

O.K. “OUR KIDS” MENTORING MINISTRY (PROVERBS 22:6)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Ministry is to reverse the grim statistics related to the high rates of incarceration and homicide that young African American males are currently facing. The O.K. Program is a national mentoring model for African American men and boys. The program brings together African American police officers and Pastors from around the country to recruit, train and organize African American men to mentor African American boys 12-18 years old.

MISSION

To develop partnerships between police officers and men in our community that forms a powerful relationship that changes interactions between the two groups. Working together, through the O.K. Program, police officers and black men can help young African American men develop leadership and critical thinking skills, while promoting academic excellence and good moral character.

METHODS

The men in the program are called “Teammates”, because the O.K. Program is based on a team-mentoring concept. Each teammate is important to the team’s success. This team concept provides the organizational structure necessary to allow black men an opportunity to take responsibility in helping to change the course of young African American males. Every Saturday, KIC’IT Session (Kids Interacting Communicating Immix Teammates) brings together O.K. Program police officers with African American men and boys. In these sessions strong relationships are built as men share life experiences with their younger counterparts

STRATEGY

An agreement was made between the Little Rock Police Department and Arkansas Baptist College to establish an O.K. Program in Little Rock with a goal to over time ultimately have a chapter in each of the High Schools in Little Rock.

1. Expand the O.K. Ministry as a mentoring model throughout this country, the goal, through the “One Hundred Thousand Strong African American Male Mentor Initiative”, is to enlist 100,000 African American men to mentor our boys.
2. Contact Community leaders and provide them with website information on how police and African American communities are working together.
3. Arrange exploratory meeting w/officials, Community leaders and O.K. Program Representative to discuss the possibility of bringing O.K. Program to your city.
4. Identify schools where the O.K. Program will be implemented and identify a police officer or officers to coordinate the program.
5. School administrators and teachers provide academic and citizenship information on the boys, in order for the officers and the men to be aware of the boys’ progress in school.
6. Young men in the program receive awards for their efforts, achievements and successes. By earning at least a 2.5 GPA and good citizenship each grading period,
7. The boys also qualify to participate in fun excursions to college and professional ball games, amusement parks and other exciting events.