



Urban League of
Greater Madison

July 12, 2018

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To: Deputy Mayor Ragland

From: Urban League of Greater Madison

Subject: Quarterly report for the Madison, Wisconsin My Brother's Keeper challenge.

MBK-Madison Quarterly Report (June 2018)

The Urban League of Greater Madison contracted with the City of Madison to develop a plan that manages and implements the Madison, Wisconsin My Brother's Keeper (hereinafter "MBK") challenge as identified by the My Brother's Keeper Madison Team. The MBK Madison Team identified two goals:

- 1) ensuring all boys and young men of color graduate from high school; and
- 2) ensuring all boys and young men of color are safe from violent crime and receive second chances.

The main strategies in addressing the respective goals are community schools and restorative justice. In achieving the goals, this work cannot be done in a vacuum, because the entire community must be involved and own the plan to accomplish its goals and have a sustainable community. Working collaboratively with community organizations will do this. The overarching strategy of the project is to construct a comprehensive blueprint for allocating efforts and resources to create policies, practices, and programs designed to improve the life chances for boys and young men of color in the Greater Madison area. The plan will align resources, leverage additional commitments, encourage investment, and nurture partnerships to help the community reach and sustain My Brother's Keeper goals.

Since our last quarterly update, activities have been on the increase. The MBK-Madison Initiative sponsored a one-day free Video Gaming/Computer Coding Workshop for under resourced and/or under represented youth in the Greater Madison area. In Addition, work has been done to co-sponsor an event with Next Level Artists, a PEOGA Production. The event, in addition to a music festival will offer workshops for youth and adults on Financial Literacy, Responsible Use of Social Media and Retooling your Life with world renowned educator and author Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu.

School started for the 2017-2018 school year and the community schools reactivated their committees. However, both sites (Mendota and Leopold Elementary Schools) have been met with challenges, both financial and staffing related. Leopold Community School Coordinator Samantha E. Clausen-Ruppe accepted another job offer, and as of this report the position is still vacant.

Community Schools

Mendota Community School Coordinator Stacy D. Broach also accepted a new job position during the 2017-2018 school year. Sonia Spencer was named the new Community School Resource Coordinator for Mendota Elementary School. The Mendota Community School Committee, which is comprised of parents; Madison northeast side business community; and community leaders, are engaged in a Community School Assessment (CSA) survey conducted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The Self-Assessment is a tool to help understand key areas of the work being done at the school. The Assessment looked at questions about the community school leadership, planning, practices and programs offered at the school during the 2017-2018 school year. The committee will determine if the agreed upon goals set for the 2017-2018 school year are the same going into the 2018-2019 school year. They will also determine if current priorities remain the same, or new community needs dictate that revised goals need to be established for the coming 2018-2019 school year.

The Leopold Community School Coordinator position has yet to be filled. Prior to the posting some changes to the position description were made to better reflect what the Community School Resource Coordinator truly does, with the expectation that the new coordinator will have a better understanding, and clearer picture of what the job entails coming into the position. Leopold Community School Committee went through an evaluation of its 2017-2018 school year goals and accomplishments as Mendota Elementary did. Also, Leopold Community School Committee learned the CLC Grant would not be provided for the 2018-2019 school year, thereby it needed to reassess and retool the program for the coming school year.

Finally, the Madison Metropolitan School District recently was awarded a \$1.1 million matching grant to provide wrap-around services to students and their families and will name two additional community school sites for 2018-2019. The hiring of the Resource Coordinators for these schools will happen simultaneously with the Leopold hire.

The Dane County Restorative Court

The Dane County Community Restorative Court (CRC) was launched in 2015 in South Madison as a way to expedite misdemeanor cases and provide an alternative to the traditional justice system with its mission to repair harm, reduce risk and rebuild community. Ron Johnson is the Coordinator of the Dane County Restorative Court.

The Dane County Community Restorative Court:

- A program that is designed for 17 to 25-year-olds with a misdemeanor violation such as simple battery, disorderly conduct, obstructing an officer, theft and criminal damage to property, which enable them to accept responsibility and avoid a permanent record.
- Must be referred by a criminal justice partner and offered the opportunity to participate in the program.
- Must accept responsibility for their actions and often includes community service and other restrictions.
- Victim given a voice and community participation is essential.
- Referral by parent of a child is possible.

- Once the individual completes the CRC Program there will be no CCAP record or formal charge.

The Restorative Court continues to provide services to the targeted population and educate the public of its mission and the important role they can play. The challenge still remaining for Dane County Restorative Court is getting more members from communities of color, especially African American males, to become facilitators.

Student Opportunities, Access and Readiness (SOAR) Project



The 100 Black Men of Madison, Inc Student Opportunities, Access and Readiness (SOAR) Project no longer collaborates with the Urban League of Greater Madison/My Brother's Keeper Madison Initiative. However, the writer continued to meet with the youth at West High School as we engaged in spirited and illuminating discussions on topics such as Social/Communication Skills for Life; Character/ Value: What I Care About; Taking Control of You; Respect: What It Means and How Do You Get It; Anger Management/Self Control as well as verbal and nonverbal communication skills; Roles Blacks played in Shaping not only U.S. but World History. The youth were introduced to and involved in events occurring throughout the community. The group met with West High Principal Karen Boran and discussed their concerns regarding the challenges they faced as Black students at West High and asked her to address their concerns. Several of the youth had an audience with Joe Parisi, Dane County Executive, as well as with Tammy Baldwin, Wisconsin U.S. Senator, and Noble Wray Madison, Police Chief (Retired).

Video Gaming/Computer Coding Workshops

During the area public school's spring break, MBK-Madison Initiative hosted a video gaming computer coding workshop hosted by the Madison Central Public Library. The free one day video gaming and computer coding workshop was intended to serve 100 students with a targeted demographic of historically under represented and under resourced middle and high school youth in the Greater Madison area. Collaboration for the event included the Mayor's Office of the City of Madison, and the 100 Black Men of Madison, Inc. This event was also supported by: the Madison Public Library; Dane County Tamara D. Grigsby Office for Equity and Inclusion; Herzing University; Chick-fil-A (West Towne and East Washington Ave.); and the Madison Metropolitan School District.

Eight gaming companies were contacted regarding a collaborating on the video gaming/computer-coding workshop with the Urban League of Greater Madison/My Brother's Keeper. The following gaming companies and non-profits volunteered their time, personnel, and resources to the workshop to make it successful: **Acme Nerd Games, LLC, DANEnet, Filament Games, Gear Learning, and Mad Marker Studios.** Topics covered included:

- Narrative Game Design with Twine
- Coding (focus on Construct 3) Art (character design using silhouettes)
- Integrating Live Action Animation into Game Using Motion Capture
- Converting Motion into Data Into Animation
- Inside the Game: Circuits and Soldering
- World Build with UDK
- Google Virtual Reality
- Video Gaming
- Careers in these fields



Selection of the students for the workshop was accomplished through parents; networking and collaborations with community-based organizations; school districts in the Greater Madison area; faith based group; and religious organizations. Representatives from The Boys and Girls Clubs of Dane County; the 100 Black Men of Madison, Inc; Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dane County; Centro Hispano; and the East Madison Community Center were contacted and provided with workshop details and registration information. In addition, the Madison, Verona and Sun Prairie School Districts were also contacted and provided with an opportunity to register their students. As part of the collaboration, community-based organizations transported youth to and from the Madison Central Public Library. For a complete summary of the event see the attached report: (After Action Report Video Gaming and Computer Coding).

Next Level Artists Showcase

A new program was incorporated during the Urban League Greater Madison/My Brother's Keeper Madison Initiative 2018 calendar year. The Next Level Artists Showcase, a PEOGA Production that had been a musical festival, will offer family orientated workshops for youth and adults with world-renowned educator and author Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu as keynote speaker for Friday, August 10, 2018. Next Level Artists Showcase Workshops is designed to provide information and resources to underrepresented and under-resourced communities through workshops on Financial Literacy, Responsible Use of Social Media and Retooling your Life. The keynote speaker will address disparities in communities of color. This event confronts these disparities by providing pathways that connect young males of color between the ages of 14-to-29 with relevant resources. The event will offer a foundation so that young males and females of color are assisted in gaining educational, leadership and life skills. Developing a strong connection with our young people is a great start to reducing the racial disparities that communities of color continue to face. The Next Level Artists Showcase is collaborating with the Urban League of Greater Madison, 100 Black Men, MMSD, UW Health/Quartz, local churches, and Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. Transportation and food will be provided for youth during the workshop portion of the program for Friday, August 10, 2018. For more details on the event see the attached: **My Brother's Keeper Collaboration with Next Level Artists Showcase & Community Fest.**

Respectfully submitted by
Dr. Ruben Anthony, Jr.