



JEREMIAH PROGRAM



# 2014 Alumnae Perspectives Survey – Executive Summary

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## Executive Summary

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How are Jeremiah Program graduates doing at securing or maintaining employment and safe affordable housing? How are the children doing after graduation? Have they bought homes? How do alumnae assess the value of their Jeremiah Program experience?

The findings of the 2014 Alumnae Perspectives Survey report answer these questions and others that address the well-being of Jeremiah Program graduates and their families.

Jeremiah Program has historically participated in the surveying of its alumnae. This survey checks in with graduates the first five years after graduation and collects information about employment, household demographics, educational attainment, current connection to Jeremiah Program, well-being of the children, and also asks alumnae to reflect on their program experience.

The 2014 Alumnae Perspectives Survey, conducted in January 2015 begins a semi-longitudinal study over five year increments to track how Jeremiah Program graduates are doing. Graduates were asked to participate in an online survey to help Jeremiah Program evaluate the effectiveness of their services. This report includes responses from twenty-eight (28) graduates from Jeremiah Program 2009 – 2013. A total of 28 responses were received from a total of 69 surveys emailed to graduates via Survey Monkey, for a 40% overall response rate. Year 1 and 2 graduates (2012 & 2013) had the highest response rate by year (46%), followed by, Year 5 (2009) graduates 27% response rate and Year 3 and 4 (2010 & 2011) graduates 26% response rate.

Survey Topics included but were not limited to the following:

- Current employment and income data for alumnae across all graduation years 2009-2014;
- Current housing stability data.
- Alumnae views about how well their families are doing;
- Alumnae relations with Jeremiah Program and other program graduates.

### Key Findings 2013 Graduates

- **Employment Rate & Benefits:** 87.5% of respondents were gainfully employed. 21% of those employed reported having a second job. Of the employed respondents that answered the benefits question, 81.82% report receiving company benefits & 18.18% reported not receiving company benefits. For those who answered the type of benefits question – benefits received include health insurance (100%), life insurance (80%), 401K or other type of retirement savings plan (80%), paid time off (100%), and education assistance (40%).
- **Federal Poverty Level\*:** 50% of respondents are at 200% of the Federal Poverty Level; 6% of respondents are at 175% of the Federal Poverty Level; 6% of respondents are at 133% of the Federal Poverty Level; 19% of respondents are at 120% of the Federal Poverty Level; and 19% of respondents are at 100% of the Federal Poverty Level.

- Percent of Income Spent on Housing: 19% of respondents report spending 0-24% of income on housing; 19% of respondents report spending 25%-35% of income on housing; 31% of respondents report spending 36-50% of income on housing; 25% of respondents report spending more than 50% of income on housing; and 6% of respondents skipped the question.
- Housing Status: 75% of respondents report their housing status as renters; 12.5% of respondents report being home owners; and 12.5% of respondents answered other (one is staying temporarily with a relative, the other reported being homeless).
- Housing Safety Rate: 78% of respondents report their housing as very safe & 22% of respondents report their housing as sometimes safe.
- Housing Affordability Rate: 56% of respondents report their housing as very affordable; 22% respondents report their housing as sometimes affordable; 22% report their housing as being not at all affordable; and 22% of respondents skipped the question.
- Marital Status: 75% of respondents report remaining single/never married; 12.5% of respondents report being married; 6.25% of respondents report being separated; and 6.25% of respondents report being divorced.
- Effect of Child Development Center: 81.25% of respondents describe the effect of Jeremiah Program (CDC) on their child(ren)'s development as having a great effect; 6.25% describe the effect of Jeremiah Program (CDC) on their child(ren)'s development as having some effect; 6.25% describe the effect of Jeremiah Program (CDC) on their child(ren)'s development as having no effect at all; and 6.25% of respondents skipped the question.

\*2014 Federal Poverty Guidelines

### **All Alumnae – Graduates 2009-2013**

- Overall Employment Rate & Benefits: Among alumnae from all graduating classes, 2009–2013, 79% were employed at the time of the survey, 10% were unemployed at the time of the survey; and 11% skipped the question. 43% of respondents report receiving company benefits; 11% of respondents report not receiving company benefits; and 46% of respondents skipped the question.
- Overall Federal Poverty Level\*: Among alumnae from all graduating classes, 2009–2013, 11% of respondents are above 250% of the Federal Poverty Level; 29% of respondents are at 200% of the Federal Poverty Level; 11% of respondents are at 175% of the Federal Poverty Level; 4% of respondents are at 133% of the Federal Poverty Level; 21% of respondents are at 120% of the Federal Poverty Level; 14% of respondents are at 100% of the Federal Poverty Level and 10% of respondents skipped the household income question therefore the level of poverty could not be calculated for these families.
- Overall Percent of Income Spent on Housing: 14% of respondents report spending 0-24% of income on housing; 21% of respondents report spending 25%-35% of income on housing; 25% of respondents report spending 36-50% of income on housing; 25% of respondents report spending more than 50% of income on housing; and 15% of respondents skipped the question.
- Overall Housing Status: Among alumnae from all graduating classes, 2009–2013, 71% of respondents report their housing status as renters; 18% of respondents report their housing status as home owners; and 11% of respondents skipped the question.

- Overall Housing Safety Rate: Among alumnae from all graduating classes, 2009–2013, 75% of respondents report their housing as very safe; 14% of respondents report their housing as sometimes safe; and 11% of respondents skipped the question.
- Overall Housing Affordability Rate: Among alumnae from all graduating classes, 2009–2013, 43% of respondents report their housing as very affordable; 36% of respondents report their housing as sometimes affordable; 7% report their housing as not at all affordable; and 14% of respondents skipped the questions.
- Overall Marital Status: 61% of respondents report remaining single/never married; 14% of respondents report being married; 4% of respondents report being separated; 11% of respondents report being divorced and 10% of respondents skipped the question.

**Note:** The complete survey can be accessed on the shared drive.

## Methodology

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Three surveys were developed to target 1 & 2 year graduates, 3 & 4 year graduates, and 5 year graduates. The survey forms were developed by reviewing the current logic model and with input from program and administrative staff. A preliminary draft of the survey was then sent to several of the organization program staff and current graduates, who were asked to review the questions and make suggestions for possible changes, additions, or deletions.

The final survey was administered via Survey Monkey and respondents were asked to respond January 21-February 8, 2015.

Survey topics included:

- Updating current contact information and preference of contact method.
- Safe and Affordable Housing
- Employment & Economic Independence
- Education
- Overall Program Satisfaction (Years 1-4)
- Strength of Family Unit/Community Connectedness (Years 3-5)
- Alumnae Services

The survey administrator reviewed collected and analyzed data in Survey Monkey. After reviewing the responses, data was imported into Microsoft® Excel and further analysis was completed using Excel and IBM-SPSS.

**Note:** The results reported can only be considered the opinions of the survey participants. They cannot be generalized to represent the entire graduate population as a whole. Please note that there were some questions that were skipped by some of the respondents.

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