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The Village provides the foundation that will lead black boys to evolve into prosperous adult men who support their families, contribute positively to their community, connect with their own spiritual self, and give from a place of merit.

Kenan D. Morrison | ***Founder and CEO***





African American boys need heroes that they can look up to and model behind their appropriate social behaviors. African American boys need proper guidance, security, and mentoring that will assist them in becoming wealthy in their heart and life destinies.

Kenan D. Morrison | ***Founder and CEO***

Dear St. Louis Friends & Neighbors

Growing up I never thought I would be teaching middle school math to at-risk inner city youth in St. Louis. Teaching was an experience that opened my eyes to the real-life images of inequitable access to education, health, financial services, and employment for young black men.

A random conversation with a St. Louisan will immediately inform you that place matters, where you grew up matters, and what 'high school' you attend(ed) matters. And I saw first-hand how where you live and the community that you grew up in, has a direct correlation to lived experiences and how black men are perceived not only in St. Louis but across the world.

A world full of black men like Trayvon Martin, Ahmaud Arbery, and George Floyd are in my classroom daily. These same black men are in my neighborhood and my community and oftentimes are not given the opportunity to see past what was in front of them – opportunity – and not limitations to their futures.

What I realized was that **the plight of black boys cannot be easily dismissed within the broader American culture.** We cannot continue to look the other way while black men are being killed and jail cells are filling with our black sons and fathers.

My father made it his life's journey to expose me to experiences that would cause great manhood to blossom within me. He connected me to professional black men who modeled excellence in their careers. He showed me the value of fatherhood by loving his entire household.

He is my hero.

African American boys need heroes that they can look up to and model behind their appropriate social behaviors. African American boys need proper guidance, security, and mentoring that will assist them in becoming wealthy in their heart and life destinies.

Providing this sense of security for other young men pulled me away from engineering and into the lap of teaching and mentoring.

The Village provides the foundation that will lead black boys to evolve into prosperous adult men who support their families. Our kids contribute positively to their community, connect with their own spiritual self, and give from a place of merit.

The Village is not a place where black kids gather to hear about the social ills of our time. If we are going to see our young black boys run towards destinies that change our families, communities, and even global realities, we first must make a commitment to helping our children walk worthy through righteous cultural acceptable norms, thinking, positive contributions, quality work ethic, and educational advancement.

I ask that you join me in reshaping the future of black men in St. Louis and across region as we build the foundation of our future leaders.

Sincerely,

Kenan D. Morrison

Kenan D. Morrison
Founder and CEO of The Village

OUR MISSION

To extend an honest hand to the next generation by connecting youth with enlightened adults who will provide academic assistance, spiritual guidance, and life skills training.

OUR VISION

To influence the minds of young black males to become better men thereby experiencing joy and taking pride in their labor.



OUR CORE VALUES

EXPERIENCE

Our mentees receive a unique and comprehensive curriculum designed to engage every aspect of the young man's life within and beyond the education system.

JOY

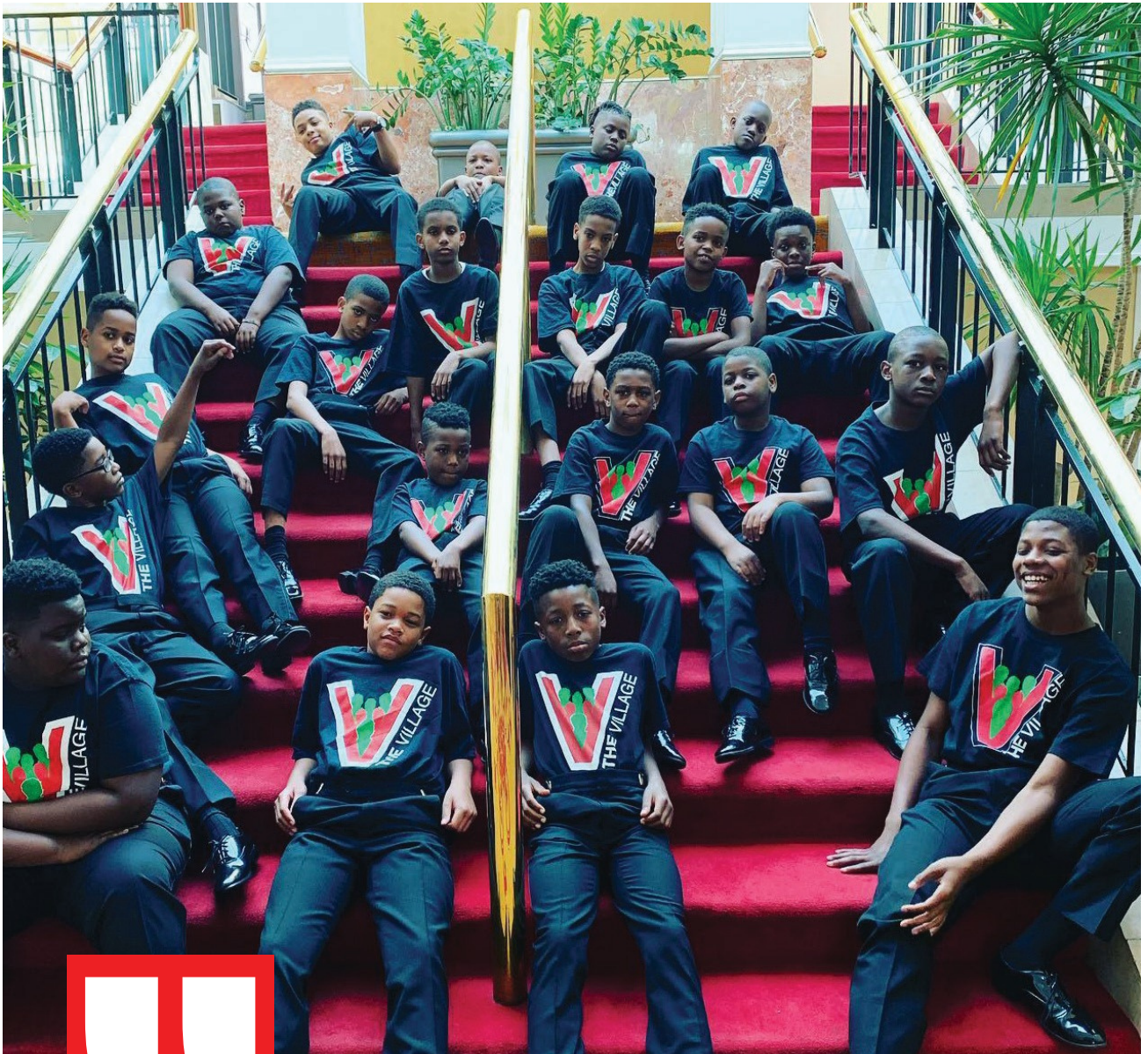
Our curriculum includes unconventional activities that allow the young men to explore and satisfy their curiosity under the umbrella of safe-keeping. Such activities cultivate self-directed learning, modeling, and relationship development.

PRIDE

Our program facilitates discovery of talents, raising self-esteem by giving our youth a sense of their own power, unconsciously exercising cognitive development, and fostering a deep sense of pride in their abilities.

LABOR

Our strategy places significant emphasis on instilling a strong work ethic in young men through role modeling. Through shared labor experiences, natural bonding occurs, fostering essential relationship building among men.



The Village has allowed me to acknowledge my true capabilities within my community and school. It also allowed me to understand what true empowerment it is to be an African American male within society.

Bryce, 16 | *Mentee*

KEY PROGRAM AREAS

The Village is a non-profit organization serving the St. Louis metropolitan community through group mentoring that provides real life experiences, safe spaces to explore, healthy peer- to-peer relationships, the cultivation of a strong and sustainable work ethic, cognitive development exercises, and parent/youth mediation.

The Village connects mentees with vetted adults from various backgrounds and life lessons with 130+ years of combined professional experience.

The organization uses the mentoring group model (also called mentoring ring or mentoring circle) as its operational framework.

WHO WE SERVE

The Village serves young men across the greater St. Louis metropolitan area with mentees beginning at 8 years old, with the average age being at 13 years old.

WHY VILLAGE MENTORING WORKS

The Village Mentoring Program is the best solution to cultivate trust amongst black males throughout various generations while helping them to find comfort within their own skin. Our mentees are provided with a rounded curriculum designed to engage every aspect of the young man's life that begins inside the education system and beyond.

Our goal is to secure additional talent and finances to maintain, support and grow our resources to accomplish our mission, while expanding our program model, based on local and national need.



The Village has given me the opportunity to learn about the different parts of St. Louis, the history, and how I can help the community.

Jordan, 17 | *Mentee*

MENTORING

Mentoring components consist of three key program areas in the lives of our mentees:

ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE

SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

LIFE SKILLS

These programs are led by a core of committed volunteers and community leaders. The young men also participate in monthly activities that expose them to new experiences that they would not normally get to enjoy.

Program highlights consist of participation in robotics programs, annual college tours, financial literacy summits, theater, S.T.E.A.M workshops, chess lessons, golf lessons, and numerous extracurricular activities.

We believe that it takes a village to raise a child; therefore, our program model emphasizes group-mentoring as our primary approach. We provide a safe and productive environment for black boys to learn how to problem solve under the tutelage of black men. Our emphasis on peer mentoring is why we believe our young men mature faster than youth who have not yet discovered our program.





The Village has contributed to my son's social, emotional, and relationship development. At the Village, he further develops language skills because of the focus on reading and giving presentations. The Village keeps him engaged and involved with a variety of recreational activities that also promote physical fitness, character building, and sportsmanship. Cultural activities have broadened his world view. The volunteers in the program are committed to promoting excellence in these young men, and it shows.

Tony | Father & Mentor



THE VILLAGE PROGRAM OUTCOMES

- Direct positive impact on academic progress
- Established Self Affirmation
- Improved Emotional Expression
- Increased Reading Comprehension
- **Students with other health impaired diagnoses have learned to maintain task completion skills with better focus.**

DEMOGRAPHICS

100%

Black Males ages 8-18

13YRS

Average Age
of The Village Participants

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

25-50K

Median Household Income

33.3%

Receive Assistance
State or Federal

SOCIAL INDICATORS

65%

Of Our Youth
Do Not Live in a
Two-Parent Household

25%

Live With Someone
Who is Not Their Birth Parent(s)

85%

Biological Fathers
Do Not Live in the Households Served

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

100%

Youth Graduate
From High School
(who were involved
for 5+ years)

85%

Youth Attend
Public School
9.5% Attend
Private School

81%

Youth Show
Improvement
in Discipline

91%

1 YR Participant
Retention
of Program Participation

100%

Program Graduates
Advance to College Enrollment,
Trade School, or Employment



The Village has helped me understand what it means to be a good man and what I need to do to be successful in life. The Village has given me lifelong relationships and connections and they taught me that I should always be looking for opportunities to better myself.

Akorre, 16 | ***Mentee***

**CONSIDER MAKING
A DONATION TODAY!**
www.thevillage314.com



YOUTH IN NEED

The Village has seen year-over-year growth in the number of youth served but we want to be able to do more!

As we continue to grow our programs and are able to provide services and resources we would like for you to become a part of our village.

Your support will go a long way in making sure we can continuously serve the needs of our young black men in St. Louis.

THANK YOU

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4 My St. Louis - KMOV

5 on Your Side - KSDK

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. – Omicron Eta Omega Chapter

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. – Epsilon Lambda Chapter

Ameren

Arch You Hungry

Black Nurses Association of Greater St. Louis

Brother 2 Brother

Clay Academy of Exploration and Civics

Dexter's Art Studio

Dream Builders 4 Equity

Film Camp USA

First Baptist Church of Chesterfield

Forged by Fitness LLC

Harris Stowe State University

Heru Urban Farming

HOSCO

House of Vision

Inspired Park Cultural Arts Center

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Lions Pride Network

Mentors in Motion

Optimist International

Pharaoh's Donuts

Prince of Peace Church

Reggie Murphy's Boxing

Rides N School Supplies

St. Louis Black Authors of Children's Literature

St. Louis Community College

The Access Foundation

The Chase Park Plaza St. Louis

The Collective

The TKO Grill

Washington University in St. Louis, School of Medicine

Youth Friendly Learning STL

ZipCare Transportation

**"Together, we are the village
it takes to raise a child."**

Kenan D. Morrison | Founder and CEO



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The Village