



Father Jeff Putthoff, SJ, has been a Jesuit for 30 years and for the last 19 has worked with youth in Camden, NJ, to help them get back into school. He founded the nationally known Hopeworks and has been directing and preaching retreats for close to 20 years.

He is currently studying at the University of Pennsylvania for a master's degree in Organizational Dynamics.

He will be director of the February 18-21, 2016, men's retreat at the Jesuit Retreat House on Lake Winnebago.

Today, Hopeworks provides those between the ages of 14 and 23 with high-tech training along with education in basic skills such as literacy. The agency also links them up with paid work through its own business operations — including web design — as well as through corporate partners. Each year, about 250 young people receive these and other intensive, one-on-one services from the organization. Some live in a residence managed by Hopeworks for those working full-time at the organization or attending college nearby.

Much of the activity revolves around businesses launched by Fr. Putthoff. For example, the web department has more than 400 paying clients (mostly small business and nonprofit community groups) for its design, development and hosting services; the Geographic Information Systems business that collects data — for example, about the size and ownership of individual properties — and produces maps (used typically in brochures and presentations) for more than 60 clients; and, other units for video production, cloud computing and social media consulting.

The economic bustle is all the more significant in a city of 74,000 people where more than half of the children live in poverty, more than a fifth of the families scrape by on less than \$10,000 a year, and the dropout rate is 70 percent.