

Building Leaders

By: Harold Lloyd III

Who are we helping?

- Our programs mainly focus on youth who emanates from low-income, public, and subsidize housing in Annapolis, Maryland. (Woodside Garden, Annapolis Gardens, Annapolis Woods, College Creek, Obery Court, Eastport Terrace, Robinwood, Harbour House, and Bywaters.
- Over 90% of our participants are considered “at-risk students”, which means they require ongoing intervention and mentorship to help them succeed academically, socially, and mentally.
- We specifically target students who are struggling in school because our mission is to motivate our participants to disconnect from their past wrongdoings because we want them to focus on their positive decisions for their successful future.

How is this related to Covid-19?

- The pandemic has created hardships for low-income families on every level; however, the youth are getting affected the most. That is why our organization believes that we have a moral obligation to step in and respond to these burdens before they are intensified even more.
- Since March, according to [data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), there has been a 24 percent spike nationwide in mental-health-related emergency room visits among children between the ages of 5 and 11, and a 31 percent rise among those between 12 and 17, compared with the same period last year.
- The COVID-19 pandemic contributed to a spike in methamphetamine, alcohol, cocaine and opioid-related overdose deaths in Maryland, according to a state health department report released Tuesday.
- Isolation and depression are both prominent in the pandemic and they are also are risk factors for violence. We saw our homicide count jump from 4 in 2019 to 6 in 2020, also 11 people were injured in non-fatal shooting in 2019, in 2020 we had 17.
- A great amount of the youth that we work with rely on the school system to provide them with meals; however, during the weekend a free meal isn't provided.
- There are a multitude of students who are struggling with their classes because they are unable to focus on school. A lot of students are better learners when they have access to a teaching style that provides a hands-on approach. Virtual learning has prevented them from getting that experience this school year.
- We were able to see a microcosm of the effects of communities being deprived out of resources in 2020 because of Covid-19, we saw an increase in crime, education disparities, mental health cases, and unemployment

What are we doing?

- We have created a robust program that will teach our participants about business, trades, job skills, and a variety of math techniques.
- Our program will teach our students about the principles of business. A lot of our participants are indecisive about their future career paths, so our goal is to motivate the youth to use this program as a steppingstone to become innovative and creative.
- There has been a drastic change in the number of students who participate in trade programs in high school. A lot of students aren't aware that college isn't the only option, that is why we add emphasis on our activities involving trade because we want to help our participants explore new fields.
- We have created activities that focus on teaching our participant essential job skills while they are engaging in our programs. The skills that they will learn during the process are communication, leadership, teamwork, and time management.
- Since we created a relationship with our participants and their parents, we are aware that many of them are struggling in math. The math techniques that we will be teaching them through our measurements will help them with their addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and fractions.
- Our new model of teaching has provided an unconventional way of learning to meet the needs of the youth that we deal with in Annapolis with a hands-on approach.

How will our program combat these issues in a positive manner?

- **Crime:** There are many reasons why giving our youth the opportunity to participate in our programs can be beneficial, but two significant reasons are new learning experiences and crime prevention. Many adolescents participate in delinquency and that is because they lack resources and activities in their everyday life.
- **Mental Health:** Taking our youth out of their everyday environment that they have been isolated in during this pandemic, will help relieve a lot of stress and pressure that has been placed on our participants.
- **Literacy:** Our programs are composed of a lot of information that our youth will have to read in order to comprehend the activity. This facet will be used as reading practice and as
- **Lack of Educational Resources:** Dedicating time to extracurricular activities during the pandemic provides students with a sense of normalcy and social connection amid uncertainty. **Financial Hardships:** Since our programs are free, it gives the community an affordable way to keep our youth on track. We also plan on giving our participants sixty-dollar stipends for completing the program, we want to have an approach that is very similar to an internship.
- **Hunger:** Kids learn the best when they are fed, that is why it is essential that we feed our participants during every activity.
- **Virus:** Being safe is our number one priority, not only will the mentors display correct techniques of protecting ourselves from the virus, but we will also teach our mentees how to sanitize an area completely to ensure that any germs or bacteria are eradicated from our working area.

Expenses

- Transportation
- Insurance
- Storage Unit for Supplies
- Sanitization Equipment
- Operational Budget
- Building Trades Equipment
- Meals for the Youth
- Youth Stipends

Previous Projects

