



M.A.N.U.P. is an acronym for Making A New United People.

The term “man up” is a concept used to describe ambition toward achieving a goal; meaning to take control of a situation, be strong and/or daring and rise to the occasion.

This organization is dedicated to helping today’s youth “man up” in life, and by doing so, accomplish whatever goal it is that they have set forth to achieve.

The Problem

Youth who grow up in poorer, inner-city neighborhoods are more likely to have lower levels of academic proficiency as well as having a higher propensity to enter into a life of crime.

The statistics are further exacerbated in minority-dominated communities. Traditional incarceration does not seem to be enough of a deterrent in the world today, so we believe that mentors and/or positive role models, who can relate to the teens while instilling in them our fundamental goals, will prove to be imperative towards making positive progress.

In 2005, the homicide rate for black male teens was 59.9 per 100,000, 17 times higher than the rate for non-Hispanic white males. For all teens between the ages of 15 to 19 years old, homicide is the second-leading cause of death, and that ranks higher than any potentially

fatal disease or illness. This is a major issue that needs to be more heavily addressed than it has been in the past.

Understanding the causes of these issues is as important as developing better solutions to cure these social ills. In the mid-1980's there was a cocaine epidemic. Drug wars between street gangs and drug dealers led to an arms race on American streets.

By 2005, the homicide rate among African-American males between the ages of 14 to 17 years old rose by 26%. Statistics also show that this particular demographic is disproportionately affected by social problems historically linked to crime. These social problems include: the breakdown of the family unit, poverty, and poor education.

The Solution



With more programs and constructive institutions implanted within underserved communities, these same adolescents could possibly find alternative activities to involve themselves in. It's possible that if they were capable of seeing the bigger picture and positive outcome that can result from alternate activities, that there would be an alarming decrease in crime and death amongst inner city youth. With an organization like M.A.N. U.P., we will be there to lend that helping hand and guide the youth toward bigger and better things

Inner-city youth are failing in key educational achievement metrics and are also becoming victims and perpetrators of violent crimes at alarming rates. The economic and social benefits that come from educated and safe communities must not be denied to another generation.

The M.A.N. U.P. organization was established to make a positive impact in the lives of youth living in underserved urban communities throughout the Washington, DC metropolitan area. The mission of the organization is to develop the next generation of successful leaders by impacting the lives of youth through the principles of education, social responsibility, self-empowerment and economic awareness.



Through forums, mentoring activities, various academic programs, and a host of community involvement initiatives, we aim to decrease the achievement gap present in inner-city neighborhoods while simultaneously curbing the violence that is prevalent in these areas.

Weekly programs arranged at local recreation centers throughout the area offer tutoring in specific subjects, round-table discussions, hands-on skills training and a host of other services that are centered on the organization's mission.

Monthly trips incorporate academics, history, and social awareness. We believe that if a person is too sheltered and unaware of the endless possibilities the world can offer, they will always be subject to a mediocre life at best. By traveling with the youth, whether it is to the country's largest museum, or a local sporting event, we bring them face to face with the reality that awaits them with the expectation to inspire them to desire more for themselves. By seeing certain aspects of life with their own eyes, we hope to show them that certain goals can be accomplished, which they might have thought impossible in the past.

We plan broaden the reach of our organization so that there are ultimately MAN UP offices and recreation centers in every major metropolitan area throughout the continental United States in an effort to minimize the rising crime rate amongst inner city youth. Our offices will serve as academic institutions, as well as a place to gain knowledge of a trade, skill, or asset necessary to acquire a good job. We also plan to offer social programs, so that the youth can develop social skills, team play, and an understanding of rules and guidelines, so that this can be applied in everyday life.

Programs

based off our four principles



Self Empowerment

M.A.N.U.P., Inc. wants to support the youth and adults with fulfilling their personal development. We believe that in order to live to your fullest potential, you must have knowledge about yourself. Our self-empowerment programs focus on individual growth and understanding of self and the world around you.

Social Responsibility

In order to successfully fulfill our mission of Making A New United People, we must ensure that individuals partake in building a better world. We realize that in order to successfully grow as a people, we must first recognize how we can give back to the world. This initiative will support our goal of building a better people by addressing the need of being a responsible individual. Our program is a chance for participants to learn about social responsibility and have the opportunity to give back to the world.

Education

We feel that in order to shape a better tomorrow, education must be a key component. Supporting each individual with their education is a step toward Making A New United People. Our educational programs allow for one on one learning opportunities for students. Whether it's extra support on homework or a content related course, M.A.N.U.P. has programs to enhance educational opportunities.

Economic Awareness

It is imperative that all people have access to a wealth of knowledge about our world's economical system. Our economic awareness program supports youth and parents alike, ensuring that everyone has equal opportunities to build a financial future. We want to support all participants with trying new and innovative things that could potentially lead to entrepreneurial opportunities that will build their futures.



The Executive Team

This organization was established by nine graduates of Howard University. These young professionals were all raised in the inner city and have risen to success through thriving academic ventures and social recognition. These nine members serve as the board of directors, as well as mentors, and are responsible for the strategic planning and direction of the organization.

Brandon Johns, President

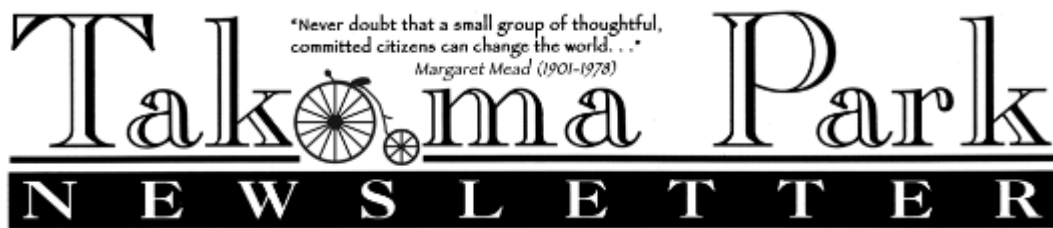
Anthony Goodson, Vice President and Director of All Programs, Curriculums, and Activities

Ernest A. Ford, Senior Vice President of Marketing

Chris Chukwueke, Senior Vice President of Operations

Keith Monroe, Senior Vice President of Finance

Press



New Recreation Program Helps Teens to MAN UP

By Susan Holliday

Nine successful young men, all products of humble households and Howard University, are volunteering each week to help Takoma Park teen boys to “man up” and achieve their goals. The Takoma Park Recreation Department is sponsoring MAN UP (Making A New United People), a weekly Tuesday evening activity and mentoring group for teens to “set a foundation for them, so they can look at the lives of these guys [the mentors] and say, “That’s the way I want to go,” says Takoma Park Recreation Department Director Debra Haiduven. The City Council and Recreation Department had targeted teen mentoring as one of their strategic goals. “I don’t care where you live, every kid is at risk at this point in their lives,” says Haiduven. “They can be wooed by negative influences. We’re thrilled to have these young men working with them.” Many of the MAN UP mentors experienced positive results with a similar volunteer program they ran while undergraduates at Howard University. They called the Howard group of ten mentors the Talented Tenth, based on the writings of W.E.B. DuBois, who said essentially that the most accomplished African Americans hold a responsibility to help the rest of their people to achieve. The group’s goal at Howard, as with MAN UP, was “to connect with community, to give back,” explains Brandon Johns, one of the mentors. Johns, a Takoma Park resident who by day serves on the staff of the House

Judiciary Committee, had approached Haiduven to propose the teen mentoring program for the City. He knew some teens from his apartment building and could see how the program could help them.

Haiduven then met with all of the mentors to work out the details. They pointed to the Talented Tenth’s successful programs, which included partnering with a District of Columbia elementary school as afterschool mentors and running Bowling for Blankets with teens, to raise money and awareness for homeless people.

“Our mission,” asserts the MAN UP Concept Statement, “is to develop the next generation of successful leaders by impacting the lives of youth in underserved communities through the principles of history, education, social responsibility and knowledge of self.”

“We hope to help today’s youth ‘man up’ in life, and by doing that, they will be accomplishing whatever goal it is that they set forth to achieve,” the MAN UP statement continues.

MAN UP plans weekly meetings with the teens at the Community Center’s teen lounge to hang out, talk, and arrange trips into the community. The mentors hope for a combination of excursions – to sporting events, museums, and other fun events. In May MAN UP sponsored a well-attended basketball tournament and had scheduled laser tag and paint ball trips. The Recreation Department will help underwrite some of the cost of the events.

At a Tuesday evening rap session with the teens in May, Recreation Department Teen Director Faye Wright drove a van load of teens from the rec center on New Hampshire Avenue to the Community Center and helped out with pizza and drinks. As the boys ranged around the room, the mentors were almost indistinguishable from them, which is part of the idea. “We all came from inner city backgrounds and rose through academics,” says Anthony Goodson, one of the mentors whose day job is at the American Chemical Society. “We want to give them not just ambition, but the tools to get it. And they can relate to us because we’re not too far removed from where they are right now.”

As the mentors talked with the teens, they shared who they were and what they saw happening with MAN UP. Darryl Perkins works for the Hip Hop Caucus, and talked up the idea of internships for the teens. Keith Monroe agreed, saying he started as an intern at the U.S. Treasury Department and now enjoys his finance job there. Tosin Osho does construction management, and told anyone with interest in building to speak with him. Andrew Barnor’s an electrical engineer who also had worked as a pre-engineering teacher. Christopher Chukwueke, who got some good-natured grief for showing up in a suit (no tie), is in hotel/hospitality management. One of the two mentors absent that night was a lawyer, the other a video editor.

The mentors acknowledge that it may seem crazy to the teens to be thinking about a profession now, but the men want the boys to explore. “What you’re going through,” says Osho, “we’ve been through already. Tell us what you want to do and we’ll help you get there.”

The mentors understand many of the pressures the teens are experiencing. They can talk about the issues that the boys face first hand and show them that they have different choices they can make. “I was in a lot of trouble as a youth,” says Johns. “My father was my positive role model. He showed me that this is how you conduct yourself as a man. Because of that, I ended up in a better place.”

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