**BLUES CITY FOUNDATION**

**Mission**

Section 1: The Mission of Blues City Foundation is centered in its **PACS** philosophy, which is to promote **Pride** and Self-Worth, **Academic** **Excellence**, **Community Health** for all citizens and focus on **S.T.E.A.M.** to foster a better quality of live.

* **Pride**: Understanding the issues that the under-represented have faced and continue to face in this country, Blues City Foundation is committed to reducing crime by providing the necessary guidance and assistance to help each child reach his or her full potential as a person, and to live successful, fulfilled lives. Thus, Blues City Foundation will: (1) Encourage each child to follow his or her dreams (2) Provide access to cultural enrichment opportunities that will promote pride in one’s ethnicity, culture and heritage while also providing a healthy and appreciative respect for the ethnicity, culture and heritage of others (3) Help to foster confidence and pride that will carry over into the rest of their lives and lead them to seek positive, productive success in the world both now and in the future (4) Provide a safe, positive and productive environment that will both influence and enrich the lives of our participants (5) Develop programming intended to keep each participant out of the judicial system (6) Promote productive lifestyles
* **Academics**: There have always been educational issues impacting the children in our community. Blues City Foundation strives to reduce the current drop out and failure rates by continually stressing the importance of education to successful lives by: (1) Providing the necessary guidance and assistance to help each child reach his or her full potential as a student. (2) Assisting in the improvement of the academic performance of each child by assessing the individual academic needs of each and providing necessary academic support. (3) Engaging parents and school officials in improving the behavior of each child in school, the community and the home. (4) Serving as a conduit or gateway to a college or technical education.
* **Community Health**: The area we serve is located in the most obese region of the 3rd most obese state in the 10th most obese country in the world. One of the best ways we can positively impact our children’s lives is to help them obtain and maintain a healthy weight through a nutritious diet, regular exercise and monitoring by a primary health care provider. Blues City Foundation plans to achieve this goal by: (1) Holding regular classes on how to build a raised-bed garden and maintain a garden in general as well as healthy food preparation (2) Holding virtual and face-to-face exercise classes to promote healthy habits and inform them how genetics plays a role (3) Provide health snacks to students whenever they participate in activities with us and highlight the benefits of locally sourced foods (farmer’s markets) (4) Encourage students to try out for the various sports teams at their schools and come out to support them (5) Highlight the benefits of a healthy lifestyle starting in the early grades (6) Promote healthy choices at local restaurants and how to shop at grocery stores (7) Address mental health issues and emotional awareness.
* **S.T.E.A.M.:** Here in the 21st century, we’ve seen the world change from a sustenance society to an industrial machine. Along the way, there have been many contributions made by people from all walks of life. Our plan is to engage our youth in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math as early and often as possible. Our kids have been historically underrepresented in many of the medical, technical, and professional programs that have made life more comfortable for others. We will achieve this by: (1) organizing fieldtrips to museums, art galleries and plays, musical performances, and industries that are engineering and tech related (2) Invite Scientists, Engineers, Professors, and other professionals to come and give seminars and mentor students (3) Show videos that highlight the stories behind the engineering and technical marvels that exist in today’s world (4) Highlight the importance of the arts by promoting music education, dance, debating, speech writing and performing, as well as drawing, photography and sculpting.

Section 2: Although children are the primary focus of Blues City Foundation, programming may be developed and/or extended to apply to young adults and adults as well, when they are consistent with the purpose, mission and commitments of the Corporation.