CELEBRATING 36 YEARS OF SERVICE

RUNNING REBELS COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

2016 ANNUAL REPORT
A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Running Rebels has a long-standing commitment to supporting unity within our community. Running Rebels will continue to be a resource for individuals and organizations on the ground who believe in our community. The future of Milwaukee’s youth is our top priority. Through our Athletics, Juvenile Justice, Violence Free Zone and After School and Summer Educational Enrichment programs, Running Rebels mentors guide youth to make safe and responsible decisions. Our mentors inspire youth to become their best selves and to imagine what is possible. Whether a young person’s dream is to become an artist, entrepreneur, or obtain a college degree, we support them along the way.

Throughout this annual report, you will hear the voices of young people who are motivated and passionate about building a bright future for themselves. With the opening of our new building in the Harambee neighborhood on W. Capitol Drive, we are excited about helping even more young people achieve their dreams and become a greater force for unity. We are looking forward to the opportunity to create new partnerships and build on existing ones. It will take all of us to build the city into what we KNOW it can be. Thank you for all your support.

VICTOR BARNETT  DAWN BARNETT

FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  CO - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
**OUR EPIC MISSION**

The Running Rebels Community Organization **Engages** the community, youth, and their families, **Prevents** involvement in gangs, drugs, violence, and the juvenile justice system, **Intervenes** and guides youth by assisting them with making positive choices, and **Coaches** youth through their transition into adulthood. We accomplish this through building relationships with youth and providing the resources and skills necessary for them to become thriving, connected, and contributing adult members of our community.

**OUR GOALS**

- Create safe after-school and summer environments for Milwaukee’s youth
- Prepare youth for future careers and entrepreneurship
- Improve academic performance through tutoring and mentorship
- Avoid negative police contact by youth and involvement in the corrections system
- Provide youth with a sense of belonging and unity within their community

**OUR PHILOSOPHY**

Our philosophy is to nurture the development of our youths’ human potential and reduce violence, drug usage, and gang activity by:

- Keeping young people involved in beneficial, safe, and fun After School and Summer Educational Enrichment and employment activities
- Encouraging each youth’s hopes and dreams while supporting youth to achieve them
- Underscoring successful academic achievement as essential for responsible adult citizenship
- Employing supportive, caring adults who inspire trust and model the values, skills, and morals that we want at-risk youth to develop
ENGAGEMENT

Through campaigns and events Running Rebels engages the community, youth and their families. We collaborate with other local organizations and community members to create events and campaigns that support young people on the north side of Milwaukee.

PAUSE 4 PEACE CAMPAIGN

Running Rebels developed Pause 4 Peace to educate our youth on ways to handle conflict during high-risk situations. Milwaukee has lost too many of our youth and young adults because they did not take the time to PAUSE before acting on their emotions during these situations. During events throughout the year, we educate youth about the brain’s response to stress and the fight, flight, or freeze phenomenon that causes us to make poor decisions when we are most stressed.

300 STRONG MOVEMENT

The 300 Strong Movement was launched in 2015 to address the unique challenges and realities black youth face in Milwaukee. Running Rebels launched the movement along with a standout group of Milwaukee organizations such as We Got This, Boy & Girls Clubs, Universal Companies, and Common Council President Ashanti Hamilton and the City of Milwaukee.

Together, we are working to coordinate activities that offer exposure to career pathways and employment opportunities. We are creating safe-spaces where black youth can receive support and mentorship from adult black role models at a crucial time in their lives when direction and guidance is needed most.

"The movement is about creating and sustaining a network and continuum of support for young people and their families."

- Ashanti Hamilton, District Alderman and Common Council President
PREVENTION

AFTER SCHOOL & SUMMER EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT

Running Rebels After School & Summer Educational Enrichment Program is designed to support, cultivate, and bring out the best in each participant. Youth come to our After School and Summer program to play games, complete homework, work on computers, enjoy snacks, and participate in group activities or classes. We also offer a fully equipped, state-of-the-art video and audio recording studio. The multifaceted program operates every day after school, on Saturdays and throughout the summer. In addition, we participate in multiple special events on weekends and throughout the summer, such as festivals and other celebrations.

“Running Rebels has helped me learn to love myself.”

- Dorian T., After School & Summer Educational Enrichment Youth

AFTER SCHOOL & SUMMER SPOTLIGHT

Running Rebels Community Organization’s New Vines program introduces youth to landscaping and urban gardening, with an emphasis on learning how to grow food locally. New Vines participants grow vegetables surrounding our Central location in the Lindsay Heights’ neighborhood and assist in maintenance of Alice’s Garden.
The first priority of the Running Rebels basketball program is to teach young athletes how to succeed on and off the court. We focus not only on the skills of the sport, but also on how teamwork and dedication apply to our athlete's everyday lives.

The upper-level competitive club component of the program includes elite traveling teams that compete nationally and internationally against the top amateur players and competitive programs in the country. This component of the program is geared towards competing at the highest level of amateur athletics. We work to expose our players to a number of universities and colleges who are interested in providing scholarship opportunities.

Additionally, we run intramural leagues throughout the year for our Afterschool and Violence Free Zone youth. This component helps youth work on basketball fundamentals as well as teamwork.

“Running Rebels Basketball has simply changed my life. Before I joined the Running Rebels Basketball team, I never left Milwaukee. Not even my own neighborhood.”  

- Pierre J., Athletics Youth

The Violence Free Zone is (VFZ) is a school-based mentoring program providing students with additional personal, academic, and career support. Using the national VFZ model and partnering with Milwaukee Public Schools, Milwaukee Christian Center, and The Woodson Center, Running Rebels matches students with VFZ advocates who help them prepare for learning and reduce disruptions in schools. Advisors are highly visible throughout the entire school day. They encourage students to attend class, reinforce school rules, and mediate conflicts before learning becomes disrupted.

Violence Free Zone changed the way I view myself and how I look at others. I learned how to be patient, I learned people skills and I learned how to break out of my shell.

- Dariana M., Violence Free Zone Youth

| VIOLENCE FREE ZONE IMPACT | 7 MPS SCHOOL | 471 YOUTH SERVED | 3,550 MEDIATIONS FACILITATED |
Our Juvenile Justice Programming serves some of the hardest to reach young people in our community - those who have been adjudicated for criminal offenses. The goal is to provide an alternative to incarceration, reduce recidivism, and redirect youth onto a positive life course through research-based approaches and intensive support. We believe that even the most troubled youth have strengths and capabilities that can be developed through meaningful relationships, structure, and support.

**MILWAUKEE COUNTY ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAM (MCAP)**

Through MCAP Running Rebels pairs detained at-risk youth with advocates. Our advocates build strong relationships with their mentees by accompanying them to court dates, connecting with their families, and monitoring the youth when they leave detention. Additionally, Running Rebels runs daily one hour sessions with MCAP youth while in detention to help them change their thought process and make better choices.

“My advocate believed in me when I didn’t believe in myself.” - MCAP Youth

**A TRUE AFTER-CARE PROGRAM (ATAC)**

ATAC is our program aimed at keeping youth out of the juvenile justice system through a two-pronged approached. First, we work with the siblings of juvenile offenders in our Targeted Monitoring Programs. We provide each sibling with an advocate and opportunities to participate in Running Rebels’ activities. The second prong addresses recidivism. We work to prevent recidivism with former juvenile offenders who graduated from our Targeted Monitoring programs. Advocates connect these youth to education, career and life skills trainings.

“Running Rebels helped me become a better person by providing me with a job training program that helped me become certified in ServSafe (sic), food safety, as well as gain managerial skills.”

- ATAC Youth

"Before starting the program, I used to get upset easily and take my anger out on those that were around me... I was in a situation where I allowed a bully to get me upset, which led to me getting into big trouble. "

- IMP 2016 Graduate
Our Higher Education Learning Program’s mission is to make college attainable for Milwaukee’s youth. We provide HELP scholarship recipients with financial and emotional support through their college journey. Our main goal is to provide college-going youth with the means to become independent adults who will, in turn, give back to their communities.

“An education at Howard University comes with a price tag of $43,000. Looking at that number I should have ran for the hills. However, organizations such as Running Rebels believed in my ability to succeed and granted me a continuous scholarship.”

- Alethia T., 2016 HELP Scholarship Recipient

Pipeline 2 Promise is a collaborative movement between community organizations, businesses, government agencies, and community leaders addressing the needs of Milwaukee’s young adults. The mission is to provide job training, employment opportunities, scholarships, life skills and access to housing. The goal is to increase public safety and employment opportunities while assisting individuals to reach their full career potential.

In 2016, we helped 417 youth and adults gain employment.
FINANCIALS

Revenues

Contracts to Provide Services
Milwaukee County $2,291,180.00
Center for Neighborhood Enterprise $1,256,927.00
City of Milwaukee $251,051.00
Workforce Development $109,308.00
Wisconsin Community Services $62,085.00

Philanthropic Contributions
Grants and Donations $876,114.00
Other $311,375.00

Total Revenue 5,158,040.00

Expenses

Program Expenses $4,042,468.00
Management and Support $735,490.00
Total Expenses $4,777,958.00
Change in Net Assets $380,082.00

Net Assets, Beginning of the Year 970,651.00
NET Assets, End of Year 1,350,733.00

THANK YOU RUNNING REBELS SUPPORTERS

Running Rebels is extremely grateful to the many generous foundations, corporations, organizations and individuals who support our work at every level. Gifts from $5 to $50,000 help us to ensure that we can bring our high quality programs to young people who need them. In 2016 the following donors made contributions of $5,000 or more:

$100,000+
Zilber Family Foundation
The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation

$50,000 - $100,000
Joseph and Vera Zilber Family Foundation, Inc.
Greater Milwaukee Foundation
United Way/David and Julia Uihlein

$25,000 - $99,999
Milwaukee Repertory Theater

$15,000 - $19,999
Charles D. Jacobus Family Foundation
Forest County Potawatomi Community

$10,000 - $14,999
Schoenleber Foundation Inc.
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Ralph Evinrude Foundation, Inc.
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HOW TO SUPPORT US

Your financial contributions to Running Rebels Community Organization make a HUGE impact on the young people we serve and our entire community.

You can support us with a CONTRIBUTION ONLINE at www.runningrebels.org
OR make checks payable to:
Running Rebels Community Organization
225 W. Capitol Drive
Milwaukee, WI 53212