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IUPUI PROGRAM HELPS YOUTH "GET SET" FOR LIFE

The young man can get a menial job, but cannot keep it because he cannot tell time and gets fired for always being late. A young woman works, but does not pay her bills because she cannot read well enough to know how much she owes. These are two real people among many who either have a low-level job or no job. Nor do they have adequate job or life-coping skills. They are finding help in a program called Get SET.

Get SET (Skills for Employment and Training Program) is a unique, small-scale government-funded program sponsored by IUPUI in which people learn practical skills and behavior that gives them control over their own lives.

Where have these people been all their lives? Mostly kicking around the system, sometimes working, sometimes not. They survive on "street savvy," a behavior peculiar to people who must struggle with poverty, ineffective education and a society that rejects them.

Most Get SETters are school dropouts. Most have gone as far as high school; some have not. Most have problems getting and keeping a job. These people have a low opinion of themselves and other behavior problems. Get SET works to change all this.

Charleen Warren is in the program studying to test for a general education diploma (GED). "High school just didn't work for me," she explains. "I got in trouble with teachers and counselors and just gave up. I've learned more about learning here (in Get SET), more about everything than I learned in nine years in school. This isn't like school; it's better for me."

Get SET's crowded, bustling office/training school is at 820 Fort Wayne Avenue in the heart of Indianapolis, readily accessible to the students who live in the inner city.

Four days a week students of all ages are studying a wide range of subjects. Not all are learning from textbooks. In small informal groups, teachers help students "learn" how to read employment applications. They learn hygiene, promptness, dependability. They learn a host of coping skills necessary to land even a low-level job -- how to budget money and read time cards, a paycheck stub and utility bills. And they learn how to change behavior that prevents them from getting and keeping a job.

Some in the program have lived on less than \$2,000 annually. Most have held some job, but they want a better life. Charleen says, "I had a job through another

agency working in a day care center 'fore I came in this program. But I know I can do better."

Besides studying for her GED, harleen is trying to change her own behavior which she thinks is unsuitable. "I'm learning to look people in the eyes when I talk, instead of keeping my eyes down. I also fidget too much, and maybe I laugh too much at the wrong time."

Joe Hawkins thinks his behavior is okay, but his math is not. Carefully selecting his words, he says, "I know how to act. I'm from Tennessee and already have good 'Southern manners,' but I want to take mechanical drawing at IUPUI, so I need more math."

After they are tested for job and life-coping abilities, students work on realistic goals. Most are black. They seem aware that society and business has rules that make it difficult for uneducated blacks to get jobs. They accept that.

"Nothing out there is going to change," Dennis Granger says without rancor. The rules stay the same--so I'll change myself." Dennis, also working toward a GED, hopes to go on for training to be a cable television installer. He likes Get SET so well he says he can't wait for weekends to end.

All the Get SET students are in either the youth or adult program and while in the program they are also in pseudo jobs. They punch a time clock and get docked for being late or not showing up. They are employed by the city's Youth Employment and Training Program which has been funded with money provided through the omprehensive Employment Training Act.

All Get SET teachers and counselors have degrees in their fields. There are four full-time teachers, three work-study tutors and two social workers on staff. The staff has learned a lot in the past three years. "Our dream," says the director, Rose Konare, "is simply to help our people learn to survive at whatever level they can."

There are many success stories at Get SET. But success is measured carefully. It means students either get work, get a GED or go for more vocational training. Since its inception, records show Get SET has an 85 percent success rate.

Another apparent success story is the staff itself. Get SET was designed and pioneered by Paula Schneiderman, director of the Office of Educational Assistance Programs at IUPUI. "We have learned the hard way that we cannot be do-gooders, forcing people to be what we think is right for them," she says. "We can do a lot for these people, but what we do must be their goal, not ours."

In three years more than 350 people from 16 to 54 years old have gone through the program. Not all who enter make it. "We are not just another government give-away; people have to work, show some progress or they have to leave," says Konare.

Few leave. They are selected to Get SET randomly through the Indianapolis Department of Employment and Training. Students take tests and talk with social workers before they set their own goals, but David Braddock, the program's director of social work, says, "All they know can't be measured. These are bright, wise people. They want to work things out the right way. They believe in the system or they'd be out on the streets."

The staff's dedication is still another measure of Get SET's success. Not one teacher or counselor has quit for another job since the program began. "We have no

employee turnover," Konare says. "That's important. It means we believe in what we're doing and we're reinforced by the achievements of the students. In this type job, a paycheck is not enough. Get SET works or we would not be here."

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QUICKIE CALENDAR

Displays -- Pharmacy displays this week in University Hospital will be Carnrick Laboratories on Monday, Codman Surgical Instruments on Wednesday and Syntex Laboratories on Friday. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Minority Adaptation -- Dr. Gajendra K. Verma, senior lecturer in psychology of education at the University of Bradford at Leeds, England, will present a colloquium Tuesday on "Problems of Vocational Adaptation of Ethnic Minority Groups in Britain." The 1:30 p.m. session, sponsored by the Purdue School of Science's Department of Psychology, will be held in the conference room at the Krannert Science Building at 38th Street. Dr. Verma is also director of a two-year research project concerned with occupational adaptation of ethnic minority adolescents in their early working life. He is the author of more than 40 research articles in education, social psychology of attitudes, multi-cultural education and curriculum evaluation.

Comedy -- This is the last week for "Life with Father," the comedy currently on stage at the Brown County Playhouse in Nashville. Showtime is 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for those 14 and under. Call 812-337-1103 or 812-988-2123.

"High Noon" at 8:30 -- Gary Cooper strides the outdoor screen in "High Noon," Friday's entry in the summer film series on the concert terrace at the Indianapolis Museum of Art. The movie starts at 8:30 p.m., but the gates open at 7 p.m. for picnickers. Tickets are \$1.50 for IMA members, senior citizens and students with I.D. cards, and \$2.50 for non-members.

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DINNER TO COMMEMORATE U.S.-FILIPINO TIES

From 1901 to 1941, thousands of teachers from the United States -- many of them from I.U. -- traveled to the Philippines to live and provide public education to the Filipino citizens for the first time.

On August 2, the Philippine Heritage Endowment Fund, in cooperation with the Barangay Club of Indiana, will hold a dinner commemorating the contributions of these teachers. The dinner and ceremony will be at 7 p.m. in the IUPUI Union Building.

"These teachers left a legacy to the people of the Philippines," says Patricio R. Mamot, chairman of the Philippine Heritage Endowment Fund, "and we want to pay tribute to them." The dinner is just the first step in the plans of Mamot and his group. They hope to establish scholarships for an exchange program between the U.S. and the Philippines to help cement the relationship between the two countries.

"The teachers, called Thomasites because of their arrival on the U.S. Army Transport Thomas, were the beginning of a peaceful relationship between the two countries," says Mamot. "We hope our efforts will help this friendship to continue."

Special guests attending the ceremony and dinner include teachers, their students,

descendants of both teachers and students, and citizens and officials of the Philippines. Tickets are \$10. Those interested should contact Lulu Alba or Carmen Duran, 784-5703, 4914 Candy Spots Drive, Indianapolis 46227.

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NEWS 'N' NOTES FROM HERE 'N' THERE

Winners -- The IUPUI faculty softball team, sponsored by the Faculty Club, trounced the ISO (Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra) Metrics, 16-4, in their recent bout. IUPUI players included Sherry Queener, Lynn Willis, Gene Helveston, Rick Bein, Morris French, Bob Strawbridge, John Hazer, John Kremer, Dick Curtis and Haven Jones. Still flush with victory, the team is seeking other games, as well as a return match with the Metrics. Anyone interested in participating should call Dr. Kremer, Ext. 412 at 38th Street.

Surface Improvements -- Starting Monday (July 21) Barnhill Drive from Michigan Street to North Drive will be resurfaced. Driveways to the Radiation Therapy Building, Emerson Hall, Riley Hospital and Lot #25 also will be resurfaced. The street and driveways will be closed for about two days to complete this work. Restripping of the parking spaces will be completed on a weekend. For information, call Ext. 7974.

Open -- The Family Practice Center in Long Hospital is now open on Saturday mornings (9 a.m. to noon) for patients who work during the week and cannot schedule times to see their family physician. The appointment number is Ext. 2167.

Found -- Gold ring found July 7 in 3 South Med Room. Call Ext. 4721 and give complete description.

Help! -- Temporary ride needed to Emerson Hall from vicinity of 86th Street and Lafayette Road. Hours can be varied from 7-4 or 8-5, five days a week. Call 873-5370 or 283-6354 and ask for Dave.

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DEPT. OF HONORS & ACCOLADES

Dr. George T. Lukemeyer, executive associate dean of the School of Medicine, has been named a member of the board of regents of the prestigious American College of Physicians ACP). Twenty regents serve on the policy-making board of the 47,000-member international medical specialty society. A long-time fellow of the society, Dr. Lukemeyer has been serving as the ACP governor for Indiana. Only one other Indiana physician has ever served as regent.

Dr. Theodore R. Hunley, professor of operative dentistry at the School of Dentistry, was awarded an honorary doctor of science degree by Oakland City College at recent commencement exercises. Dr. Hunley is a 1938 graduate of the college.

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