Project Success students are given lunch. The lunches are provided by the public school system. However, the parent is responsible for paying for the student's lunch, or the parent may choose to have their child bring their lunch. Also, the Ash Tree Organization does NOT provide the student's transportation to and from the program. It's the parent's responsibility to get their child to the program on time and to ensure that their child is picked up, has adequate bus fare, or has permission to walk home, if necessary. Program days run parallel to that of the public school system, so Project Success observes the same holidays, half-days, and evacuation schedule as the public schools. Classes are from 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. The parent is responsible for ensuring that their child attends all required days, as determined by their child's term of suspension.

If a child successfully completes their suspended days at Project Success, your child has an opportunity for their suspended days to not count against them when they return to public school. If, however, your student is released early from the program, due to inappropriate behavior and conduct, or unwillingness to complete assignments, they will not be eligible to have their suspended days not count against them.

**Contributors to**

**Ash Tree Organization, Inc.**:

* Bible Baptist Church
* City of Savannah CDBG
* City of Savannah Weed & Seed
* Georgia Bar Association
* Georgia Department of Human Resources
* Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program
* Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Coastal Empire
* Savannah Foundation
* United Way of the Coastal Empire

**Collaborators with**

**Ash Tree Organization, Inc.**:

* Armstrong Atlantic State University
* Chatham County Juvenile Court
* Chatham County Board of Education
* Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice
* Frank Callen Boys & Girls Club
* Savannah Run-Away Home
* Savannah State University
* Savannah Technical College
* Youth Futures Authority

**NEW**

**Ash Tree Learning Center Academy**

The ATLCA is private academy school, that offers an accredited college preparatory curriculum for 1st - 8th grade students. Within our small school environment, we can also offer specialized curriculums that cater to students with I.E.P.'s (Individual Education Plans). If you are interested in your child attending our school, please make an appointment with Mrs. Margaret Brown, the Education Director here at Ash Tree!
Mission Statement:

The mission of the Ash Tree Organization, Inc. is to provide community-based alternative programs for inner-city school youth, suspended and expelled school youth, homeless youth, and juvenile youths and their families.

A Growing Problem:

In 2002, the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice identified 874,143 youth in the state who are defined as "at-risk". In that same year, there were 23,506 youth detained in the juvenile justice system with 3,402 committed to youth detention centers. The Savannah/Chatham County Region (Region 5) has the second highest number (798) of youth committed to youth detention centers in the state, second, only, to the Atlanta area districts.

Our Commitment:

The Ash Tree Organization, Inc, was founded in 1991, in response to the need for a community-based, structure rehabilitative program for juvenile offenders.

Ash Tree offers an alternative to the criminal justice system through diverting the youth from generally unsatisfactory effects of institutionalism. The program provides supervision and activities designed to keep youth off the streets, out of trouble with authorities, and teach them how to be successful in school. In short, Ash Tree exists to help juvenile offenders develop into productive, responsible citizens by providing a community-based program of activities and enrichments designed to deter repeat offending, enhance self-esteem, increase academic and marketable skills, and improve physical and mental well-being.

Ash Tree Community Initiatives & Programs:

"Flag-ship" Program: 48-Week Program

The 48-Week Program, a.k.a. the "After-school Program", is a program where the Chatham County Juvenile Court system refers youth, ages 8 - 16 on probation, to Ash Tree to complete a 48-week-long after school Counseling and Life Skills tutorial program.

A child assigned to this program must attend a weekly (Mon., Tues., or Thurs.) 2-hour session of tutorial instruction and small group discussion with Ash Tree tutors, and our certified counselor. Ash Tree provides the students of this program with transportation to and from our Habersham facilities and any other field trip activities, as well as provides the students with a meal, prior to being taken home. As the students are generally picked-up after school, the parents are responsible for ensuring that their child waiting for the program vans between the hours of 2:30 and 4 p.m. on the student's assigned program day, as the weekly sessions will run from 4 - 6 p.m.

If the child is not at their designated pick-up spot, it becomes the parent's responsibility to get their child to and from the 48-Week Program. Failure to attend the program could result in probationary problems for child that is juvenile court assigned to the 48-Week Program.

Children/Parents-Net Program:

The Children/Parents-Net Program (case management) is a program where youth are referred from the Chatham County Juvenile Court system, Chatham County School Principals and Counselors, and in some extreme instances, concerned Parents. Generally, youth ages 8 - 16, on probation, regularly meet with the Ash Tree Case Managers to complete a set of goals, set forth by the Case Managers and agreed upon by the student and the parent(s).

Children/Parents-Net Program (cont.):

Case Management consists of in-home counseling, and assistance with issues that may have been the basis for the behavior that resulted in the child’s involvement with the juvenile court. Our case managers visit the families at least once each month, with more frequency given as needed. In addition to home visits, the case managers visit the schools of the children to provide support in the school setting.

Project Success:

The Project Success Program was created with the combined efforts of the Chatham County Board of Education (CCBOE) and the Ash Tree Organization, as a response to the increasing number of middle school students being suspended from the public school system and to serve as an interim place for students awaiting their school hearing, while on suspension.

A child assigned to the program must be suspended for no more than 10 days of Out of School Suspension from their middle school, and attend Project Success (at the May Street YMCA) for the duration of their suspension. Students are required to bring daily assignments from school, as well as all necessary books and materials.

Parents are required to sign-up their children for the program, complete all application materials, and daily sign their children in and out. Parents must also attend a one-time morning training session, prior to their children being allowed to stay for the program. The parent training session overviews student rules and parent/student responsibilities. The parent training is held daily to accommodate all incoming students.