

Utilizing Equestrian Sport to Break the Cycle of Poverty of At-Risk Youth: A Case Study

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Abstract

While Leg Up for Cleveland's Kids (LUCK) was founded to mediate crises facing urban teens (under-addressed community trauma, a dearth of after-school activities for mid-achieving youngsters, and strained relationships with law enforcement officials), one overarching objective is to utilize equestrianism to develop or strengthen social networks unavailable to individuals defined as "poor" (Elliott, et al., 1996; Jarvie, 2003; Green, 2005; Seippel, 2006; 2008; Coalter, 2007). This case study describes and evaluates LUCK's plans to use the concept of social capital acquisition as encouragement to participants in finding pathways toward vocational, technical, or higher education, thereby offering participants positive outlets for breaking out of societally predisposed income categories and stations in life.