



LITTLE THINGS...

Ameer has always struggled. He struggled with a poor attitude. He struggled showing up for school. His grades reflected his struggles - leaving him with a discouraging 1.6 grade point average. His poor attitude permeated every aspect of his life and so he struggled with his employment.

SeDale is Ameer's Member Support Coach (MSC) and the manager of the Operation Work program. SeDale and the other four MSCs mentor 14 young men each – guiding them to responsible and self-sufficient adulthood through a comprehensive employment training program called Operation Work.

DOING THE LITTLE THINGS THAT ADD UP TO BIG CHANGES.

The MSCs each collaborate with parents, guardians, teachers and employers to help them achieve academic benchmarks that will lay the groundwork for higher achievement goals. SeDale sums up his job as “doing the little things that add up to big changes.”

Ameer required a lot of SeDale's time and energy, but SeDale offered calm and consistent guidance day after day, week after week. SeDale knew that these struggles and poor behaviors were most likely related to issues with his father and his rough childhood. Ameer needed compassion. SeDale took Ameer to work-outs at Marquette University or the YMCA. He contacted his caregiver and his school daily. Simply put, SeDale persisted and kept doing the little things.

Recently, it clicked. Ameer started to attend school regularly. He paid attention in class, and the correlation with his grades was almost instantaneous. He now has a 3.2 grade point average. He worked hard on the field this past fall, and had a successful football season. Ameer now eagerly attends Operation Work training sessions and is eager to gain full time employment this summer.

There are 67 young men who are enrolled in Operation Work right now. They are fine-tuning their resumes and participating in mock interviews as they search for summer employment and internships.

MAKING AN IMPACT

Your generous support provides tutoring on Sundays so that children who are struggling academically can succeed.

Approximately 30 children are picked up from their homes in the Operation DREAM Turtle Top bus around noon on Sundays and driven to the University School of Milwaukee (USM) for two hours of tutoring.



The tutoring is provided by a consistent team of USM student leaders who donate their time on Sundays to help boys and young men with reading and math. John, who has tutored for this program since 2012, proclaimed in a college interview that of all his accomplishments in high school, he was the proudest of teaching a little boy how to read!

The program begins in the fall. Each student takes a baseline test in reading and math. The test results identify the areas of focus for each student and then a curriculum is developed under the supervision of Susan Zarwell, USM Director of College Guidance and coordinator of the program.

And, your support is makes an impact on the tutors as well. In fact, Gianna describes her experience, "Dedicating every Sunday to this incredible program for the last four years has undoubtedly been more than I could have ever asked for."

Research has shown that 75 percent of students who struggle with reading in third grade never catch up. In fact, those students are four times as likely to drop out of high school. Your money fights these statistics and gives 30 young men the boost in confidence they need to succeed.

THESE KIDS JUST NEED SUPPORT...

In Gianna's words, "My education is something that I took for granted every day until I met these young, curious, and brilliant individuals who were eager to learn. So, I guess I'd say that the reason I come back Sunday after Sunday isn't for the service hours or the attractive extra-curricular name, but because I can't get enough of the face a boy makes when he can finally do long division... These kids just need support, and it's been an honor giving it to them."

Your financial support makes this all possible Your donation paid for the driver, and the bus, the administrative support, and every other detail that makes this partnership possible. We hope you too feel the pride in helping these young men succeed.



WELCOME JACK SNOW

At the March 1, 2018 Operation DREAM Board of Directors meeting, Jack Snow was voted in as the newest member. Jack works for the Milwaukee Bucks as their Corporate Social Responsibility Sr. Coordinator

and has managed many of the local partnerships that the Bucks have within the community. He is inspired by Operation DREAM's mentoring model and mission to provide youth with positive role models.

The Milwaukee Bucks are on a mission to transform Milwaukee. They are a generous financial supporter of Operation DREAM and give of directly to the boys and young men by providing exclusive employment workshops, tickets to games and access to players.

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Your generous financial support has provided an amazing array of services for over 1,000 boys and young men who live in the heart of the city of Milwaukee. The academic support, life skills training, employment experiences and more has made a lasting impact on highly at-risk urban males by engaging them when they are young and guiding them into responsible adulthood through holistic programming.



To better meet the needs of these young men, Operation DREAM established a new home for programming at the Holton Youth + Family Center (HY+FC) at 510 E. Burleigh Street. The building itself is not a historical landmark, but to the Harambee, Riverwest and surrounding neighborhoods the HY+FC is a symbol of innovation for bringing children and families together.

We will continue to offer the full array of services that make Operation DREAM truly unique, including full days of fun and experiential learning on Saturdays and employment and entrepreneurship training through the Operation Work program. But, having the physical space available on weekdays and weeknights will make it possible for more people from the community to benefit.

By working together, we can lead by example and demonstrate to our city that nobody can do this work alone and that we are stronger when we are able to work together.

Marco

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