



**Running
Rebels
Community
Organization**

**2018
Annual
Report**

Message from the Executive Directors

Dear Friends,

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters, Running Rebels Community Organization made great strides in 2018, serving a record 2,500 young people – an increase of 1,000 youth over 2017! At our new East facility and our original Fond Du Lac Avenue location, we offered a wide selection of daily programming including intensive one-on-one mentoring, academic enrichment and tutoring, athletics, chess club, field trips, arts and music, workforce training and community engagement. We also served over 2,700 youth through the Violence Free Zones that we operate at seven Milwaukee Public Schools.

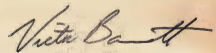
Equally exciting is the tremendous progress made on our Full Circle Capital Campaign. The Full Circle Campaign, chaired by **Milwaukee Bucks legend Marques Johnson and Clifton Phelps of JCP Construction**, attracted new donors and raised more than \$1 million toward our goal of \$4.1 million to support facility expansion and program growth.

For over 38 years, Running Rebels has been inspiring at-risk African American youth in Milwaukee, especially boys and teens, to find their purpose and create lives of accomplishment, integrity, and contribution. Ultimately, Running Rebels works to achieve three critical community goals that impact all of us:

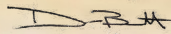
1. Prevention of violence in families, central city neighborhoods, and the entire Milwaukee community.
2. Reduction of incarceration rates among African American boys and men in Milwaukee.
3. Development of young men and women of character, who are engaged, committed, contributing citizens.

We believe that when we empower young people to see a better future AND approach them with a willingness to listen and understand, we can transform the trajectory of their lives. Support from friends and allies like you directly impacts the young people we serve, inspiring them to realize their dreams and achieve a successful future.

Gratefully,



Victor Barnett
Founder & Executive Director



Dawn Barnett
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 by building relationships with youth and providing the resources they need to become thriving, connected, and contributing adults.

Running Rebels is unique because of our intensive focus on relationships. We know that one positive adult role model can literally make the difference between a life of contribution and a life of destructive choices for a young person. Whenever possible, we hire mentors from within the community we serve. This way, young people get to know successful adults who come from similar backgrounds and understand the things they have experienced. Youth see that if adults who look like them and have faced similar challenges such as poverty, racism, or family struggles can move beyond those barriers to achieve a meaningful life – SO CAN THEY.

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 negative police contact and involvement in the corrections system

About the Campaign

The Running Rebels Full Circle Campaign is a \$4.1 million capital fundraising initiative designed to transform hearts, minds, and social and economic circumstances for young people living in Milwaukee's central city.



We are so proud to have **five-time NBA All Star and Milwaukee Bucks Legend Marques Johnson and local entrepreneur Clifton Phelps of JCP Construction as Campaign Co-Chairs,**

providing additional momentum and excitement to this critically important effort. With their help and the hard work of the Running Rebels Board,

Staff, and Campaign Committee, we have attracted support from donors throughout the community, including the Zilber Family Foundation, the Bradley Foundation, Burke Foundation, Daniel M. Soref Charitable Trust, Impact100, the Milwaukee Bucks Foundation and many others. In 2018 alone, we raised more than \$1 million toward our \$4.1 million

campaign goal, including a \$100,000 grant from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation to upgrade the HVAC system at our Fond Du Lac location and \$550,000 toward the East facility. As of June 30, 2019, the Campaign had raised just over \$3.17 million!



The Zilber Challenge: The Zilber Family Foundation, which generously provided a \$500,000 lead gift to start the campaign in 2017, has also offered a \$500,000 challenge grant to close the campaign. Running Rebels is currently seeking new donors to help us meet the Zilber match!



Campaign Goals

- Fund the purchase of a second community center in the Harambee neighborhood (225 W. Capitol Dr.) that triples our space and provides a gym, locker rooms, computer labs, catering kitchen, and expanded program space.
- Maintain our historic building, services, and presence in the Lindsay Heights neighborhood (1300A W. Fond Du Lac Ave).
- Increase our capacity to expand programs and serve more youth and families.



Engagement

We engage youth, families and the broader community through neighborhood organizing work in the Lindsay Heights and Harambee neighborhoods and by introducing youth to the rich diversity of resources, festivals, and events that our city has to offer. We truly believe that young people who build a healthy connection to their community are more likely to become civically engaged adults.

Lindsay Heights Central Location Highlights:

Running Rebels maintains a robust presence and leadership role in the Lindsay Heights neighborhood surrounding our Fond Du Lac location. As the lead Community Organizing group for Lindsay Heights, Running Rebels connects and empowers neighbors to improve the safety and quality of their community. This year efforts were focused on establishing cohesion among neighborhood stakeholders and resulted in a successful partnership with Walnut Way on a LISC grant.

In 2018 Running Rebels organizers:

- Knocked on 841 doors.
- Attended 28 Neighborhood Stakeholder Meetings.
- Organized 20 Community Clean Ups.

Harambee East Location Highlights:

In 2018, Running Rebels' beautiful new East facility offered a wide selection of youth programming daily. In addition, the gym and our location on the Milwaukee Beerline Trail has allowed Running Rebels to expand family-based and community engagement activities.

Events held at East in 2018 included:

- **Beerline Trail Mural Workshops:** 147 young people attended 4 workshops and created a beautiful community mural along the Beerline Trail. This mural will be seen by thousands of people who use the trail annually and will connect the broader community to the contributions and potential of our young people.
- **Coats and Cutz:** Running Rebels youth helped plan and staff this event that brought 118 people from the community to Running Rebels for free coats and haircuts donated by local stylists.
- **Don't Guess It, Get Tested STI Awareness Event:** 74 young people learned about protecting themselves and those they love from STIs and accessed STI screening.

**Running Rebels
provided a holiday
meal and gifts
for 213 youth and
families.**



Running Rebels youth performed music at 15 community events in Milwaukee in 2018.





960

youth accessed safe
After School and Summer
Educational Enrichment
Programming, including
204 youth who received
tutoring and academic
enrichment and 81 youth
who participated in arts
and music programming.

Prevention

After School & Summer Educational Enrichment

Running Rebels After School and Summer Educational Enrichment Program offers safe spaces for Milwaukee youth to receive homework help, play games, work on computers, enjoy healthy snacks and meals, and engage in leadership, arts, and educational programs. Youth come to our After School and Summer Educational Enrichment Program to grow as individuals and help build a positive community.



After School & Summer Spotlight

In 2018, 144 youth attended Be The Change male leadership development programming at least 2 or more times. Be the Change is a multi-year partnership program between Milwaukee Public Schools, Running Rebels, and the City of Milwaukee. Over the course of the summer and academic year, students participate in literacy enrichment and credit recovery courses supplemented by cultural and social development, health and wellness, and career and college readiness components. Be the Change serves to provide an outlet for young men of color and older adult role models to share concerns, exchange ideas, develop, and offer solutions to academic and social disparities.



"The Rebels have shown me how to become a responsible young man."

N. Warren, After-School & Summer Participant



Athletics

For 38 years, the Running Rebels Basketball program has been a platform for developing athletic excellence, building character, and offering a source of stability in the lives of young athletes. Rebel athletes receive mentoring from their coaches on and off the court. Coaches help athletes communicate with teachers, and obtain employment.

424

youth participated in Athletic Programming; learning good sportsmanship, perseverance, and teamwork.



"My experience with Running Rebels Basketball taught me how to be a better person by helping the community and working with others."

Cameron, 2018 Rebel Athlete





Violence Free Zone

7

MPS Schools

619

Violence Free
Zone Mentees

27,200

One-on-One
Mentoring Sessions

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 work directly within seven MPS middle and high schools assisting students who need additional school

support by helping them set and accomplish goals, strengthen preparedness for learning, and develop strategies to reduce and resolve conflicts responsibly. The goals are to support student success and create more peaceful and cohesive school cultures.

VFZ Schools:

- Alexander Hamilton High School
- Barack Obama School of Career & Technical Education
- Lincoln Center of the Arts
- North Division High School
- Roosevelt Middle School of the Arts
- Vincent High School of Agricultural Sciences
- Washington High School of Information Technology

"The VFZ staff are great mentors and inspirations. Being a part of the VFZ family throughout my three years at Roosevelt has shown me that I can do amazing things in life."

Maurion, Roosevelt Middle School of the Arts VFZ Participant

Juvenile Justice Program Impact

387

Youth Served

90%

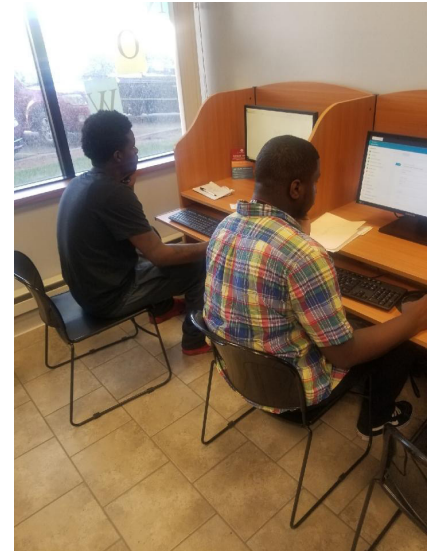
of MCAP Avoided
Recidivism

94%

of IMP Avoided
Recidivism

Running Rebels Juvenile Justice Programs serves some of the hardest to reach and highest risk young people in Milwaukee. These are young people who have been adjudicated and court-ordered for intensive mentoring as an alternative to incarceration. Running Rebels provides these young people with 24/7 mentoring and access to other positive arts, athletic, and academic programs, with the goal of getting them through their probation period and onto a more positive life path. Our professional mentors ensure that young people are attending school and acting responsibly at home and in their communities.

We believe that all youth have strengths that can be developed through meaningful relationships, structure, and support. We are very proud of the hard work that our mentors do to support and redirect these very high-risk youth. In 2018, we hosted four different juvenile justice programs: Milwaukee County Accountability Program (MCAP), Intensive Monitoring Program (IMP), A True After-Care Program (ATAC), and Intensive Monitoring Program-Aftercare (IMP-Aftercare).



Juvenile Cognitive Intervention Program Highlight

Our Juvenile Justice Programs integrates the innovative Juvenile Cognitive Intervention Program (JCIP), an evidence-based cognitive behavioral curriculum designed to disrupt negative thinking and behaviors. JCIP helps youth build pro-social skills, learn to control impulses, set positive goals, and avoid negative behaviors. JCIP teaches youth that they have the power to make positive decisions and create a meaningful future. Running Rebels is recognized as a premier provider of JCIP and the ONLY official JCIP trainer in Wisconsin.



"Running Rebels helped me make better decisions and build a better relationship with my father."

Intensive Monitoring Program Participant



"I'm so happy to have a wonderful team of individuals who care about my son and his future. The support we have received since being a part of the Rebels has helped us become closer as a family."

**- Milwaukee County
Accountability Program Parent**



"The HELP Program provided me with the opportunity to focus on school and graduate from two institutions this year. Worry about room and board is always a hassle. I was able to use the funds to pay rent and keep food in the refrigerator. The Rebels supported me greatly through my undergrad and inspired me to help others."

Demarcus Harris, HELP Alumni

Coaching

Higher Education Learning Program

Our Higher Education Learning Program 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 communities. HELP coaches youth through their transition into college by providing emotional and financial support throughout their entire college journey, including annual scholarships.

Congratulations to our HELP College Graduates!

- Alethia Tilford, Howard University
- Demarcus Harris, University of Michigan & Morehouse College
- Natasha Malone, Texas Southern University

HELP awarded

\$17,000

to 10 scholarship recipients in 2018.

Work Force Development

Running Rebels is committed to helping young people find, secure, and maintain meaningful employment. We know that connecting young people to jobs provides so much more than a paycheck. It can mean an introduction to a future career path, the chance to meet a new mentor, and increased self-confidence.

Specific workforce development opportunities include Pipeline2Promise, Earn & Learn summer employment program, Running Rebels Audio/Visual and Catering Businesses, Running Rebels Youth Employment Opportunities, and our Annual Youth Entrepreneurship Summit.

Running Rebels also works to establish partnerships with businesses in our neighborhoods and beyond. The businesses commit to hiring our young people and Running Rebels provides soft skills training and support to remove other barriers to employment such as transportation or childcare issues.



75 youth engaged in at least one of our workforce development initiatives.

81 youth participated in the 2019 "Go For It Youth Entrepreneur Summit."

Pipeline2Promise (P2P) is Running Rebels signature workforce development program serving primarily African American young people ages 18-27. P2P is a 6-month intensive training program that provides par-

ticipants with a combination of skills development, job readiness, placement, and retention support. Each participant works with program staff to create a personal development plan to determine specific strengths and

needs, identify short and long-term goals, and create an in-depth plan to build specific employment and educational skills. The goal is to secure self-sustaining employment and establish a meaningful career path.

Pipeline2Promise Program Highlight

Rebels In the News

MILWAUKEE BUSINESS JOURNAL

By Ken Reibel - Special to the Milwaukee Business Journal
Jun 22, 2018, 2:00am EDT

Women of Influence - Dawn Barnett: Mentor Co-Executive Director, Running Rebels Community Organization

Dawn Barnett's career began 20 years ago when she saw a boy playing with a basketball in front of her house.

"He was about 10 years old, and wearing a jersey that said Running Rebels," she said. "I stepped onto my porch and asked my neighbor, 'What is Running Rebels?'"

Barnett learned that the group was started as an outdoor basketball league by Victor Barnett in 1980.

"As soon as I heard that the program was recruiting mentors, my heart almost pounded out of my chest. I knew I had to meet Victor and that I was meant to be involved," she said.

Dawn met Victor, quit her restaurant management job, and became a community organizer. They later married.

"We didn't have a building at the time," she said. "But we both knew Running Rebels would succeed. Victor used to say, 'Something's going to come. Something's going to come.'"

The big break came in 1998, when Milwaukee County paid the group to supervise and mentor youth offenders sentenced to serve community service. The following year the program moved into a building at North 13th and West Vine streets.

"Milwaukee County liked the idea of a grassroots organization using its own people from the community as the remedy, or as its own internal medicine for youth in need of healing," said Barnett, 46.

Today, Running Rebels operates out of two central city locations, with an annual budget of \$5 million. It serves more than 1,000 youth ages 12 to 19. Offerings include a catering service, robotics classes, literacy and job training, lunch programs and more. Every year it awards \$25,000 in college scholarships.

"I had no idea that the journey would lead to where we are today," she said.



OnMilwaukee

By Lori Fredrich, Senior Writer
Published April 3, 2018 at 6:01 pm.

Running Rebels chosen as 2019 Care-a-lotta gala partner

Care-a-lotta, the charitable arm of The Bartolotta Restaurants, announced that it has selected Running Rebels as the partner for its 2019 gala. With a presence in the Milwaukee market for 25 years, Bartolotta Restaurants has made supporting local organizations a priority.



58 NEWS

By Stephanie Staudinger
Posted: Jun 29, 2018 5:04 PM CDT

Homecoming celebration held at local YMCA for Milwaukee's own Kevon Looney

MILWAUKEE (CBS 58) - Milwaukee's own Kevon Looney could be seen holding a genuine NBA Championship Trophy. Looney is now a two-time NBA champ as a member of the Golden State Warriors.

On Friday, he got to bring the trophy back to his hometown. Looney was the guest of honor at a homecoming celebration and peace rally at a Northside YMCA.



WISN 12 abc

By: Ben Hutchison
Updated: 7:59 PM CDT Sep 10, 2018

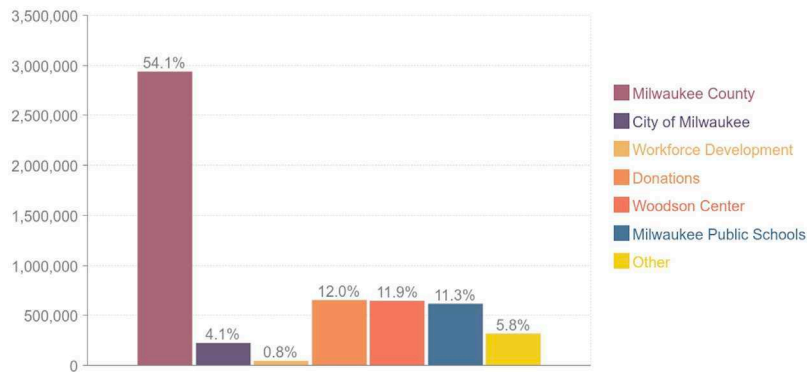
Milwaukee youth to peers: 'Jack a car, jack up your life'

Milwaukee youth sick of seeing carjackings across the city are hoping to speak to their peers through a public service announcement they hope will be released in a couple of months.

The "Jack a car, Jack up your life" social media campaign is being created by the Running Rebels community organization and UniteMKE. The city's Office of Violence Prevention is also supporting the effort.



Revenue



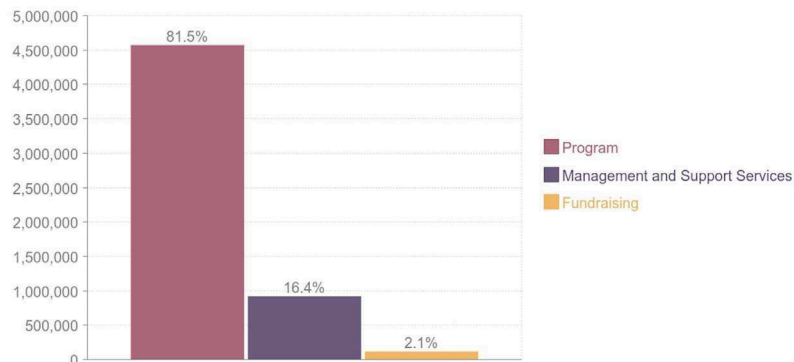
Milwaukee County - \$2,941,589
City of Milwaukee - \$224,819
Workforce Development - \$44,547
Donations - \$651,561
Woodson Center - \$646,445
Milwaukee Public Schools - \$613,428
Other - \$313,563

Total Revenue: \$5,135,952
 (not including capital campaign)

Program - \$4,568,625
Management & Support Services - \$921,653
Fundraising - \$116,425

Total Expenses \$5,606,703

Expenses



Acknowledgments

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 \$500,000 help us ensure that we can bring our high-quality programs to young people who need them. ***Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of our donor list for the fiscal year of January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018.*** If you notice something we missed or any inaccuracies, please contact us.

Abele, Chris
Adam, Charles
Aguilar, Francisco
Alan & Jacqueline Keltner Trust
Alberg, Bernard
Anaya, Zulema
Anon Charitable Trust
Art Pope Fund
Baird
Barnett, Victor & Dawn
Benes, Michael
Birts, Korletta
BMO Harris Bank
BR Companies
Brady, Josh & Carolyn
Brady Corporation
Branham, Daphne
Brewers Community Foundation, Inc
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Brice, Ann
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Brooks, Alenia
Brown, Jessie
Brown, Justin
Byneset Consulting, LLC

Cannon, Dwight
Carter, Tirrell
Catharine B. Stayer Family Foundation, Inc.
Chemek, Mark
Christensen, Kevin
Christy, Tom
Coe, Natasha
Cox, Stefanie
Coyne, Michael
Crivello, Laura
Cross, David
Cross, Sharon
Crysdahl Foundation, Inc.
Daniel M Soref Charitable Trust
Daniels, Dr. Donald
Davis, Camille
Davis, Walter
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Esenberg, Richard
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Fink, Caroline
First Bank Financial Services, Inc.

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Flennoy, LaWanda
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Frederick, Kay
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Gadacz, Susan
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Gavski, Lynn
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Gholston, Jacquelyn
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Hill, Angel
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Kehr, Anthony
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Keltner, Ted & Mary
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Klatt, Jeffrey
Kordsmeier, Constance
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Krause Family Foundation, Inc.
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Linnane, Patrick
Lloyd, Susan
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Lucey, John
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Malec, Matthew
Malone, Gil & Kathy
Malone, Kathleen
Marshburn, Everett

Martin, Tara
Martin, Elizabeth
MARVAN Charitable Fund
Mauer, Lisa
McFarland, J.
McNeal, Brigit
Medical College of Wisconsin
Melitta S. and Joan M. Pick Charitable Trust
Miles, Erin
Miller & Miller Law Office
Milwaukee County Juvenile Officers Association
Mitchell, Keyon
Mokolajczak, Marshal
Montamat, Stephen
Moore-Omokunde, Supreme
Morris, Elsie
Murrell, Anisha
Nash, Marva
Neilsen, Sarah
Nelson, Jessica
Nelson, Jacob
O'Connell, Michael
O'Day, Amanda
Pate, DeeDee
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Patterson, Lorant
Petersen, Rodney
Peterson, Kelly
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Shoates, Damon
Smeshko, Nikolay
Spence, Zenobia
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Story Hill BK
Superb Health LLC
Sutton, Marjorie
Swick Technologies
Tabak Law Office
Taylor, Denise
Terner, Gisela
The Milwaukee Bucks Foundation
The Richard Graber Fund
The Ros Foundation
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Thomas, Christy
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Wendelberger, Christel
Wilson, Samantha
Woodruff, Shane
Woodson Center

Woyak, James
Wunderlich, Mary
Yarborough, Denise
Yeager, Lindy
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Zdroik James
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Zilber Charitable Foundation

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Salon Devine
Skylight Theater
Susan Day
Swish Sports Bar & Grill

The Filling Station
The Tandem
Vertroue Transcultural Salon & Spa
Wisconsin Athletic Club

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, WI 53212**



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Delbert Williams - Vice Chair

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Gwendolyn Horton - Secretary

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Attorney's Office

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Brandi Patterson

Froedtert and Medica
College of Wisconsin

Carolyn Garski

Mallery & Zimmerman, S.C.

Jesse Lee Brown

Retired Milwaukee Public
School Administrator

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US Bank

Fred Tabak

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"Helping the Community from Within"

East Location

225 W. Capitol Drive
Milwaukee, WI 53212

Central Location

1300 W. Fond Du Lac Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53205

RunningRebels.org

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Sign up for our **eRebel** news on our website



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