

Mentoring Male Teens in the Hood



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Message from Mr. Miles

Greetings to everyone! I hope that all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. All of us have a great deal to be thankful for. I am thankful for all of you and it is my sincere hope that all of you will do your best in school, at home, and at getting along with others. If the Kings in this program ever realize the potential they possess, you will turn this world upside down. November's meeting was awesome! Thank you to everyone who attended.

All of our guests brought substantive information. Thank you to Dr. Christopher Kim, Mr. Johnnie Foreman from Gilman, and Mr. Joe Burke from Oracle. I hope that all of our Kings are paying attention to these presentations because with the proper preparation, one day you could be them. Whatever you are interested in (field), let us know and we will have someone come in to talk about it.

It is easier to become a podiatrist, if you have been exposed to a podiatrist. There are so many fields that exist and you need to be thinking now, which one you want to work in. This program will not work if you are not preparing for "years from now." If you work hard now, you will not have to work as hard when you get older. You will have to work hard for whatever you get but you will not have to work as hard if you plan now.

I am very concerned that as we come to the end of another year, our Kings are not reading as much as they should. Reading opens all kinds of doors and if you do not read, you will not know what is going on. Television will only give you so much information. Use the Internet to your advantage. Do not be afraid to read a book once a month. If you cannot read and you need help, let me or one of the mentors know and we will help you.

Judge Miriam Hutchins has invested a lot of her personal money in this program and I was embarrassed that she bought us books (written by Duane Betts) that speaks to many of the problems/challenges we as Black men face, gave it to us for free, those who took the book, said they would read it and did not. In life Kings, all we have is our word! If you say you are going to do something, do it. People will not trust you if you do not keep your word. No one forced any of you to take the book. Congratulations to the Kings who read the book, had their essays ready, and won the money.

Thank you to Ms. Betty Adams (Coordinator) for again spearheading the Thanksgiving dinner. Thank you to all the beautiful parents who helped set up, serve the food, and clean up. I want to thank Mr. Kip Hall and the Masons because for the last 5 years, they have come out at

*"Do you
ever
wonder ...
You
know that
indestructible
black box
that is used
on
airplanes,
why isn't
the whole
plane made
out of that
stuff?!"*

7 a.m. for November's meeting and fried turkeys for all of us to enjoy. Thank you to Zeta Amicae for their monetary donation to pay for some of the food items, and thank you to all the families that brought in a dish. Thank you to AJ and all the Kings who stepped up to be a part of the beautification committee. Each month we will have a beautification committee and we want all of our Kings to participate.

I have said this again and again, Do not leave the program with things on your mind. Talk to me or one of the adult mentors.

This program is building leaders not followers. Do not make me look bad. Do not make the other mentors look bad. We are investing in all of you and we want a return on our investment. When you leave the program, all of you must model positive behavior. If you do not and when you do not, people think, "What the hell is he learning at the mentoring program?" If you are behaving and staying out of trouble, people will think you are learning something.

Dues

Parents, Guardians, Group Homes! All of the Kings that come to this program are being exposed to some of the most influential leaders in this state. The trips we are taking are well thought out and are empowering your Kings for success. Many of you are not paying your dues. Letters have been sent out to remind you. If you received a letter and you have paid, please just call myself or Ms. Powell to inform us of the date. If you are unsure of the last time you paid, talk to Ms. Powell. The dues are to be

paid yearly. There is no cheaper program that exposes as much as we do to the Kings, goes on trips, goes to sporting events, has holiday parties at expensive restaurants. If everyone does their part, the weight does not fall on the few who send in their payments. If you need a payment plan, communicate that and we will go from there. Please call me with concerns or questions.

Events

Our holiday party is December 28th from 6 p.m. until 8:15 p.m. at the Capital Grille, 500 Pratt Street, across from the ESPN Zone. This year's event is only for the Kings. Last year we had too many people come and it kept the restaurant from making money. We must stick to our allotted number of seats which is 50. The cost is \$10.00. If you need a ticket, call me and let me know at 410-852-8013. You will not get in without a ticket.

On January 2nd, we will be going to a Wizards game. We will meet in Coppin's parking lot (Main Entrance) at 5:15 pm and we will return at 10 p.m. The cost for this trip is \$20.00 to cover the bus. The Kings will also need money for food. I will pay for the tickets to the game.

FYI

The mailing is the second Tuesday of the month unless otherwise noted from 6-8 p.m. Anyone that is interested can meet at our meeting place in the Tawes Bldg. (2nd Flr). If any parent/guardian needs to meet with Mr. Miles with their young man, call him directly at (410) 852-8013 to set up an appointment.

These years are crucial. Don't waste time. We are trying to help you build a firm foundation. If your foundation is

*Do you
ever wonder
why the
man that
invests all
your money
is called a
broker?*

*"Be a
yardstick of
quality.
Some
people
aren't
used to an
environment
where
excellence is
expected."
- Steve
Jobs*

shaky, you will be shaky as you get older. I want all of you to be able to stand on your own feet and not have to depend on your families, friends, the government, etc. If you work hard now, you will not have to work as hard when you get older. Get as much education as possible. Read, Read, and Read some more.

In conclusion, this is a great program. Things are being put in place to bless and empower. If you are not here, you cannot be blessed or empowered. We want every King to come out each month, no excuses. If we are taking a trip and you want to go but do not have the money, let me know and I will get a donation so that you can go. We all must do a better job at communicating. If you are not sure about something, ask someone. Call me or Ms. Powell. Call somebody! Learn to speak up for yourself. See you in December at The Capital Grille! Come dressed for success.

I want to thank all of my staff for continuing to work with me and the Kings. I have a great group of professionals who believe in what I am doing and it makes everything so much easier. **Kings, when you see these adults, take a minute and say "Thank you". It will not cost you a dime.**

If you are receiving this newsletter and you wish to be removed from the mailing list or there have been any changes to your address or telephone number, please contact Ms. Powell at (410) 485-7656.

Thank you to all the Kings who continue to come. There would be no program without you. Thank you to the parents, guardians, caseworkers,

and group homes who believe in this work. I and my staff could not do this work without your support.

Please do not forget about your raffle tickets. There is a bike being raffled and the winner will be picked at the holiday party.

Thank you to God and everyone for helping this program last another year. The first meeting of 2010 will be January 30th at 8:30 a.m. Look to see you in the coming year.

*Happy Holidays to everyone from
Mr. Miles and all of the staff of
Mentoring Male Teens in the
Hood and may your holidays be
spent with family and friends.
Please, no matter what you do, be
safe!!*

Goal of Sexual and Reproductive Health for Males

ABSTAIN FROM SEX; YOU ARE NOT
READY!

**"Give me a man or woman who
has read a thousand books and
you give me an interesting
companion. Give me a man or
woman who has read perhaps
three and you give me a
dangerous enemy indeed." –
Anne Rice**

***Therefore, Reading is
Fundamental***