



## Metropolitan Family Service

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **What Works for At Risk Students**

#### *Experience Corps Earns Commendation from the What Works Clearinghouse*

Portland, OR—February 25, 2010 —The February 2010 “quick review” by the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) found that a study published by Washington University in St. Louis’s on Experience Corps was “consistent with WWC evidence standards.” The review considered the study to be “a well-implemented randomized controlled trial.” The What Works Clearinghouse is an initiative of the Institute of Education Sciences of the U.S. Department of Education.

Metropolitan Family Service hosts the Experience Corps program in Portland. Known as intergenerational mentoring, older adult volunteers are paired with underachieving students to provide social and academic support. Metropolitan Family Service has pioneered the practice locally through its Foster Grandparent and Experience Corps programs. The organization currently has 200 intergenerational mentors and tutors helping 1,700 students annually.

The study’s central findings showed that students with Experience Corps tutors made over 60 percent more progress in learning two critical reading skills — sounding out new words and reading comprehension — than similar students not served by the program. Experience Corps is a national service organization, for people age 55+.

To download a copy of the research findings, please go to [http://gwbweb.wustl.edu/CSD/service/older\\_adults\\_and\\_civic\\_service/Experience\\_Corp.htm](http://gwbweb.wustl.edu/CSD/service/older_adults_and_civic_service/Experience_Corp.htm).

To download a copy of the What Works Clearinghouse Quick Review, please go to <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/publications/quickreviews/QRReport.aspx?QRID=129>

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### Background Information

About **Metropolitan Family Service (MFS)**: For more than half a century, Metropolitan Family Service has played a vital role in the lives of children, families, and older adults. We provide services at more than 145 sites, including 70 schools. Metropolitan Family Service makes connections that strengthen the lives of 37,000 individuals and families each year.

For more information contact Pat Kaczmarek, Marketing and Communications Manager at 503.232.0007 ext.170, or visit us online at [www.metfamily.org](http://www.metfamily.org).

**Experience Corps**, an award-winning national program founded in 1995, engages people over 55 in meeting their communities' greatest challenges. Today, in 23 cities across the country, 2,000 Experience Corps members tutor and mentor elementary school students struggling to learn to read.

Experience Corps is supported by public and private funders, including The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Corporation for National and Community Service (AmeriCorps), and the Deerbrook Charitable Foundation.

For more information about Experience Corps in Portland, contact Holly Williams at 503-249-8215 x19 or [hollyw@metfamily.org](mailto:hollyw@metfamily.org).

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