

City of Lawrence  
Social Service Agency  
Bi-annual Report  
2012

Reports on activity should be submitted electronically to Casey Toomay, Budget Manger at [ctoomay@lawrenceks.org](mailto:ctoomay@lawrenceks.org). Reports on activities from January to June are due on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Reports on activities from July through December are due on February 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Agency Name: Van Go, Inc.**

**Reporting period:**

**January - June**  
(deadline July 15)

**July - December**  
(deadline February 15)

1. Give a brief narrative of the activities that were funded with City funds over the reporting period checked above.

Van Go hired 45 youth during this reporting period. They received employment training, tutoring, healthy snacks, nutrition and fitness education, and over 15 life skills lessons. They completed the benches for 22 bench clients (those were "in process" at last report), worked on products for What Floats Your Boat summer fundraiser, and completed the 11 annual Adornment session.

2. Provide specific detail (and supportive documents, if needed) to demonstrate progress made toward your goals/objectives.

Van Go met its goals and objectives during this grant period. 98% of youth improved their work evaluation scores and average daily attendance was 96%. Van Go recognized the youth with perfect attendance at the Adornment presentation in November, which was attended by nearly 500 people. It's also important to note that 96% of youth complete their JAMS sessions, a number that is remarkably high for programs serving at-risk populations. Anecdotally, there is typically 1 youth who fails to complete the program and it's usually because the family moves. Because Van Go interviews every youth who applies, we are able to reach out to the first "alternate" and that youth almost always is able to start the very next day. So all spots are filled every session!

3. How have you impacted the citizens of Lawrence?

Research shows that youth who are employed or involved in activities leading to employment are less likely than their unemployed peers to engage in negative behavior such as dropping out of school, becoming teen parents, or using illegal drugs. Luckily, supportive employment services (like those provided by Van Go) produce significant returns to the youth and community. The Youth Development and Research Fund found that, "every dollar invested in youth results in more than two dollars returned to the economy in the form of wages and reduced welfare benefits." (April Kaplan, Youth at Risk of Welfare Dependency, [financeproject.org](http://financeproject.org)).

Citizens of Lawrence were impacted by Van Go's programming because our agency provides valuable job and life skills to the community's at-risk teens, many of whom have few to no employment opportunities. Van Go's federal grant brings \$97,000 to Lawrence in the form of youth wages so not only is there an immediate impact on the local economy, it helps build a foundation for future employment success.

4. What barriers, if any, have you encountered?

No program barriers were encountered.

5. Review the line-item budget you provided in your application. How much of your allocation has been spent?

100% of this allocation was spent.