

# FACT SHEET



## **What We Do:**

Mercy Education Project (MEP) provides educational opportunities, life skills development and cultural enrichment for women and girls who have limited access to resources; our programs enable girls and women to improve the quality of their lives.

## **Founded:**

In 1992 by the Sisters of Mercy of Detroit

## **Population Served:**

MEP services a racially and ethnically diverse population of approximately 150 women and 125 girls (grades 1- 10) from Detroit with histories of not succeeding in school or employment.

## **Purpose and Vision:**

Mercy Education Project's free educational programs improve the lives of low-income girls and women. We achieve measurable outcomes in both improving academic outcomes for girls and women who have experienced educational failure and addressing other life obstacles that they face. As a result, the girls and women we serve become stronger, confident, more hopeful and better equipped for success in school and in life.

## **Location:** Southwest Detroit

## **Services and Successes for Girls:**

- One-to-one afterschool remedial tutoring program (not homework help) for girls in grades 1 – 8, with improvement, on average, of at least one grade level or more for every eight months of tutoring; all 8th graders in our program go on to high school
- Academic assistance and guided support for 9th graders transitioning to high school
- Summer college and career awareness program for children from families with little exposure to higher education

## **Staffing:**

MEP employs 4 full-time and 8 part-time employees, and receives support from more than 100 volunteers who donate 8,000 hours each year tutoring and helping in other meaningful ways.

## **Recognition:**

Named a 2010 Champion In Action by Charter One and Channel 7 in 2010  
Named the 2003 Empowerment Zone Demonstration project

## **Annual Budget:** \$750,000

## **Services and Successes for Women:**

- Individualized curriculums and small group instruction for women with a grade 8 or lower equivalency
- Adult Basic Education and GED classes, with 90% of women who complete our program passing the GED, though many have failed in other programs
- Support for transitioning beyond GED; around 80% of GED grads advance to college, employment or job training
- Transportation and childcare assistance (which, if not provided, can create barriers to success)
- Career education, workforce development, college and/or employment support

## **Funding:** MEP is 90 percent privately funded.