



A Stepping Stone To Upward Mobility



We pledge to work in collaboration with a wide spectrum of community support focused organizations to be a champion for them in their efforts to provide the essential infrastructure and support tools required to empower struggling “At-Risk” Youth and Homeless Veteran Women while uplifting them and their communities.

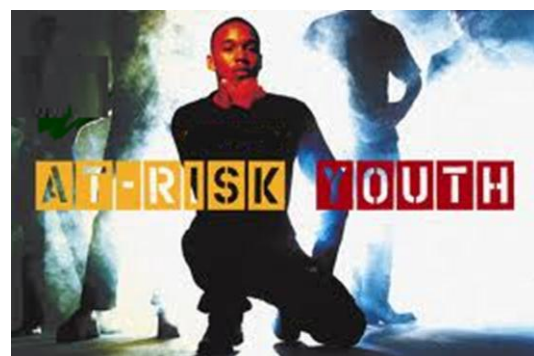
WOMEN IN THE MILITARY



Supporting the
Revitalization
of America's
Homeless
Women
Veterans

Championing
the upward
mobility of
"At-Risk"
Youth and
their
Communities

Building Alliances to
Support their Earned
Pathway To Success



Capitalizing on the National Awareness for Scientific, Technological, Engineering, and Mathematical (STEM)



“Our high schools were designed fifty years ago to meet the needs of another age. Until we design them to meet the needs of the 21st century, we will keep limiting – even ruining – the lives of millions of Americans every year.”

--- Bill Gates

Throughout the United States, and especially in the predominantly minority and low income neighborhoods, “At-Risk” Youth, especially dependents of (at-risk) military veterans are faced with the negative effects and major downward pressures of the current economic headwinds. Educational budget decay, lack of a synchronized STEM curriculum from Pre-K forward, and reductions in the quality and quantity of STEM-Aware teachers, are barriers to success that lead to endemic education, economic, environmental, health, and social problems for all members of these communities.

While there has been much attention and debate over how to address school budgets, violence, drugs, and vouchers, there has been a tremendous lack of understanding and appreciation by many policymakers and community support entities about how to leverage **Scientific, Technological, Engineering, and Mathematical (STEM)** as a skill-set to develop an upward mobility path for our youth, who will inherit the earth.

The James Worthy Foundation’s **Highland Stepping Stone** program is designed to target “At-Risk” Youth who face economic, educational, or personal barriers such as deficiency in basic literacy skills, limited English, poor school attendance, adolescence pregnancy or early parenthood, and negative involvement with the justice system.

This “Pillar of Success” is designed to give low-income, urban children of color, and struggling military veterans, the opportunity to build the skill-sets required to explore a STEM focused career path. It will contribute to the educational betterment of the participant and their communities, and help them obtain the leadership skills needed to take command of their own employment pursuit.

Highland Community

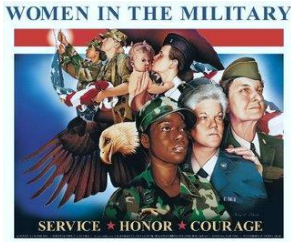
The Highland Community is a historically African American neighborhood situated immediately to the north of downtown Gastonia North Carolina. Gastonia, NC. The average rate of unemployment is 13%, average poverty rate is 13.2%, and there are insufficient safe community green spaces, parks, and outdoor recreational facilities.



Microsoft is committed to helping nonprofits unleash technology to advance social and economic development.

Our strategy is built around ensuring nonprofits, such as the **James Worthy Foundation**, have access to stable and more secure technology can optimize their delivery with IT solutions, and to help nonprofits transform their operations through the innovative and appropriate use of technology.

Supporting Homeless Women Veterans with their Earned Pathway to Success



*As more women serve in combat zones, the share of female veterans who end up homeless has nearly doubled over the last decade, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs. For younger veterans, it is even more pronounced: One out of every 10 homeless vets under the age of 45 is now a woman, the statistics show. **And unlike their male counterparts, many have the added burden of being single parents.***

No one pays a higher price for our freedom than members of our Nation's military and their families. As sons and daughters, husbands and wives, and mothers and fathers are deployed, military families endure with exceptional resilience and courage. Though only a small percentage of our Nation's population, our military troops bear the great responsibility of protecting all who call themselves Americans and the people that America has committed to protecting.

They, along with their families, serve daily with courage and dignity and during their tenure in the military. Our women veterans and their families pay an even higher price for our freedom. Therefore, this "Pillar of Success" is designed to show these loyal and brave women that the strength of our Nation is measured, not only, by their strength and commitment while in uniform, but by our ability to support them and their families as they transition from soldier-citizen to community-champions.

Throughout the halls and chambers of government, community support organizations, and faith-based groups, there are a lot of passionate conversations and colloquies about the ongoing need for women veteran's quality of life. While there has been much attention and debate over how to address education, drugs, medical and mental issues, there has been a tremendous lack of understanding and appreciation by many policymakers about the importance of addressing the Homeless Women Veterans need for an "**Earned Pathway to Success**".

Our Goal:

The James Worthy Foundation is very passionate about improving the quality of life and health of Homeless Women Veterans and their "At-Risk" Families. We are committed to working in collaboration with a wide spectrum of community based organizations to provide the essential infrastructure and support tools required to empower these struggling women veterans and their "At-Risk" Families.



Microsoft launched the Elevate America veterans' initiative to help our country's veterans and their spouses acquire the skills and resources that they need to be successful in today's workplace.

Through this initiative, Microsoft is convening a coalition of public, private, and nonprofit organizations, such as the James Worthy Foundation that are interested in contributing expertise, cash, and in-kind resources to help U.S. veterans and their spouses build the skills and access the resources that they need to be successful in today's workforce.

James Worthy Empowerment Center

Ultimately, leaders are judged by whether they deliver on their vision.

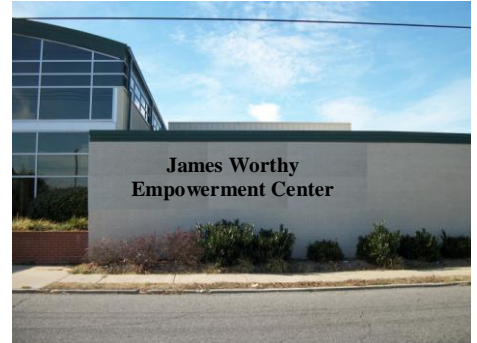
For James Worthy, his vision of a “at risk” youth, military veterans (especially, homeless women veterans), and holistic community empowerment center, has come to realization and will be dedicated on February 14, 2011.

The James Worthy Empowerment Center has an explicit purpose: to help “At-Risk” Youth, Military Veterans, and their Communities build an “**Earned Pathway to Success**”. Each of its support strategies, activities and programs are intended to help produce this outcome. All of its service delivery strategies are designed to create value-added alliances with community support and outreach entities that have the synergies and capabilities that can be interwoven into the program, to further the upward mobility of our target groups.

The empowerment center, located in the Highland Community of Gastonia, North Carolina will interweave the community support capabilities of the James Worthy Foundation and Gaston Community Action (GCA) into a value-added and strategic alliance. Under this alliance, the GCA will continue its work with Head Start, Highland Charter Public School, Community Service Block Grant and the weatherization program.

- In 2010, Gaston Community Action helped 460 children through Head Start, 86 families through the Community Service Block Grant, 112 children with the Highland Charter School and 400 households with weatherization.

The GCA will serve as the service delivery team for the James Worthy Foundation’s “**Highland Stepping Stone**” program. This program targets “At-Risk” Youth who face economic, educational, or personal barriers such as deficiency in basic literacy skills, limited English, poor school attendance, pregnancy or parenthood, and negative involvement in the justice system. Also, the James Worthy Empowerment Center will provide support to the community through programs around academic enhancement, military veterans refresh, health care and nutrition, creative arts, prevention, character-building, and family-oriented activities, including parent orientation.



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*“Let us endeavor so to live that when we come
to die even the undertaker will be sorry”*

Mark Twain