

CITY OF WHITE PLAINS MY BROTHER'S KEEPER: ACTION PLAN

JANUARY 2017



Executive Summary

On August 10, 2016, Mayor Thomas M. Roach held a Press Conference on the steps of City Hall to formal announce that the City of White Plains accepted the call to action to launch the My Brother's Keeper initiative to address the persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color and to ensure that all young people can reach their full potential. Interim Superintendent of White Plains Schools Tim Connors agreed that the White Plains School District supported the My Brother's Keeper initiative. The My Brother's Keeper initiative was launched by President Barrack Obama, February 2014 to improve the lifelong outcomes of boys and young men of color. Since 2014, more 250 cities across the nation have accepted the My Brother's Keeper initiative.

Mayor Thomas Roach appointed a Work Group to research, gather data and examine the challenges facing boys and young men of color. Members of the Work Group include the following members: Officer Kenny Smith White Plains Public Safety; Sylvester Price, Mayor's Youth Board; Eric Eller, President African American Men of Westchester; Ernest Spatafore, Principal Highlands Middle School; Raymond Tribble, Youth Specialist II White Plains Youth Bureau; Wayne Bass, Commissioner Recreation Department; Allison Lake Deputy Director Westchester Children's Association; Reverend Wayne Francis, President Friends of the White Plains Youth Bureau and Frank Williams, Jr, Executive Director White Plains Youth Bureau.

The Work Group conducted a My Brother's Keeper Town Hall Meeting Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at Highlands Middle School to engage parents, youth, business and all community stakeholders to discuss the problems and come up with solutions. Allison Lake presented a power point discussion examining school suspensions, graduation rates, poverty, college readiness, test scores, juvenile justice issues, employment and family make-up. Mayor Roach spoke to the audience of 125 members and encouraged them to help improve the outcomes of our youth and to and develop an Action Plan to help them reach their full potential.

Following the power point discussion, the attendees participated in four workshops to expand on the problem and come up with strategies to help youth achieve success now and in the future. The priorities taken from the Town Hall Meeting are:

Parent Engagement

Reading

Mentoring

Giving Kids a Second Chance

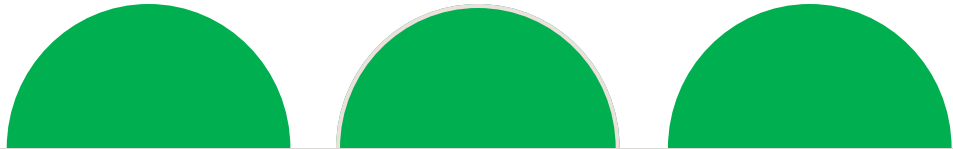

College Readiness

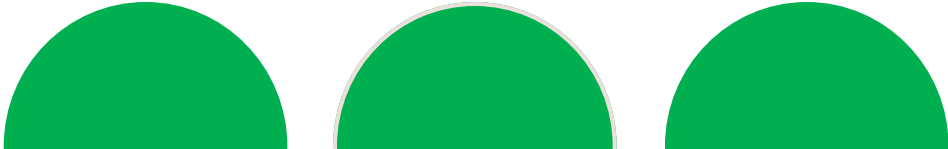
Employment

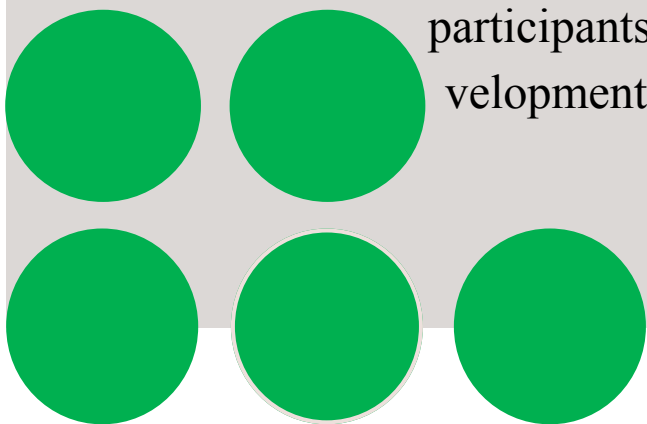


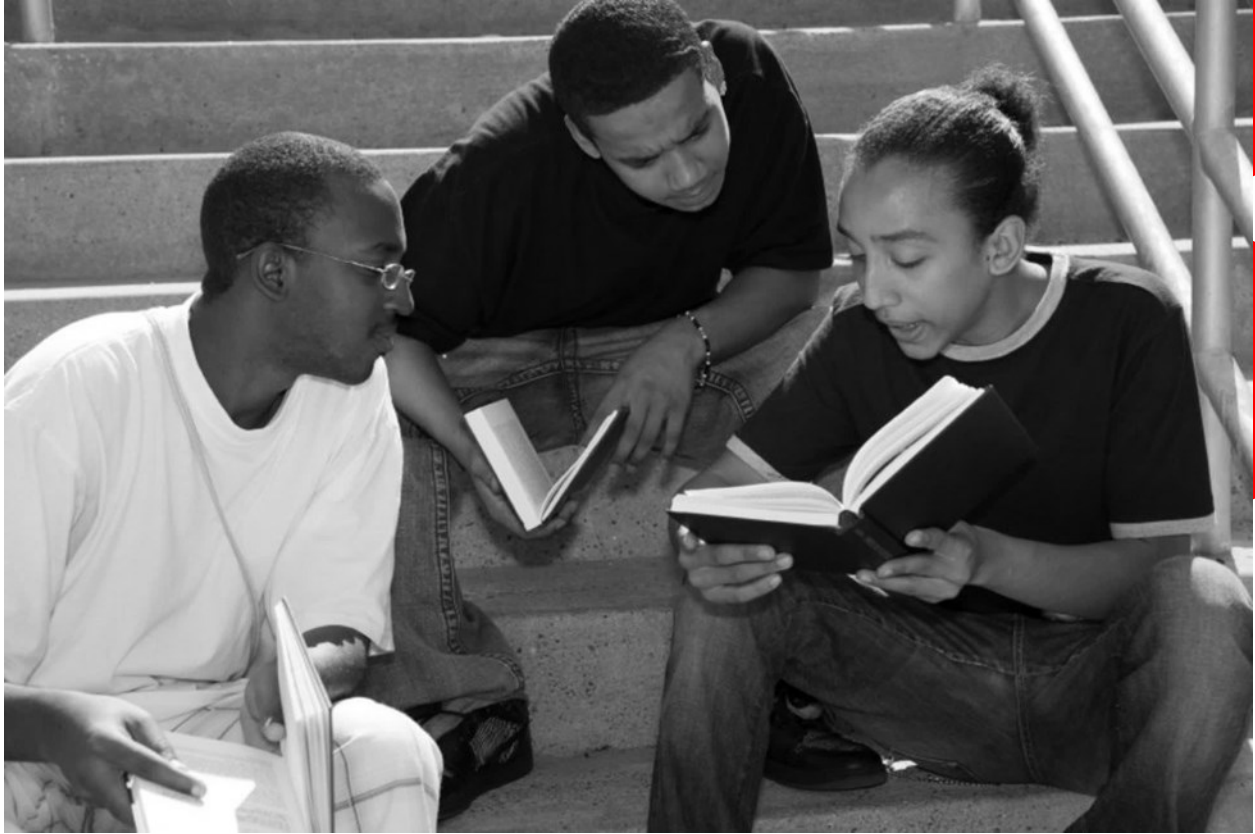
**Milestone I:
Getting a Healthy Start
and Entering School
Ready to Learn**

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- In collaboration with White Plains Hospital, the faith community and the Youth Bureau implement **5 Steps to Five Program** which helps underserved families acquire skills to stimulate their baby's minds, nurture their spirits, and give them the foundation they need to grow into their full potential.
 - Strengthen relationship with Family Services and the Head Start program to make African American parents aware of the **Primetime and Special Need Services**.
 - Expand the Pace Center for Literacy Honor Roll Program which provides weekly after school reading support for underserved youth.
 - Collaborate with the White Plains School District creating a community-wide Reading Buddies/Read for the Record Program. Designate a day in the City of White Plains in which Reading Buddies program will occur on the same date and same time of the year – a variation of DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) program.
 - Partner with the White Plains Public Library to develop new reading initiatives and provide library cards to all children; all After School participants will receive a library card.
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- Faith Community will sponsor regular reading programs for underserved youth and provide parent workshops teaching parents to read to children.
 - Collaborate with Barnes & Noble Bookstore to sponsor an Annual MBK Reader a Thon.
 - White Plains High School students will be trained by Pace Center for Literacy to become Reading Tutors to small groups of students in the After School Centers. This is an expansion of an existing program—White Plains READS! High School Reading Tutors Program.
 - Middle School students will be trained as Seuss Up Readers by the Youth Bureau and will read to children in the After School Centers. Seuss Up is an existing program where middle school youth volunteer to read to elementary children in the Youth Bureau’s after-school programs.
 - Promote Parent University – engage parents to become active participants in all phases of the child’s reading development.





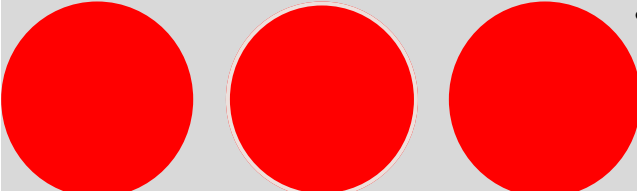
Milestone II: Graduating from High School Ready for College and Career

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- Create a Counsel on College Readiness which will include area colleges and universities ,i.e. Westchester Community College, Pace University, Berkeley College, Manhattanville College, Mercy College, The College of Westchester, SUNY Purchase along with Let's Get Ready for College, College Careers, White Plains School District, White Plains Library, White Plains Police Department, Westchester Clubmen Foundation, emPOWER you, Thomas H. Slater Center, White Plains Housing Authority, White Plains Community Action Program, Ministers Council of White Plains and Vicinity, Rotary Club, El Centro Hispano, White Plains CAP, NAACP, AAMW, Pan Hellenic Council, Latino University, Parent Teacher Associations, Houses of Worship and community groups whose focus will be to develop, design and promote programming and activities that will enhance student college readiness.
 - The MBK will work in collaboration with the White Plains School District and parents to identify students who are academically able to take advanced/ accelerated courses and encourage / support students to enroll in such courses—approximately 10% (15 students) in Math.

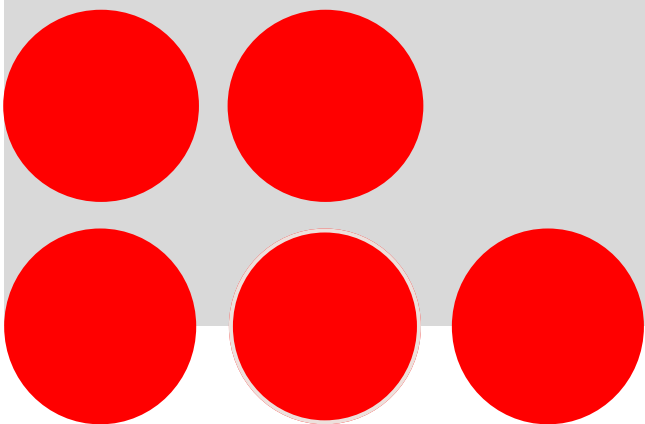


- Access to STEM, in school and out of school.



- Develop a Mentoring program – one to one relationship between a youth and an adult.

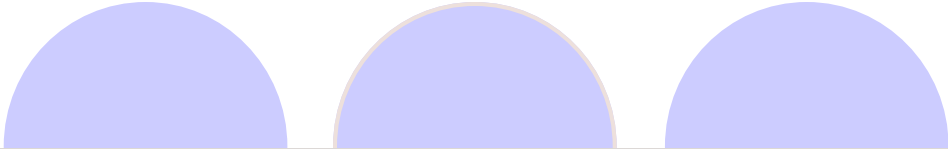
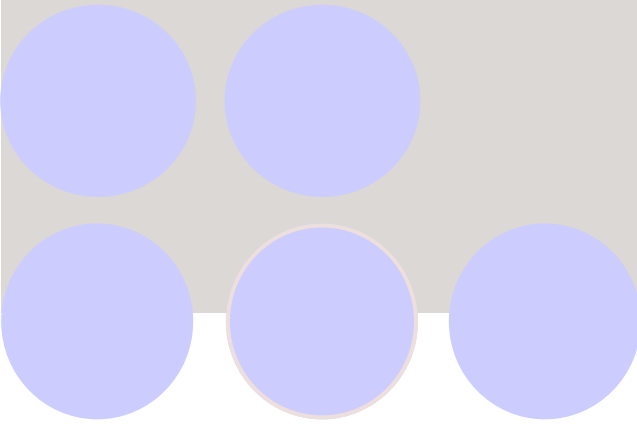
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- Pair college students with students in the program.
 - Promote Parent University – parents engaged with the program.
 - Conduct Boot Camp twice per year focusing on college and career readiness targeting middle school youth.
 - Organize a Speaker’s Bureau – identify key leaders who will speak about the value of college and a career.
 - Develop a Camp College Program targeting Middle School students.
 - Create a support program for students attending college.
 - Increase volunteer opportunities for youth.





Milestone III: Successfully Entering the Workforce


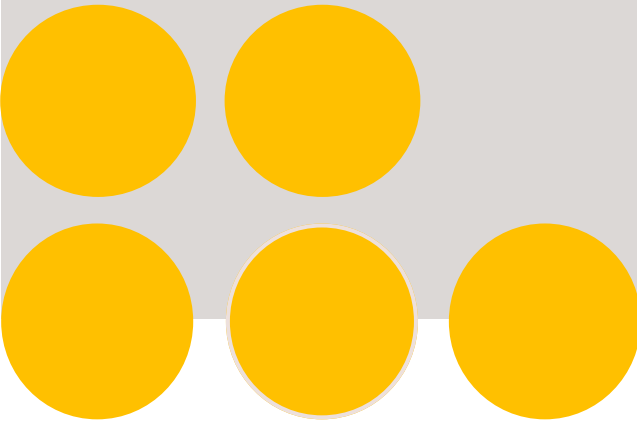
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- Expand partnerships with the business community to create more opportunities for White Plains youth to work and experience internships.
 - Provide middle school students and students in After School Center Programs with workshops and seminars to increase their awareness about financial literacy, money management, interviewing skills and entrepreneurship, etc.
 - Strengthen Exploring Career Pathways at White Plains High School providing speakers on hot job and employment trends.
 - Increase summer jobs opportunities by 71%, or 206 to 290.
 - Supporting Westchester-Putnam Workforce Development Board and others in adopting the READI curriculum for job readiness preparation for youth entering the workplace.
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Milestone IV: Keeping Kids on Track and Giving them a Second Chance

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- Work with community partners i.e. White Plains Housing Authority, White Plains School District, White Plains Police Department, City Court, Family Court, Probation Department and Parents to provide intervention (second chance) for youth in need of support, especially students who are on the verge of being suspended from school, are truant, at risk of dropping out of school and have some negative contact with juvenile and/or criminal justice system.
 - Provide youth with a mentor.
 - Increase awareness and utilization of the White Plains Youth Court.
 - Expand the platform and outreach of the Youth Bureau's Boy's Step Up Program to engage youth at risk.
 - Engage NAFI to provide workshops and training between youth and police officers.
 - Develop a job component to second chances.
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- Develop a Task Force to act as a resource for the program.
 - Greater outreach to parents in need of support raising their child.
 - Actively advocating for juvenile/criminal justice reforms including raising the age of criminal responsibility in NY to 18.

