



August 30, 2007

Dear Beloved Community,

As many of you know, 97 Upward Bound programs across the nation were cut after last spring grant applications were processed, with the southern region falling second to only to the Mid-Atlantic region with 26.8% of our programs cut. The state of South Carolina had 16 programs, before funding announcements in May 2007. Only 11 of those 16 we funded. Now, more than ever, Upward Bound programs are facing budget cuts, increased mandates and stricter priorities. In May 2007 we were selected to be refunded for another four years. However, in order to remain competitive we had to make tremendously hard decisions and cuts to our program.

Under the federal government's strong suggestion, if we wanted to remain funded, we needed to cut our target schools in half. The average Upward Bound program serves 2-3 target schools. Presently, our participants represent thirteen schools in the Tri-County Area. So we did what we had to do, with much reluctance and heartache. The seven schools that were kept as target schools include:

- Baptist Hill High School,
- Burke High School,
- Goose Creek High School,
- North Charleston High School,
- R.B. Stall High School,
- St. John's High School
- West Ashley High School.

Out of the thirteen schools we serve today, these schools demonstrated the greatest recorded need via 2006 US census data, initiatives and priorities set forth in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and the resulting report cards, which included data on factors such as graduation rates, testing results, high school dropout rates, acts of violence, and counselor to student ratios to name a few.

Now, be assured! We will serve all students who are currently in the program through their graduation. This means we will continue to conduct school visits and provide services for these students; however, we will not be receiving any more applications from their schools. The following are the schools where we will no longer recruit:

- Garrett Academy
- Lincoln High School
- Wando High School
- Summerville High School
- Stratford High School
- Ft. Dorchester High School

The College of Charleston Upward Bound staff would like you to know that none of the decisions made were easy, but in order to continue to be present and running so that we could continue to serve as many deserving students as possible, we had to do what was in the best interest of the program and its continuation. We thank you for your understanding and support. As always, we are honored to help children build foundations that lead to success. We plan to continue that long tradition for years to come.

We welcome any information on community/educational programs provided for students in the Tri-County area. Though we can only accept applications from our target schools, we would love to provide information on alternative programming for those students who do not qualify for our program. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carrie Bullock Ben-Yisrael
Academic Coordinator,
College of Charleston Upward Bound