



JEREMIAH
PROGRAM

Alumnae Perspectives

Alumnae Survey Results

Executive Summary

2015

INTRODUCTION

Alumnae are a powerful resource for Jeremiah Program. They provide important feedback, recommend the program to others, speak publicly about their experience and progress, and contribute significantly to building our legacy.

The 2015 Alumnae Survey Report provides a current snapshot of 35 alumnae from the classes of 2010 – 2014. With this data, our graduates tell a story of progress and offer feedback about the value of their participation in Jeremiah Program.

Background and Purpose

Alumnae who graduated between 2010–2014 were surveyed February 4–March 4, 2016. The primary goal of this annual survey is to determine the extent to which Jeremiah Program met the needs of its graduates in important life areas and to obtain information from graduates about their lives, careers, and academic pursuits one to five years after graduation.

The survey collects information about employment, household demographics, educational attainment, current connection to Jeremiah Program and well-being of the children. The survey also asks alumnae to reflect on their program experience. These recent graduates were asked to participate in a family night event, online survey, mail in survey, and telephone surveys to help Jeremiah Program evaluate the effectiveness of its services.

Method

Jeremiah employed a mixed methods research strategy combining qualitative and quantitative methods to improve the response rate. All 2010-2014 alumnae received a “save the date” card and a subsequent invitation to attend a family night event on February 4, 2016, on the St. Paul campus to complete the survey and engage with other alumnae. Two (2) \$50 gift cards were raffled as incentives. The survey was emailed to those who did not attend the event, paper copies were mailed to those who did not respond to the electronic survey, and follow-up calls were made to the graduates who did not return the survey by the deadline.

Participants

- 35 graduates from a possible 60 graduates from Jeremiah Program 2010–2014 responded, reflecting a 58% overall response rate. This is an 18% increase over the 2014 response rate.
- Year 1 and 2 (2013 & 2014) graduates had the highest response rate by year (72%), followed by year 3 and 4 (2011 & 2012) graduates (55% response rate) and year 5 (2010) graduates (22% response rate).

KEY FINDINGS FOR GRADUATES 2010–2014

Employment Rate & Benefits

80% of alumnae from graduating classes 2010–2014 were employed at the time of the survey; 20% were unemployed; 57% reported receiving company benefits; 14% of respondents reported not receiving company benefits; 29% of respondents skipped the question.

Federal Poverty Level*

Among alumnae from all graduating classes 2010–2014, 9% are at 300% of the Federal Poverty Level; 52% are at 200%; 9% are at 133%; 20% are at 100%.

Percent of Income Spent on Housing

17% of respondents report spending 0-24% of income on housing; 22% spend 25%-35%; 40% of respondents spend 36-50%; 17% of respondents report spend more than 50%; and 4% of respondents skipped the question.

Housing Status

86% of respondents report their housing status as renters; 6% are home owners; 6% reported their housing status as other (sharing a home with a relative); 2% skipped the question.

Housing Safety Rate

89% of respondents report their housing as very safe; 9% say their housing is sometimes safe; 2% of respondents skipped the question.

Housing Affordability Rate

51% of respondents report their housing as very affordable; 37% say it is sometimes affordable; 9% report say not at all affordable; 3% of respondents skipped the questions.

Marital Status

60% of respondents report remaining single/never married; 17% are married; 14% of respondents are divorced; 9% skipped the question.

**Federal Poverty Guidelines (2015 guideline used) The federal poverty level (FPL) is the set minimum amount of gross income that a family needs for food, clothing, transportation, shelter and other necessities, as set by the Department of Health and Human Services. FPL varies according to family size. The number is adjusted for inflation and reported annually in the form of poverty guidelines. Public assistance programs, such as Medicaid in the U.S., define eligibility income limits as some percentage of FPL. Many federal and state government benefits are tied to the federal poverty level (FPL), or percentages of the FPL. While many of Jeremiah Program Alumnae earn incomes that place them over the 100% of federal poverty level, they still qualify for some federal and state programs that support family stability.*

“I really appreciate the support this program provided my son and I! Thank you!”

K. Cone – Yr. 3 Graduate

Alumnae respondents are employed in a wide range of positions and industries, including AchieveMpls, Allina Health, City of St. Paul, Department of Employment and Economic Development, Perbix, Riverton Community Housing, Securian Financial, Sport Clips, and Wilder Child Development Center.

Value of Jeremiah Program Services

The survey asked moms to rate for themselves and their children their overall experience with Jeremiah Program. For all years, more than 90% reported “very beneficial for me,” with 91% from 2010-12 and 73% from 2013-14 “very beneficial for my children.”

Children

Alumnae report 76% of their children are performing at or above grade level; there were only three children in the reporting group identified as performing below grade level; those families report that appropriate services are being utilized to assist their children.

Conclusions

Families are progressing towards the following outcomes listed in the Jeremiah logic model:

- Family stability
- Family participating in the community
- Economic success
- Employment obtained in field of study, a livable wage
- Life skills/more self-reliant

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.

