

Mentoring Male Teens in the Hood



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Message from Mr. Miles

Happy New Year to all of you! It is my hope that each and every one of you had a wonderful holiday season. The holiday party was a wonderful success. We had a great turnout, everyone had a good time, all of our participants received certificates of participation and Dr. Arthur Burnett from Johns Hopkins Hospital shared words of encouragement. We raffled off a beautiful bicycle and I must say "Thank You" to everyone who sold raffle tickets. It was a complete success. We raised money for the program and everyone got involved and sold tickets. I want to publicly thank Capital Grille for hosting us. This is a very expensive restaurant and we could not afford it if they did not give us a good discount. Thank you again to Shabina Bahl and Joshua Perry for underwriting the cost of this evening. All of the Kings looked like they were ready for success and I thank you for working with me. Thank you to the parents/guardians for making your king(s) look presentable. Everyone had a good attitude and that made for a lovely evening. If you did not make it in 2009, I hope you can make it in 2010. I hope to have us in a different location for December 2010 just so we do not become stagnant.

In 2010, we are planning a great year! I need for all of the Kings to be at every meeting. Parents/guardians, I

need you to help me help the Kings. The Kings cannot be where they are supposed to be without your help. On January 2nd we went to Washington D.C. and watched the Wizards game. The Wizards lost to the San Antonio Spurs but we had a good time. Everyone's behavior was very good and I appreciate it. Our first meeting for the year is January 30th at 8:30 a.m. at Coppin. In March we will meet twice. We will take a field trip on March 20th to the Spy museum in the Ft. Meade area. Everyone needs to be at Coppin's parking lot at 9:30 a.m. The cost for the bus is \$20.00. When we get back to Coppin, we will have lunch. The Kings can be picked up at 2 p.m. Our regular meeting will be on the 27th of March at 8:30 a.m.

Please be aware that as we start another year, I need for all of the parent's/guardians to encourage your King to read! Reading opens all kinds of doors and if you do not read, you will not know what's going on. Use the Internet to your advantage. Do not be afraid to read. If you cannot read well, let me or one of the other mentors know and we will help you.

I now want to prepare you for an awesome upcoming trip. In June, we will journey to Atlanta, Georgia. I want to give all of you plenty of time to prepare. We will leave the last weekend in June. It is my goal to leave at 12 midnight on Thursday

*"If you want to live a happy life, tie it to a goal, not to people or things."
Albert Einstein*

June 24th. The bus ride will be approximately 12 hours so be prepared. If anyone is willing to fry chicken and help with snacks and juices, please let us know. No Sodas please! The trip will cost us roughly \$14,500 dollars. I will raise the majority of the money. We will have each King who will be attending to pay one hundred dollars (\$100). This will offset the cost of the hotel, tours, and eating. If a child attends one meeting for the year, he will not be eligible to attend the trip. We want all Kings to be at every meeting leading up to the trip. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. If you have questions, call me.

If there are parents who want to do lunch in 2010, let me or Ms. Powell know ASAP. If you can provide lunch, please provide for 60 youth. Please do not serve any pork.

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 1st meeting of the year is January 30th at 8:30 a.m. February is Black History month and I expect every King to do a report on a person of their choosing. It can be someone famous (Mary McCloud Bethune or Benjamin Banneker) or a family member. It can be written or typed. These will be read aloud. If one is not turned in, the King will not be eligible for the Atlanta trip in June. In March we meet twice. The first meeting is a field trip on March 20th. We will meet on Coppin's Main Entrance parking lot at 9:30 a.m. and the Kings can be picked up at 2 p.m. Our regular meeting will be March 27th at 8:30 a.m. There is also an opportunity for us to attend a Coppin State University basketball game. We will be calling you to see if you want to attend. This will be a free event.

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

"No one can make you feel inferior, without your consent."

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 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.

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.

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.

5 Goal of Sexual and Reproductive Health for Males

1. ABSTAIN FROM SEX; YOU ARE NOT READY!
2. ABSTAIN FROM SEX; YOU ARE NOT READY!
3. ABSTAIN FROM SEX; YOU ARE NOT READY!
4. ABSTAIN FROM SEX; YOU ARE NOT READY!
5. ABSTAIN FROM SEX; YOU ARE NOT READY!

***Did you know
since 1970,
10,591 people
have been
murdered in
Baltimore?***

*"It isn't
what you
have, or
who you
are, or
where you
are, or
what you
are doing
that makes
you happy
or
unhappy.
It is what
you think
about." -
Dale
Carnegie*