. Kinston Southeast - 76.6%
2. Albrittons/Blands Crossroads - 63.4%
3. Georgetown - 57.5%
4. Jackson Heights/Parrott Fork - 42.5%
5. Closs/Elm Grove - 40.6%
6. Dawson/Mewborns Crossroads - 34.0%
7. Hines Junction/City Center - 31.0%
8. Kinston West - 30.0%
9. Bucklesberry/Falling Creek - 9.9%
10. Kinston North - 9.1%



Poverty is a state or condition in which one lacks the financial resources and essentials for a certain standard of living.

Poverty can be a “root cause” of crime and/or lead to psychological behavior problems.

*L.I.F.E. Support may help and stopping L.I.F.E. Support
prolongs the process of dying.*

HELP US SAVE 200 FAMILIES.

We are family!



**MACEDONIA ACTIVITY
COMMUNITY CENTER**

**Building strong communities
through listening, planning,
leading, growing...
and listening again.**



**GET
INVOLVED**

“

"Let us touch the dying, the poor, the lonely and the unwanted according to the graces we have received and let us not be ashamed or slow to do the humble work."

-Mother Teresa

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