



Meet Academy of Hope

Our Mission: To provide high quality adult basic education in a manner that changes lives and improves our community.

Quick Overview

- Academy of Hope is one of the most **comprehensive and effective** providers of adult education services in Washington, DC.
- Our **continuum of services** range from Adult Basic Education (ABE), GED preparation, NEDP, college & career readiness to computer training and career counseling.
- For many adults who walk through our doors, this is their **first chance at a quality education.**



Our Story

In **1985**, Marja Hilfiker and Gayle Boss set up for their first class in a small room of a DC residential building, armed only with a few GED manuals and a storefront sign that read “Academy of Hope”. **Since then**, we have helped:

- **560+ adults** obtain a high school credential
- **6000+ more** improve basic skills, and to advance to post-secondary education or better jobs



Academy of Hope graduation, Feb. 2013

The Need for Adult Education in DC is Critical

Although DC boasts one of the highest percentage of residents with advanced degrees,

- **1 in 3 DC adults** cannot read a newspaper, a map, or complete a job application.
- Adults with no high school diploma or low-literacy suffer **higher rates of poverty.**
- Children of low-literacy adults are **5 times more likely** to drop out of school.

Our Work: The First Step in Breaking the Cycle of Poverty

Academy of Hope creates **lasting impact** in our community by offering **tailored educational services** for adults who, due to low-literacy and insufficient basic skills, are not able to find or retain **living-wage employment** and are often trapped in a cycle of poverty. We believe education is transformative and the **first crucial step in breaking the cycle of poverty.**

Our Impact: Equipping Adults for Jobs and for Life

60%

Graduates advance to college or further training

4X

More adults are able to earn a living wage after graduating

53%

Parents more involved in their children’s education

“*This one achievement opened the doors and gave me confidence to achieve things beyond what I could see for myself at that time.*”

- Tawanda, 2003 Graduate

Site in Ward 8

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