



ENRICHING THE LIVES OF SOMALI-AMERICAN YOUTH

Our Mission at Ka Joog is to improve the lives of Somali Youth. We motivate youth to attain higher education, to realize their potential and to achieve their dreams. We further intercultural appreciation, promote health education and build community ties by facilitating exciting and educational arts and cultural event through the arts.

ABOUT US

Ka Joog began with an idea, a vision and a dream to build a strong support network for Somali Youth in 2007. The underlying theme of this support network is the pursuit of higher education and instilling that goal in the youth at a very young age.

Ka Joog is a Somali term for "stay away". In this context it is meant to encourage Somali youth to stay away from drugs, violence, radicalization, or other negative activities. Instead, we are focusing the youth toward higher education, civic involvement, and volunteer commitment to the community. Ka Joog helps Somali youth understand their options and make the right choices. We provide positive outlets through the arts and other media.

We help Somali youth understand their options and make the right choices. We provide positive outlets through offering youth programming, specifically in the arts and education.

Takeoff 4-H STEAM CLUB

The Takeoff 4-H STEAM Club is a high quality, and culturally appropriate educational after school and summer programming that supports youth education and leadership development through a model of social inclusion. This unique model also involves the parents, helping to bridge the gap between the older and younger generations while expanding networks and increasing knowledge of opportunities. Youth develop a plan to further their education. The Takeoff program has two tracks, which includes the following:

- The first track, The Takeoff, provides tutoring and peer mentoring in a safe, supportive environment that focus on skill building, cooperative learning, and leadership development around STEAM education.
- The second track includes a 4-H Club in partnership with the University of Minnesota. The 4-H Club is STEM driven. The 4-H Club utilizes the "Design It" curriculum, an engineering curriculum designed for after school programs.

FANKA / ARTS

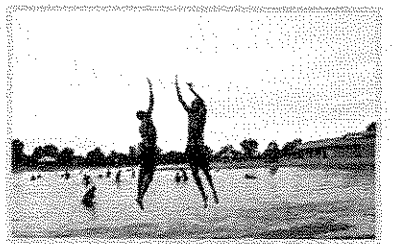
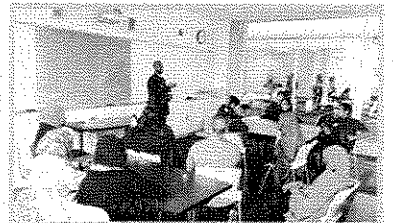
Art-Fanka is a traditional Somali arts club that also provides education and peer mentoring. Using the arts as a tool of engagement to empower, encourage youth, and provide opportunities for intercultural dialogue is a key component of this program. The program has three components; an arts club, Three 8-week immersive workshops, public arts presentation and intercultural community engagement events.

SOMALI INDEPENDENCE DAY FESTIVAL:

Each year, Ka Joog hosts Somali Independence Day Festival that celebrates Somali culture, and invites the greater Minnesota community to learn more the Somali community. This all-day event is an important for Somalis to come together and focus on what we have in common. It celebrates the culture and promotes healing and restoration.

CAMPING

Ka Joog started the first Boy Scouts of America chapter for Somali American boys. Ka Joog girls participate in a camp at Yellowstone National Park. These summer programs provide a unique, outdoor experience for youth, with a strong focus on leadership development, team-building, outdoor learning, service-learning, and healthy living, many Somali youth often experience summer camp for the first time.



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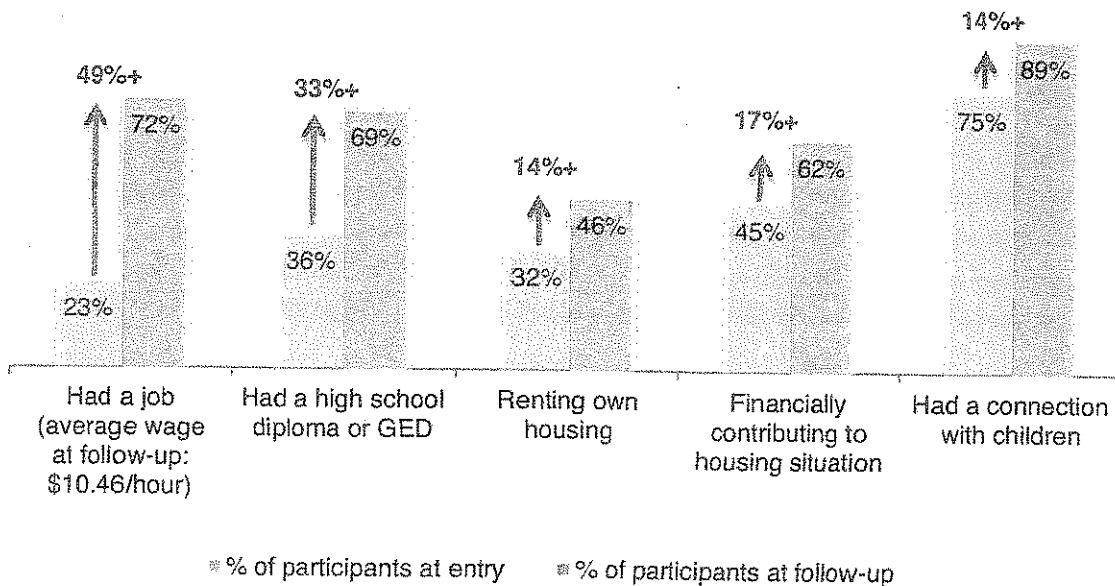
Key findings

Wilder Research conducted an evaluation of programming delivered by Ujamaa Place, an organization that serves primarily African American men (ages 17-29) who have multiple barriers to becoming stable, productive members of the community. Wilder Research obtained entry and follow-up data for 39 participants that received services in 2013. As part of the evaluation, Wilder Research conducted a return on investment (ROI) analysis of Ujamaa Place programming for all 85 participants that received services in 2013 (extrapolated from the 39 participants included in the evaluation). A conservative ROI analysis indicates a return on investment of two dollars for every dollar invested in Ujamaa Place, as well as a net gain for society of approximately \$669,000 during 2013.

<p>Overall RETURN ON INVESTMENT: \$2 for every \$1</p>	<p>NET GAIN for society (during 2013): \$669,000</p>
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In addition, Figure 1 shows some of the positive ways in which participants' lives have changed since entering Ujamaa Place. At follow-up, more participants had a job, more participants had a high school diploma or GED, more participants were renting their own housing, more participants were contributing financially to their housing situation, and more participants had a connection with their children (as compared with participants' status at program entry).

1. Change in percentage for participant outcomes from entry to follow-up



Overall outcomes and impact of Ujamaa Place programming

An analysis of outcomes for 39 Ujamaa Place participants shows improvements in each of the targeted outcome areas (stable housing situation, increase educational attainment, secure and retain a job, connect to family and children, eliminate contact with the penal system). The following findings in particular showcase some of the positive effects that occurred in participants' lives since entering Ujamaa Place:

- **Increased housing stability was experienced by participants.** Despite multiple barriers to stable housing, almost half of participants (46%) were renting their own housing at follow-up (compared to 32% at entry), and another 16 percent were living with relatives and contributing to housing payment. In total, 62 percent of participants were financially contributing in some way to their housing situation at follow-up (compared to 45% at entry).
- **The number of participants who had a high school diploma or GED almost doubled.** The percent of participants who had a high school diploma or GED increased from 36% at entry to 69% at follow-up. In addition, one participant earned his associate's degree while in the program and another two were pursuing college degrees at follow-up.
- **Employment rates tripled among participants.** Less than one-quarter of participants (23%) had a job at entry compared to almost three-quarters (72%) at follow-up. Average wage for participants who had a job at follow-up was \$10.46/hour.
- **More participants reported a connection to their children.** While three-quarters of participants (75%) had a connection to their children at entry, that percent rose to almost 9 in 10 (89%) at follow-up.

Wilder Research recommends further study to fully understand changes in participant relationships with children and other family members since program entry, such as amount of financial support that participants give to children or other family members, level of emotional connection participants have to children or other family members, and whether participants act as a role model for their children.

- **Participants with a felony conviction at entry were not convicted of another felony.** No participants were convicted of felony charges while in Ujamaa Place programming, a favorable finding considering that almost 7 in 10 participants (69%) had previously been convicted of a felony and the Minnesota Department of Corrections estimates the 12-month felony reconviction rate at 14 percent.