Dear Friends,

Support from individuals like yourself has allowed Running Rebels Community Organization to grow into a trusted community asset that engages over 2,500 Milwaukee youth annually in positive mentorship and safe places.

In 1980, at the age of 19, Victor Barnett saw many Milwaukee youth being pulled into a life of gangs, crime, and violence. Victor decided to use positive relationships and basketball as tools to engage youth and provide them alternatives to the streets. From this vision and action, Running Rebels was born.

39 years later, Running Rebels supports youth through After-School and Summer programming in Milwaukee’s Lindsay Heights and Harambee neighborhoods, provides alternative programs to youth incarceration, and offers a school-based mentoring program within seven Milwaukee Public Schools.

We are particularly excited to share that in 2019 we expanded our prevention mentoring with the launch of the Community Mentoring Program (CMP) funded by the State of Wisconsin. Many formal mentoring programs are only available to youth after they have gotten involved in the juvenile justice system. The Community Mentoring Program, however, provides youth who are not involved in the juvenile justice system with a mentor. CMP mentors work one-on-one with their mentees to help them accomplish their goals, graduate school, and connect to additional programming and resources.

Support from friends like you directly help Milwaukee young people realize their full potential.

Gratefully,

Victor Barnett
Founder & Executive Director

Dawn Barnett
Co-Executive Director
Running Rebels Community Organizations Engages the community, youth, and their families, Prevents involvement in gangs, drugs, violence, and the juvenile justice system, Intervenes and guides youth by helping them make positive choices, and Coaches youth through their transition into adulthood.

Our EPIC Mission

Our Goals

• Provide young people with a sense of belonging and unity within their community

• Create inspiring after-school and summer environments for Milwaukee young people

• Prepare youth for future careers and entrepreneurship

• Improve academic performance through tutoring and mentorship

• Help youth to avoid involvement in the juvenile justice system

“I have seen a big change in my son’s attitude and school participation since being placed in the Mentoring Program and being placed with a dedicated mentor”

- Parent of Mentoring Participant
Our Full Circle Capital Campaign

With support from visionary donors across the Milwaukee community, including critical lead gifts from the Zilber Family Foundation and the Bradley Foundation, Running Rebels closed its $4.1 million Full Circle Capital Campaign in 2019!

Goals & Outcomes

Goal 1: Increase Capacity to Serve Youth and the Community

- 3,248 young people were served in 2019 a 9% increase from 2018
- 943 young ladies served in 2019 a 20% increase from 2018
- 192 youth participated in Arts Programming 2019, a 137% increase from 2018
Was A Huge Success!

Goal 2: Expand & Improve Facilities

• Purchased the $2.6 million 225 W. Capitol Drive building.

• Renovated computer and tutoring lab at both locations for expanded homework help, resume writing, and financial literacy.

• Installed a new HVAC system to ensure a comfortable environment for youth and community members year-round.

Goal 3: Ensure Financial Strength & Sustainability

• Paid in full for renovations and upgrades at both facilities

• Retired debt on the Running Rebels building on Fond Du Lac Avenue

Thank you to all our campaign donors and to our Capital Campaign Co-Chairs Clifton Phelps and Marques Johnson!
As the lead Community Organizing group for Lindsay Heights, Running Rebels connects and empowers neighbors to improve the safety and quality of their community. Running Rebels works with residents and community stakeholders to engage, organize, and activate the neighborhood.

In 2019 Running Rebels organizers:

- Knocked on 782 doors.
- Engaged 531 residents.
- Organized 27 Community Clean Ups.
Running Rebels has enjoyed growing roots in the Harambee community after expanding to its East Capitol location in 2017. Running Rebels beautiful East facility offers a wide selection of youth programming, as well as family-based and community engagement activities.

**Events held at East in 2019 include:**

- **Harambee Community Clean Up:** Running Rebels collaborated with other Harambee organizations and residents to clean up the Harambee community.

- **Wellness Fair and Blood Drive:** 126 youth and community members attended Running Rebel’s Wellness Fair. Participants had the opportunity to attend a mindfulness training, give blood, and learn about local wellness resources.
Prevention

Community Mentoring Program Launch

Running Rebels secured a $1.2 million, three-year grant from the State of Wisconsin to launch a new Community Mentoring program. The program provides preventive mentoring to community young people ages 12-17. Youth learn critical self-regulation, de-escalation, communication, and decision-making skills needed to complete school, gain employment, and live a healthy life.

• 94 CMP youth completed their personal goals

After-School & Summer Enrichment

Running Rebels offers a safe space for Milwaukee’s youth to receive homework help, meals, and engage in leadership, arts, recreation, and educational programs. Youth come to our after-school and summer programs to grow as individuals and build a positive community.

• 1,560 youth attended After-School and Summer Enrichment programs, a 62% increase from 2018.

• 343 youth participating in Academic Enrichment, a 68% increase from 2018

“VFZ at Washington don't play, trust me! I have to get all my work in, every single assignment or I know that my VFZ mentor will know and soon everyone from the Rebels will be on my heels to compete my work.”

- Latrelle
- Washington High School of Information Technology
“I’m close to my mentor Danielle – she is always introducing me to new things like gardening, painting, and Milwaukee events. Before I came to the Rebels I was really shy, but Danielle made me feel really included. She pushed me out of my shell and now I am way more comfortable around people. I’ve learned so many things from the Rebels like how to become organized and to take chances. They also helped me in school too, they tutored me in math and my grade went up a lot.”

- Kelli, Community Mentoring Youth

Violence Free Zone

The Violence Free Zone (VFZ) is a school-based mentoring program that provides Milwaukee Public School students with additional personal, academic, and career support. VFZ mentors assist students who need additional school support by setting and accomplishing goals, strengthening their preparedness for learning, and developing strategies to reduce disruptions.

Data: 2019 – 2020

(Programming was cut short due to COVID-19)

- 7 MPS Schools
- 561 Violence Free Zone Mentees
- 27,521 One on One Mentoring Sessions

“My mentor helped me prepare for college”

- Kendall, Community Mentoring Youth

“VFZ has been great! They help my son during crises at school but also help him develop his passion for art after school at the Rebels.”

- VFZ Parent
- Roosevelt Middle School
Intervention

Community Mentoring Program Launch

Our intervention programs engage justice-involved youth. Through our intervention programs, we serve some of the hardest to reach young people in our community by building meaningful relationships, providing daily coaching, and using evidence-based curriculum to teach young people skills to think through consequences before acting. The goal of our Juvenile Justice Programs is to support young people in successfully completing probation while helping them to develop positive skills and to deter them from future involvement in the criminal justice system.

Juvenile Justice Programs:

- Milwaukee County Accountability Program (MCAP)
- Intensive Monitoring Program (IMP)
- A True Aftercare Program (ATAC)
- Intensive Monitoring Program – Aftercare (Aftercare)

“Mi mentor and Running Rebels kept me on track and helped me successfully complete the program.”

– IMP Program Graduate

“Youth Served: 394

94% of MCAP Youth Avoided Recidivism

92% of IMP Youth Avoided Recidivism

“I am so thankful for the MCAP team and their patience with me and my son. We struggled when he first entered the juvenile system, but I now see a positive change in him due to the Rebel MCAP team.”

– MCAP Parent
Coaching

Our Higher Education Learning Program (HELP) is focused on making college attainable for Milwaukee youth. Our main goal is to provide college-bound youth with the means to become independent adults who will, in turn, give back to their community. HELP coaches youth through their transition into college by providing emotional and financial support throughout their entire college journey.

- HELP awarded $15,000 to 10 scholarship recipients in 2019.

Workforce Development

At Running Rebels, we believe that connecting young people to jobs provides so much more than a paycheck. It can mean an introduction to a future career path, the ability to support a family, meeting a new mentor, and increased self-confidence. Recognizing the benefits of employment, all our mentors help their young people attain jobs by assisting with obtaining vital documents, resume writing, and interviewing skills.

“Running Rebels has helped me see working in the real world as a teen differently. My mentors have helped me with improving my skills. I’ve also learned a lot from my first job that I wouldn’t have learned at other places and I made lasting friendships. I learned so much that will help me in the future with other jobs and my occupation down the road.”  
- Amaya Youth Worker

“The HELP program’s support made it so that I could enjoy my last year of college and not stress so much about money. The program connected me with some amazing people and I appreciate that the program has helped other Milwaukee youth who are trying to make something of themselves.”  
- Charisma Carson HELP Graduate
Meet Our Mentees

Jourdan

"I am a recent graduate of Milwaukee Lutheran High School. This fall, I will be attending Parkland College in Illinois, where I plan on majoring in communications and playing basketball. I joined the Rebels’ basketball team in 2008, when I was 6 years old and I have stayed with the Rebels ever since.

After joining the basketball team, I became connected to other Rebel programming like Be The Change which is a male leadership program. The Rebels have taught me so much more than basketball - they taught me how to treat other people, how to be responsible, and the importance of working hard. My mentor and coach, Keelyn, is like a big brother to me. He’s always been there if I need anything from a ride to work to someone to hang out with. The Rebels make me feel loved and supported."

Lawrence

"The Running Rebels Violence Free Zone (VFZ) does conflict resolution when students are having arguments at school. They help youth talk about the problem, get to the root of the issue, and stop them from acting violently or aggressively. My VFZ mentor Shane had helped me stay out of trouble by teaching me to take a walk and to breathe when I feel myself getting angry.

Shane just gets me, he’s guided me through many situations at school and connected me to other programs like the Running Rebels’ basketball and gardening programs. He even coached me through getting a job by helping me with applications and interview prep. Shane is just awesome. Without VFZ, our school would be chaos. They keep everyone calm and are great mentors."
Jatavia

“I am a freshman at Milwaukee Lutheran High School. I love playing basketball and listening to music. My goal is to become an NBA sports broadcaster. The Rebels have supported my goal by teaching me how to work a camera and letting me do game reporting at basketball tournaments.

I've been going to the Running Rebels for about 4 years.
At the Rebels I participate in:

• Girls Group
• Leadership Group
• Basketball
• Art
• Audio/Visual and Entertainment Program

I am lucky to have many mentors at the Rebels, but the one I’ve known the longest is Ms. Whitney. We have a great connection and she is so welcoming. She’s super funny too. I love how she doesn’t give up on me, especially if I don’t want to do something, she always encourages me to at least try. She’s helped me become more creative and boost my confidence.

The Rebels have taught me a lot, like how to network, increase my basketball skills, paint, and how to breath mindfully. I love the staff. I really do. And I love meeting new people at the Rebel. It’s the best place to create bonds. While I can’t be at the Rebels now because of the pandemic, my mentors call me and I do virtual Rebels programming, which makes me feel special and more connected.”
## Financials

### Revenue

- Milwaukee County: $3,132,065
- MPS: $1,202,028
- State of Wisconsin: $400,000
- City of Milwaukee: $213,721
- Donations: $20,077
- Workforce: $12,000
- Other: $1,039,612

Total not including Capital Campaign: $6,019,503

Capital Campaign: $1,649,122

### Expenses

- Program: $5,444,036
- Management: $867,711
- Fundraising: $108,163

Total: $6,419,910
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Donor Recognition

Support Our Mission!

Your financial contributions to Running Rebels Community Organization make a HUGE impact in our community by providing a safe and engaging space for Milwaukee’s young people.

You can support us with an online contribution at runningrebels.org or send a check to:

Running Rebels Community Organization
225 W. Capitol Drive
Milwaukee, 53212

$500,000 +
The Zilber Family Foundation

$100,000 - $299,000
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