



NORTH LA COUNTY CARES MENTORING MOVEMENT (NVLACCMM) *An affiliate of the National CARES Mentoring Movement*

OUR NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

The **National CARES Mentoring Movement** (National CARES), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, is the largest and most highly regarded national organization in the Black mentoring arena serving our vulnerable children. National CARES was founded in 2005, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, as Essence CARES. We looked up then, as the world did, at all the vulnerable youth who, as much as anything, needed the love, guidance and support of able and caring adults. But we found that for all the need, when the call went out for mentors, white women and men responded first. Black women and Black men were too often not in the numbers. This wasn't because of a lack of caring. We discovered that it was largely because structures did not exist to bring African Americans squarely into the work.

This is why we created the local CARES Mentor-Recruitment Wellness and Healing Circles, a collaborative, supportive network of leaders who work with unbounded love and is steering our organization in dozens of communities nationwide. These dedicated leaders *COLLECT* willing and able men and women, *CONNECT* with them to inspire and often train them, and *DIRECT* these adults to local mentoring programs and in some cities to the group-mentoring, academic-enrichment pilots we are building with our partners. CARES Mentor-Recruitment Wellness and Healing Circle leaders are a strong voice for mentoring in their communities. They are sounding the alarm, spreading awareness of the state of emergency among the community's under-resourced youth. They inspire and recruit caring adult volunteers, the high and the humble through faith institutions and corporations; fraternities and sororities; and unions and government agencies.

Most youth-support organizations are asking only for one volunteer hour a week. Through our CARES Circles, talks by our founder, Susan L. Taylor, and media coverage, the mentors we have recruited now serve more than 200,000 young people as role models, tutors, reading buddies and graduation coaches in schools, youth-support organizations and reentry programs. All throughout the nation, mentoring organizations are in desperate need of Black volunteers—men and women who look like the children they serve and understand their struggles, hopes and dreams. Filling the gap is our focus, but the National CARES Mentoring Movement turns no child or mentor away.

OUR LOCAL MENTORING-RECRUITMENT CIRCLE

The **North LA County CARES Mentoring Movement** (NLACC), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) local affiliate with a strong voice for supporting and promoting responsible mentoring initiatives throughout Northern Los Angeles County Valley to recruit, train, and direct mentors. NLACC is sounding the alarm and raising awareness of the state of emergency of the under resourced youth in our communities that is growing. These thoughtful and generous volunteers will serve as mentors and role models fostering the recovery and well-being of our community.

NLACC is partnering and collaborating together with various community-based organization, faith-based communities, and middle and high schools to share responsibility and partnerships that provide additional educational support to the local school entities, faith and organization communities. We have a cultural based training, wellness support and mentor matching system that is designed to connect our volunteer mentors to individual groups of young people for the purpose of strengthening academic competencies, building self esteem and positive youth development.

Volunteer mentors must complete an intake process that requires, background screening, tuberculosis (TB) testing, one-year commitment and a 4 hour mentoring training workshop that will educate them on the national standards and guidelines of mentoring to serve the youth in various organization in the North Los Angeles County region and network dedicated to filling that gap.

Recruiting Mentors To Save A Generation!!!

OVERVIEW

WHY MENTOR?

You can save a precious life...and nourish your own. Harsh and cruel experiences have led many of our young to believe that they are alone in the world and that no one cares. CARES seeks to dispel that notion by providing young people with role models who will play an active role in helping to shape their development. By mentoring a young person, you can help redirect the course of his or her life.

THE NEED FOR MENTORING!

With the fast-growing number of children falling below the already substandard poverty level, we have no choice but to develop innovative strategies that begin with the core understanding that is no longer enough to secure just a few children when so many are languishing.

Today, 86 percent of Black fourth graders and 83 percent of Hispanic fourth graders are reading below grade level in the most privileged nation in the world.

Because this is our state of emergency today:

- 40% of Black children are born into poverty
- 86% of Black children cannot read or do math at grade level
- Of all Black fourth-graders, **58%** are functionally illiterate
- 70% of incarcerated people, regardless of race, are challenged readers
- Every day **1,000** Black children are arrested.
- 1 in every **8** African American males ages **25-29** is incarcerated.
- In some cities, **80%** of our boys drop out before finishing high school.
- Black girls ages 13-24 account for the majority of new HIV infections
- Homicide is the leading cause of death for Black boys

**We Can Win This
Battle!**

But it's also a fact that reclaiming the lives of our children is a battle we can win. With the quality of their lives as the guiding factor in our choices personal, political, financial and spiritual we can create what is needed to move these soul-crushing statistic in the opposite direction. *Mentoring is a low-cost, high-yield investment.* The time, energy and support we dedicate today to the nation's struggling youngsters will dictate the tomorrows we create for all our children, our communities and country.

Imagine for a moment what it will mean to our young people to be loved fully, educated properly, honored regularly, and provided for consistently; now imagine what it will mean for us. Imagine the United State as no longer having the world's highest rate of incarceration, but being the world's leading producer of educators, doctors, engineers, entrepreneurs and a dynamic 21st century workforce.

Did you know that when young people are mentored well

- 98%** stay in school
- 98%** do not become teen parents
- 85%** do not use drugs
- 98%** avoid gang participation

The Miracles of Mentoring

*MENTORING IS A LOW-COST, HIGH YEILD
SOLUTION TO A GROWING CRISIS*

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THE CHALLENGE

In literacy development, it's called the Matthew Effect (Stanovich, 1986). Educators use the term to try to make sense of the ever-widening gap between good readers and poor readers as they move from elementary to middle to high school. Our young people starting off with stronger foundations—literate role models who read to and with them, a sense of purpose for sharing ideas through writing, and expanding vocabularies and experiences that build layers of background knowledge—continue to grow and become better readers, writers, and thinkers. On the other hand, our young people who enter school with far fewer verbal and cognitive skills, who often reside in literacy-poor and under-resourced environments, and who have been labeled and accepted as poor readers, remain poor readers and writers unless early, intensive, and consistent intervention is gifted to them.

For decades the statistics have shown that the children at the faltering end of this gap are primarily Black children and other children of color. *Cities in Crisis 2009: Closing the Graduation Gap* (prepared for America's Promise Alliance) revealed that while 1.2 million students drop out of high school each year, the problem is more severe among students of color. Nearly 50% of Black and Hispanic students fail to complete high school on time. In fact, the Council of Great City Schools' 2009 report, "A Call for Change: The Social and Educational Factors Contributing to the Outcomes of Black Males in Urban Schools," found that Black males were nearly twice as likely to drop out of high school as White males and the unemployment rate among young Black males was twice as high as that of White males the same age. The report concluded that "Black males continue to perform lower than their peers throughout the country on almost every indicator." It added that Black students were less likely to participate in extra-curricular academic groups and were more likely to be suspended or retained.

Why specially focus on STEM?

Employment Opportunities

According to a recent study conducted by the Level Playing Field Institute (LPFI), the widening achievement gap in math and science is evident by 4th or 5th grade and persists throughout student matriculation in high schools (Examining the Numbers, LPFI November, 2010). Further, given the critical importance of STEM education in providing access to opportunities in the globalized knowledge and innovation economy, such achievement gaps have significant economic consequences. For instance, seven of the top 10 fastest-growing occupations over the next ten years will be in STEM fields.

In addition, as a group, STEM workers earned about 70 percent more than the national average for all occupations (\$64,560 compared to \$37,870), and 16 of the 25 highest-paying jobs in 2021 required STEM preparation, further underscoring that the highest-need and highest-paying jobs over the next 10 years will be in the STEM fields."

High-Growth Entrepreneurship Opportunities

STEM education achievement not only impacts employment prospects, but STEM achievement gaps today will result in even more staggering entrepreneurial-wealth disparities tomorrow. In short, the vast majority of angel and venture-capital investments over the past 30-plus years have been in STEM-based, high-growth enterprises. Despite their relatively small numbers, as described in the Kauffmann Foundation report, these entrepreneurs account for a disproportionate share of new jobs and wealth creation (High-Growth Firms and the Future of the American Economy, Kauffmann Foundation. For example:

Blacks are severely under-represented in the STEM education attainment pipeline, STEM-based entrepreneurship and enterprises, and, thus, are disconnected from the jobs and tremendous wealth-generating opportunities of the new economy.

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