



Urban League of  
Greater Madison

January 15, 2019

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### MY BROTHER'S KEEPER - URBAN LEAGUE - FINAL REPORT 2018

**Background:** In September 2014, President Obama issued a challenge to cities, towns, counties and tribes across the country to become "MBK Communities." The MBK Community Challenge encourages communities to implement a coherent cradle-to-college-and-career strategy for improving the life outcomes of all young people to ensure that they can reach their full potential, regardless of whom they are, where they come from, or the circumstances into which they are born. The City of Madison accepted that challenge.

In 2016, the City of Madison contracted with the Urban League of Greater Madison (ULGM) to carry out the mission of MBK. This year, The Urban League of Greater Madison was tasked with completing Step Four of the My Brother's Keeper Madison Community Challenge, which included coalition building, representing boys and young men of color in the restorative justice initiative, and community school initiatives. Additionally, the MBK Madison Team identified the following two goals for this challenge:

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.

**Process:** This year, ULGM collaborated with a number of organizations on MBK on five key programs, events, and activities to meet the MBK challenge. These efforts were made in collaboration with partnering community schools, organizations, and community leaders. These included:

1. Community Schools
2. Dane County Restorative Court
3. Video Gaming/Computer Coding Workshops
4. Next Level Artists Showcase
5. Criminal Records Expungement Clinic

New coalitions were built with the Madison Library System and the video gaming industry to implement gaming and coding during spring break. We also made new inroads with many men whose criminal records have stood in the way of them finding careers and affordable housing. Another critical partnership was formed with People Building Opportunity through Grace & Action (PEBOGA). We convene a panel of national experts on the education of Black boys and hosted it at Madison College.

### **Community Schools:**

Community Schools are an essential part to the success of the MBK Community Challenge. It must be remembered that the overall objective is to integrate programming and services that students, families, and community members feel are needed such as health care, academic tutoring, mentoring, food access and parent leadership opportunities (to name a few) directly into schools making them a hub of coordinated support. The two community school sites are Leopold and Mendota.

Initially, Stacy D. Broach served as the Community School Resource Coordinator for Mendota Elementary School. However, Stacy accepted a new position during the 2017-2018. As a result, 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 will determine goals for the 2018-2019 school year.

The Leopold Community School Coordinator position still remains vacant. It is imperative that this role be filled to not only ensure the success of MBK, but for the success of the children that attend Leopold Elementary School. Unfortunately, Leopold Elementary learned that they would be losing a grant for the next school year, which impacts key programming for the school. The Madison Metropolitan School District was recently awarded a \$1.1 million matching grant to provide wrap-around services to students and their families.

One exciting new development this year was a collaboration between ULGM and Community Schools is to make ULGM's extensive array of employment and career development programming more accessible to the parents of low-income students attending each of the community schools. ULGM had staff representatives in attendance regularly at parent outreach activities at the Community Schools, and also piloted some job skills workshop sessions at the schools. We believe there is a great deal of untapped potential to more deeply integrate employment programming into the array of offerings at Community Schools, and thus help parents achieve a greater level of economic stability which will have a positive impact on the family, and the broader community.

### **Dane County Restorative Court**

In 2015, the Dane County Community Restorative Court (CRC) was launched in South Madison as a mechanism to expedite misdemeanor cases and serve as an alternative to the traditional justice system. The CRC's mission is to repair harm, reduce risk, and rebuild community. Its Coordinator is Ron Johnson. Below is the criteria for this court's eligibility:

- Must be between the ages of 17-25 with a misdemeanor violation such as simple batter, 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.

Additionally, the CRC provides the opportunity for the victim to voice their opinion and promotes community participation. More importantly, once an individual completes the CRC program there will be no CCAP record or formal charge. Moving forward, the Restorative Court must make it a priority to do more outreach to communities of color to become facilitators at the CRC. It has been an ongoing challenge for this court.

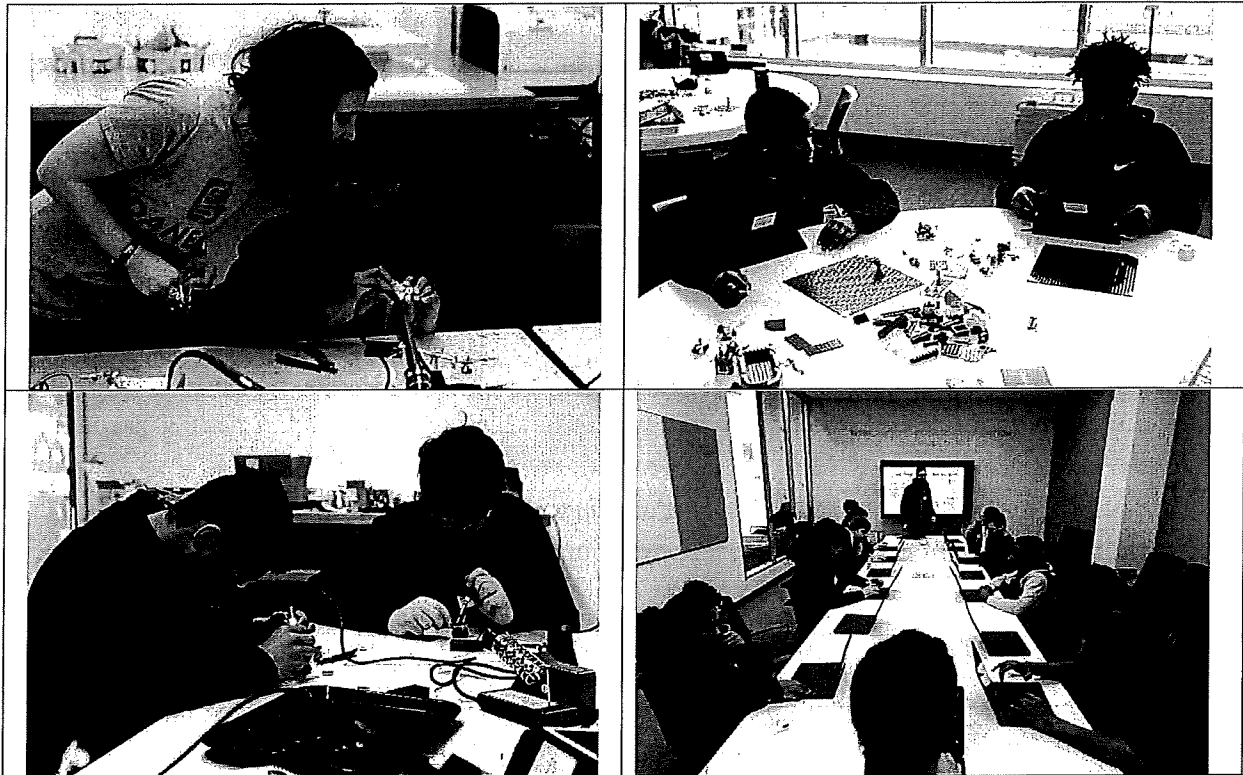
This year a group of community youth, largely Black boys stole numerous cars. Dr. Anthony attended a community forum at Mt. Zion Baptist Church to participate in discussions about how to mentor and divert these youth from committing auto thefts. He also participated in a conversation with the Dane County Black Leadership Council and with a group of residents at Black Hawk Church. Judge Everette Mitchell arranged a court ride-along for Dr. Anthony in attempt to better understand how to redirect Black Boys from the Criminal Justice system. There is a lot of work needed in this area.

#### **Video Gaming/Computer Coding Workshops**

In collaboration with the Mayor's Office in the City of Madison, and the 100 Black Men of Madison, Inc., the MBK-Madison Initiative hosted a Video Gaming & Computer Coding workshop at the Madison Central Public Library. This free, one day workshop was held during the area public school's spring break. Roughly 100 middle and high school students whom are underrepresented and under resourced attended the day-long event. Additionally, this event brought volunteers and workshop instructors from Acme Nerd Games, LLC, DANenet, Filament Games, Gear Learning, and Mad Marker Studios.

The following topics were covered at the workshop:

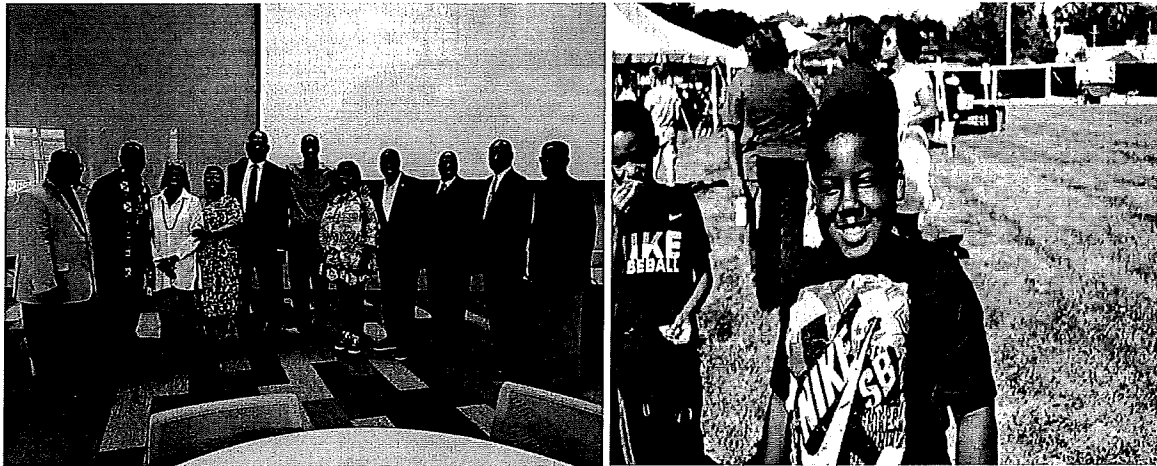
- Narrative Game Design with Twine
- Coding (focus on Construct 3) Art (character design using silhouettes)
- Integrating Live Action Animation into Game Using Motion Capture
- Converting Motion into Data into Animation
- Inside the Game: Circuits and Soldering
- World Build with UDK
- Google Virtual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



### Next Level Artists Showcase

This year, MBK and ULGM collaborated with People Building Opportunity through Grace & Action (PEBOGA) to program the Next Level Artists Showcase. The event provided an avenue to share information and resources that assists in negating the effects of racial disparities on our Madison community. This event provided the following workshops:

- Financial Literacy -
  - Summit Credit Union - Youth
- Financial Literacy -
  - Summit Credit Union - Adults
- Responsible Social Media Use -
  - Shawn Harris
- Retooling Your Life -
  - Panel Discussion: Dr. Jack Daniels, Dr. Valerie Henderson, Noble Wray, Wayne Strong, Aaron Perry
- Keynote Address - Education
  - Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu



It was an exciting and well-received inaugural event, and we look forward to building on next year. As we work to build this event we will brainstorm ways to maximize our impact and build greater partnerships.

#### **Criminal Records Expungement**

ULGM co-hosted the Madison region’s first ever “Expungement Clinic.” The clinic was held through a partnership with Foley & Lardner, Legal Action of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Association of African American Lawyers, and Madison-area Urban Ministry. A cadre of volunteer attorneys helped individuals review their conviction and arrest records and file the paperwork for any eligible expungements in an effort to remove these things as barriers to employment and housing. The clinic was a great success. A total of 121 individuals pre-registered to receive a consultation, and more than 50 other people attempted to register onsite but had to be turned away due to capacity. The event received statewide and national media attention from Wisconsin Public Radio, U.S. News & World Report, CNN, and the Seattle Times. The Urban League was flooded with inquires after the event, and current has a waiting list of nearly 200 individuals who will be served through additional clinics planned in Q1 2019.

#### **ULGM/MBK Madison Initiative Moving Forward (2019):**

Going into next year, while maintaining our current community programs, we will shift our focus on solving issues directly related to the criminal justice system. Due to higher arrest rates amongst juveniles of color, we will be working to establish an ongoing expungement clinic to ensure that decisions/mistakes made as a child will not ruin their lives. This does not mean we will not be prioritizing or promoting accountability; as stated earlier in this report, juveniles in the restorative court must accept responsibility for their actions. However, we recognize that an intentional effort must be made to counter the harsh effects of the criminal justice system.