



NEWSLETTER



Dear YMWAP Family,

As YMWAP launches Fall programming across our eight schools in Boston I want to share more about our unique multilevel mentoring approach. It entails traditional one-on-one mentoring by adults, near-peer mentoring, and group mentoring. Multilevel mentoring can be viewed from the perspective of barbershop talk, family cookout vibes, homeroom talk, group therapy--all with a holistic educational focus. Multilevel mentoring encompasses the "village motto" where young men get to learn from peers similar in age, peers who are older in grade and maybe in college, as well as from professional men of color.

The older guys can normalize the issue to help the younger guys relieve some anxiety and ensure that they grow through what they go through. They can share stories of overcoming similar obstacles and offer hope and encouragement. The young men "in the middle" we serve are highly receptive to guidance and truly benefit from sustained mentoring and messaging delivered by people with shared experiences who care about them.

As always, we thank you for being part of our village,

Jaykyri Simpson, Ed.D., Executive Director - Young Man with a Plan
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PROGRAM STAFF

YMWAP program staff are the foundational mentors to our young men in grades 8-12. They bring a wealth of experience both personal and professional, a shared belief in the potential of every young man, and patience and understanding with their growth process. They embrace the critical need for accountability. Program staff deliver sustained coaching to help young men build the mindset and skills for academic and social emotional gains, and provide guidance as they create individualized success plans for sustainable futures. Pictured are Des Kennard, Dr. Jaykyri Simpson, Ailson Lopes Carvalho, and Lenward Gatison II.

SCHOOL-BASED MENTORS

Each of the eight schools that YMWAP serves appoints a school-based mentor - a teacher, coach, counselor, or dean - who helps students stay the course in school. Bruce Baptista is YMWAP's school-based mentor from Boston Collegiate Charter School where he serves as Dean of Students. Bruce shares, "The young men at BCCS have gained a sense of camaraderie and a supportive community through their participation in YMWAP. Their involvement extends beyond casual friendships, as they actively check in with their peers to ensure they are keeping up with their schoolwork. This level of support and accountability is indicative of the strong bond they've developed within the program. They continue to maintain these connections through regular texting and offer assistance to one another during challenging times. YMWAP has cultivated a sense of unity and mutual support among the students, turning them into a closely-knit brotherhood."





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NEAR-PEER MENTORS

YMWAP's near-peer mentors are upperclassmen in our program who receive training and develop skills to serve as mentors and student leaders. Josh Ozuna, pictured here, is one of our near-peer mentors. He supports YMWAP with program operations, recruiting, communications, and graphic design. Josh is a senior at Boston Community Leadership Academy where he has a 4.1 GPA and plans to study business in college. "I hold YMWAP in the utmost respect. My mentors are men I look up to as I see myself progressing into my future. Our relationship is important because through their guidance I've not only been able to continue to persevere academically, I've also been able to create bonds with many other guys that I now can call my brothers." As a near-peer mentor Josh is now paying forward what he has learned to younger students.

PEER GROUP MENTORS

At YMWAP young men attend weekly groups where they check in, share a meal, and discuss topics of common interest, including relationships, mental health, academics, current events, and college and career plans. On Tuesdays, for example, 9th graders from 8 different schools connect to talk about their week and the variety of challenges they may be going through. It's valuable to have a safe space where young men can open up, gain perspective and learn that they're not alone in their struggles. One young man said, "I learned that I can express myself with people I don't know and that my problems aren't unique." In their year-end surveys students wrote that "The best part of the program is having people I can rely on to help me if I am struggling; the sense of family and community we build; and breaking bread with my brothers." According to one 10th grader, "YMWAP is a great program filled with talented young individuals who help each other out to become better and smarter for their future."



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