



More Than Words (MTW) is a nonprofit social enterprise that empowers youth who are in the foster care system, court involved, homeless, or out of school to take charge of their lives by taking charge of a business. At our locations in Waltham and Boston's South End, MTW serves 250 of our most vulnerable youth from throughout Greater Boston who face compounding risk factors; over 70% are involved with the foster care system and nearly 40% are court-involved.

Our Model:

Business Job: MTW youth work paid jobs as part of a team managing their bookselling business approximately 20 hours/week, and are integrated into all aspects of the business. Youth are out daily on our fleet of trucks, sourcing donated books from donation bins, homes, businesses and institutions in the community. Youth also facilitate peer-led trainings and weekly team meetings, track financials, manage sales, guide tours, plan and host events, and manage marketing/promotions.



"You" Job: Youth have a second equally important "YOU" job - deliberate transition planning and case management to ensure they have life essentials in place and move on to meaningful jobs and higher education. Youth attend weekly youth development shifts and gain exposure to potential jobs and post-secondary education through site visits with partners at hotels, banks, businesses, trade schools and universities. Youth participate in workshops, mock interviews, dinners with community leaders, and regular meetings with Youth Development Managers.

Graduate Program: Once youth graduate, after 6-12 months in the core program, they continue to receive intensive case management from Youth Development and Education and Employment Managers who support them toward higher education, door-opening credentials, or growth-focused pathway employment, and track data on achievements in education and career pathways for 2 years.

Our Results:

The MTW model works. Our youth persist in earning their high school diploma or equivalent both during their time in the core program, and as they transition into the graduate program. Our data shows that 90% of our youth and Graduates either had, earned, or are on track to earn this important credential. We also know that our youth transition from MTW and are productive, getting up each day and taking action to move their lives forward. 80% of youth in our Graduate Program were productively engaged in work and/or school at least 30 hours per week in FY17.

