Bread of Life Academy

The Bread of Life Academy is a branch of the Bread of Life organization designed to give access to multiple educational opportunities to marginalized Houstonians looking to gain skills that will remove barriers to employment and promote economic empowerment. Our focus is on providing quality educational pathways that promote justice and equity in employment for youth and young adults emerging from foster care, transition-age youth, and historically underserved Houstonians through collaborative partnerships across the city.

The mission of Bread of Life Academy is to provide premier educational and advancement pathways that provide justice and equity in employment for young adults emerging from foster care, transition-age youth, and historically marginalized and underserved Houstonians.

Our vision is for Bread of Life Academy to be the anchor for young adults emerging from foster care. Our vision includes a community that uplifts instead of stigmatizes, a network of collective organizations coming together for a unified cause giving strength and action to our mission of educating and employing youth, young adults, and other marginalized Houstonians.

Our programs take a grassroots approach, targeting unique needs with unique solutions and offering ownership and action to those in the communities we serve. A client-driven approach allows us to recognize that people and their needs are unique, and Bread of Life Academy provides individuals with individualized, culturally relevant, and portable services. Through supportive synergistic relationships, we can reach further and provide more upstream support to families and individuals.

The Bread of Life Academy currently offers 4 programming pathways. In partnership with the University of St. Thomas and CISCO Networking Academy, the Bread of Life Academy prepares leaders for entry-level IT positions such as threat intelligence, network security, and risk management that prepare students for careers in the cyber security world with CCNA certification. Students also receive one-on-one mentoring through our local partner, Collective Action 4 Youth (CA4Y). Bread of Life Academy also partners with Quest Diagnostics to offer training for phlebotomy certification. In addition to the phlebotomy course, our partnership with the University of Houston prepares learners to be certified Community Health Workers. Students enrolled in Bread of Life Academy also have the opportunity become dual certified as Community Health Workers and Phlebotomists.

A typical student of the academy is between the ages of 16-26, either having aged out of foster care, having experienced prolonged foster care within their childhood, or having experienced the juvenile justice system AND marginalized Houstonians of any age.