

Mentoring Male Teens in the Hood



Volume 7, Issue 10

November 21, 2009

Director & Founder
Cameron E. Miles

Board of Directors

Dan D'orazio
Kerisha Gill
Kip Hall
Mamion R. Miles
Wanda Powell

Advisors

Robert M. Bell
Marvin J. Garbis
Freeman A. Hrabowski
Diane Bell-McKoy
Martin R. Resnick
Paul Sandler

• **Mailing Address—**

P.O. Box 6756
Columbia, MD 21045

• **Meeting Address—**

Coppin State University,
Tawes Center, 2nd Floor

• Phone—(410) 852-8013

• E-mail—
Cmilesmmth@gmail.com

Message from Mr. Miles

Como Esta, that is hello in Spanish. How is everyone? Think about how much you have to be thankful for. I want to thank all of the Kings who attended the tour of Shock Trauma. All of you did an outstanding job. Thank you to all the parents who helped us transport the Kings to Shock Trauma and to Coppin. I hope that each and every one of you paid attention to Dr. Carnell Cooper while we were touring the hospital. We were in the midst of a million dollar facility that works 24 hours a day to save lives. While we were walking the halls, a patient passed us on a bed that had an indentation in her head the size of a large grapefruit. I think about all the complaining we do for little things and many of the patients at Shock Trauma will never be the same again because of drugs, gunshots, or an accident. Kings, too many times we take things for granted. Every day you wake up, thank God for whatever it is and whoever you have in your life.

In September we had a powerful lunch. I am still licking my fingers from those awesome wings. I want to thank Ms. Rhonda Taylor and Ms. Tara Johnson for a well prepared and tasty, and healthy lunch. It was really good. Any parent can offer to do lunch. Please let Ms. Powell know if you are in a position to do lunch.

There are so many young people who have no one. All of you have your families even though everything may not be like you want it. You also have a mentoring program that is trying very hard to empower you. All we want is for you to do your best in school, stay away from gangs and drugs, respect adults and authority, choose the right friends, and keep attending the program. You cannot see it right now but, when you get older you will see how blessed you were to be a part of something like Mentoring Male Teens in the Hood.

I want to thank Dr. Carnell Cooper, Dawn Eslinger, the 5th L, and all the others on the Shock Trauma Team who hosted us and shared such an inspiring presentation about all the things Maryland Shock Trauma does to save and empower lives. All of you have the potential to become a surgeon like Dr. Cooper or an EMT like the gentleman who told us about what he does on the ambulance. I really appreciate all of you listening to the adults when we told you to do something. It is not easy to run a program but it is much easier when the Kings listen to what the adults ask them to do. We are not the enemy! We are trying to prepare you for adulthood and for greatness, which all of you possess.

I have said this again and again. Do not come to the meetings and leave if you have things on your mind.

"You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You must do the thing you think you cannot do." ~ Eleanor Roosevelt

Talk to me or any of the adults about what you are dealing with. Talk about it in the group or pull us to the side. If there are things that are troubling you, you cannot keep it locked up inside. If we do not have an answer, we will find the answer.

How is school? Everyone should be striving for excellence. Go to school to learn. Respect your teachers and all adults in the school. As soon as you receive your report cards, I need a copy for our files. If you have been in the program for 3 months or more, you will receive \$20 dollars for every "A". We do not give money for progress reports. If you make all "A's and your behavior is bad, you get suspended, or you are not doing what you are told to do at home, we will not give you money. We cannot reward negative behavior! Help us help you. And by the way, PLEASE do not try to be something or somebody you are not. Be yourself! God created you to be yourself, not anybody else.

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 will be coming out to remind you. 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 next meeting is November 21st at 8:30 a.m. We need all of you to be on time. We have some interesting guests and I want all of you to be ready to ask questions. Show people you are interested in what they have to say. You know when we meet. Go to bed early the night before and eat something before you come to the program. Your energy helps us and it helps the speakers. If you have negative energy, it effects the entire room. If you have positive energy, it effects the entire room.

On the 21st, we will have our Annual Thanksgiving dinner after the regular meeting. I am asking that each family bring a different dish. Call Ms. Powell to inform her of what you are bringing. Brother Kip and the Masons will fry the turkeys. We will need everything else to complete our meal. Please no pork. Let's make this a huge success!

On December 28th we will have our holiday party. We can only accom-

*The wise
man must
be wise
before,
not after.*

modate 50 Kings this year. Families will not be able to come but we encourage you to come to the monthly meetings and fellowship with us. The party will be at the Capital Grille on Pratt Street, right across from ESPN Zone. The time will be from 6 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Please drop the Kings off at 6 p.m. and pick them up at 8:30 p.m. sharp.

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 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 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.

Essay Contest - November is the essay contest. All of you should have read the book by Duane Betts. Everyone who wants to participate must do an

essay and be prepared to read it. There will be 3 prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place for 8 to 12 year olds and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes for 13 to 18 year olds. One of our biggest supporters, Judge Miriam Hutchins is putting up the prize money and investing in you. I hope that we will have a large amount of participation. Four Hundred and fifty dollars will be given out to the winners of the essay contest. Please do not take this lightly. The parents in attendance will be the judges.

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 November!

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.

*"Remember
not only to
say the right
thing in the
right place,
but far more
difficult still,
to leave
unsaid the
wrong thing
at the
tempting
moment."
Benjamin
Franklin*