



# 2020 Impact Report

40 Years of Serving Milwaukee Youth and Families





# Message from Our Executive Directors

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous support over the past 40 years, particularly in 2020. Your contributions, volunteering, and advocacy have allowed Running Rebels to grow from Victor Barnett engaging 50 youth in 1980 to a team of 130 professional staff serving over 3,000 youth in a typical year.

2020, however, was anything but typical. The global pandemic, civil unrest, and economic hardship deeply reinforced the importance of truly being there for each other. **Because you were there for us, we were able to safely connect 1,800 youth with engaging programming and caring adult mentors;** resulting in life-changing mentee/mentor connections during a time of social isolation.

COVID forced us to keep programming small to remain safe, but with your help we still had a BIG impact in 2020 including:



32,982

intentional one-on-one mentor/mentee  
conversations across all programs



9,005

mentor check-ins  
with parents



1,008

hours of tutoring and  
virtual learning support



268

goals completed by  
Community Mentoring youth

Like many of our youth and families, we adapted to meet the challenges of COVID -19 and adjust our services to the community's growing needs. In September, we began a partnership with The Gathering of Southeastern Wisconsin and Feeding America to provide weekly food boxes to families in need.

Virtual learning became another hurdle for our youth and families, so we pivoted our after-school tutoring center to a Virtual Learning Center (VLC). Youth who came to our VLC during the school day had access to computers, internet, meals, and community resources, as well as Education Coordinator who answered student questions and provide onsite academic assistance.

We believe families come together in times of need. Thank you for being a part of our family by supporting Running Rebels Community Organization.

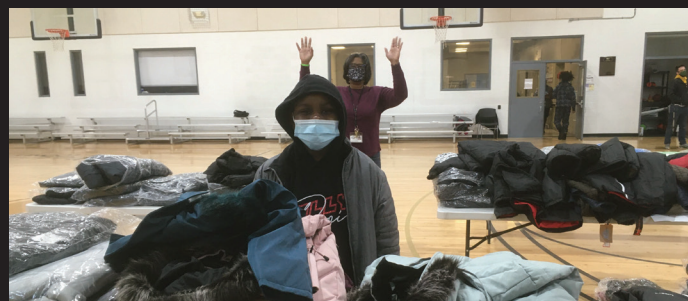
**Victor Barnett**  
Founder & Executive Director

**Dawn Barnett**  
Co- Executive Director

# Our EPIC Mission

## Running Rebels Community Organization

**Engages** the community,  
youth, and their families



**Prevents** involvement in  
drugs, violence, and the  
juvenile justice system



**Intervenes** and guides youth  
by helping them make  
positive choices



**Coaches** youth through  
their transition into  
adulthood





# Community ENGAGEMENT

We engage the community through organizing, connecting residents to resources, and hosting events.



## RUNNING REBELS IS THE LEAD COMMUNITY ORGANIZING AGENCY FOR LINDSAY HEIGHTS. IN 2020, OUR ORGANIZERS:



Collaborated with The Gathering of Southeastern Wisconsin on a weekly food give away to address the gap in food access caused by the pandemic.



Provided 600 residents with resources regarding voter registration, COVID-19, food & housing access



Organized 22 clean ups to beautify the Lindsay Heights Neighborhood

### COVID Safe Community Events:



Coat Give Away: We collaborated with Heal the Hood to give away 150 coats, hats, gloves, and socks in a COVID safe drive-thru event.



Harambee Community Clean Up: Running Rebels teamed up with other Harambee organizations and residents for on-going clean ups in the Harambee community.



Outdoor Open Mic: Rebel youth showed off their talents singing, reciting poetry, and displaying their artwork at Running Rebels' open mic.



# PREVENTION



## COMMUNITY MENTORING PROGRAM (2020 DATA)

Running Rebels' Community Mentoring Program funded by the State of Wisconsin provides preventative mentoring to community teens ages 12-21. Youth learn self-regulation, communication, and decision-making skills needed to complete school, gain employment, and live a healthy life. Community Mentors were critical in keeping mentees connected to their community, peers, and school during social distancing and virtual learning.



**4,167 intentional one-on-one conversations** with CMP mentees.



**150 youth matched** with a caring adult mentor.



**268 academic and personal goals completed** by CMP mentees.

## RECREATION AND ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

Following CDC guidelines, Running Rebels provided in-person and virtual recreation and academic enrichment to youth - many of whom needed a space to re-engage, re-connect, and thrive.

### In-Person and Virtual Recreation Programing



**612 youth attended** in-person & virtual recreation programming.



**187 youth received academic support** in our tutoring center

## PROGRAMS OFFERED:

- Male & Female
- Leadership Groups
- Unity Band
- Videography & Photography
- Gardening
- Athletics
- Financial Literacy



# PREVENTION



## VIOLENCE FREE ZONE

The Violence Free Zone (VFZ) is a school-based mentoring program that provides Milwaukee Public School students with personal, academic, and career support. During the 2020/2021 school year, Running Rebels' VFZ program played a major role in supporting youth, families, and partner schools as they navigated virtual schooling. VFZ mentors connected with parents to discuss their students' goals and challenges and helped families access food/technology. Mentors listened to their mentees fears and assured them they were not alone as many youth shared feelings of isolation, worry for loved one's health, concerns over parents/guardians' job security, and fear for the future.

### 2020 – 2021 School Year VFZ Data:

**7** MPS  
Schools

**513** Violence Free  
Zone Mentees

**19,235**  
One on One Mentoring Sessions

**53%**

of VFZ mentees  
surveyed showed an  
improvement in 2021  
attendance with an  
average growth of 12%

**78%**

of VFZ mentees  
report having positive  
relationship with  
teachers vs 47% of non  
VFZ MPS students.



# INTERVENTION

Through our intervention programs, we serve juvenile justice involved youth by building meaningful relationships, providing daily coaching, and using evidence-based curriculum to teach youth skills to think through consequences before acting. The goal of our intervention 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

**365** Youth served

**95%** of IMP youth avoided recidivism

**81%** of MCAP youth avoided recidivism.

## MEET OUR JUVENILE JUSTICE MENTORS



Traci Amos has been mentoring Rebel youth for 18 years and has been instrumental in the success of hundreds of youth.

**Her mentee Angel says** *“Traci pushes me to do better. She started working with me after I made some bad choices. Traci has shown me the importance of school and she holds me accountable for completing my court-ordered program.”*

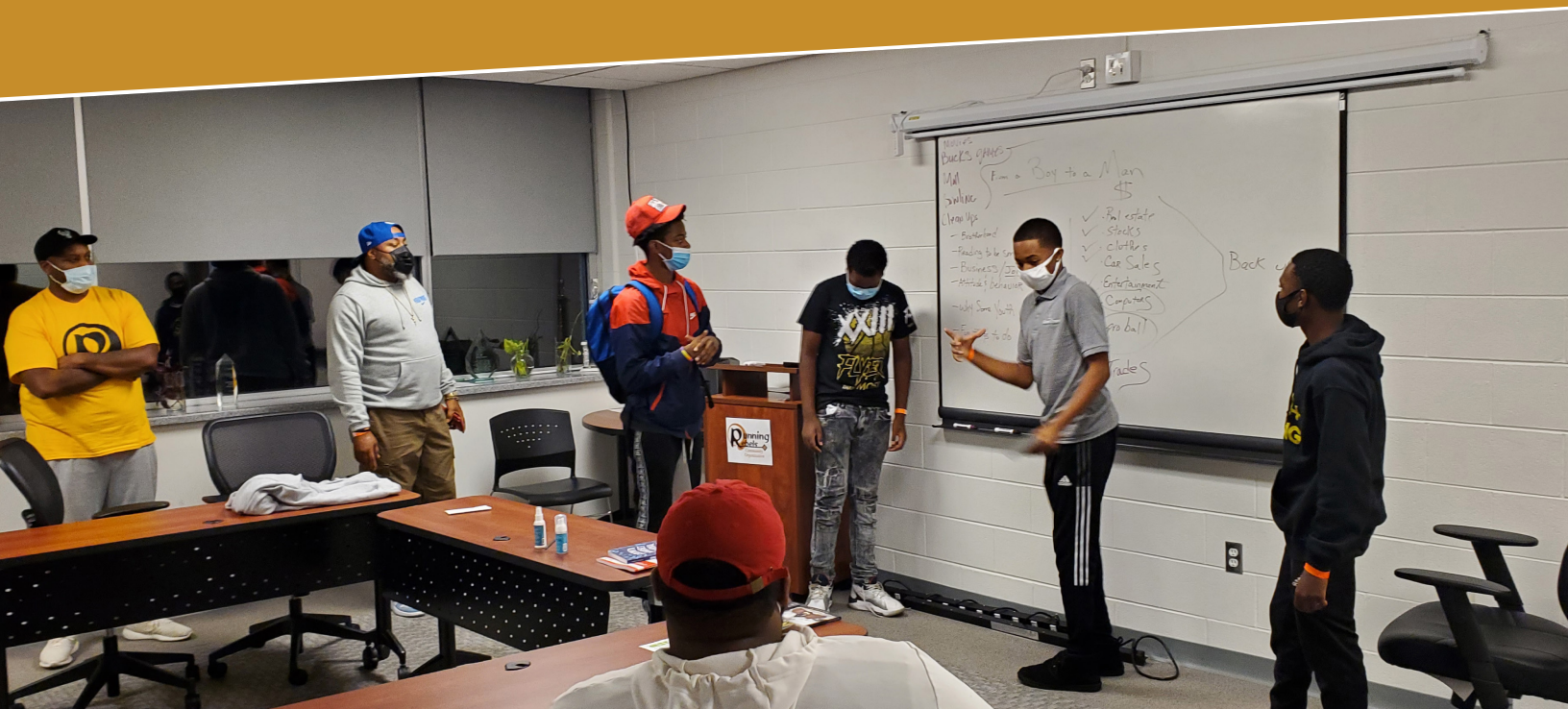


Hearold Dean is Lead Advocate with the Intensive

**His 16-year-old mentee, Maurion, explains his powerful relationship with Hearold:** *“I was placed in detention after getting into some trouble. I was really hurt and angry with the world while I was in detention. If I wasn’t connected to my Rebel mentor, Hearold, I think I would have taken my anger out in negative ways. Hearold really believes in me, which helps me believe in myself. He keeps me motivated, but also tells it to me straight when I need to hear it. I know that Hearold’s got my back if I need anything even just some advice or someone to talk to.”*



# COACHING



## HIGHER EDUCATION LEARNING PROGRAM

Our Higher Education Learning Program (HELP) is focused on making college attainable for Milwaukee youth. HELP coaches youth through their transition into college by providing emotional and financial support throughout their entire college journey.



**10 Milwaukee youth awarded a total of \$13,000** from Running Rebels HELP scholarship program.

## 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, our mentors help their young people attain jobs by assisting with obtaining vital documents, resume writing, and interviewing skills.



**Rebel mentors connected 66 young people to employment** both within and outside of Running Rebels.

# Meet Our Mentees & Mentors



## MENTOR MARVIN & MENTEES DAMARRION AND DAVIEON

Marvin Triggs has mentored brothers Damarion & Davieon since 2017 through our After-School/ Summer Programs and Community Mentoring Program. Both brothers say that Marvin has played a key role in their lives.

**Davieon, 16, says** “Marvin is a huge mentor in my life. He’s invested so much in me and he’s shown me how to invest in others. He gives me honest feedback, not telling me what I want to hear, but what I need to hear.”

**Damarion, 17, says** “Marvin checks in on us everyday. He’s helped me get my GPA up. Marvin has put so much time and effort into me. He’s patient , even when I’m being a lot.”



## MENTOR WILTON & MENTEE SYNTRELL

“I’m a 7th grader at Lincoln Middle School. I love going to the Rebels to hang out with my Violence Free Zone mentor, Mr. Wilton. Mr. Wilton is so funny! We laugh and joke a lot. He’s also a good person to talk to if I get frustrated or have any problems. I love how calm and patient he is when he talks with me. Without Mr. Wilton and VFZ, virtual school would have been really hard. He helped me get my grades up and introduced me to different activities at the Rebels like pool and discussion groups. He’s helped me become a better person.”



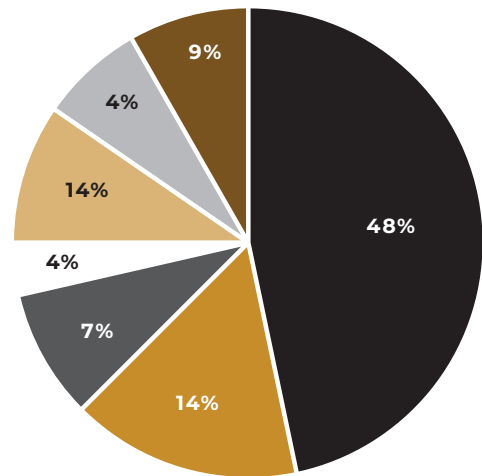
# Financials



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

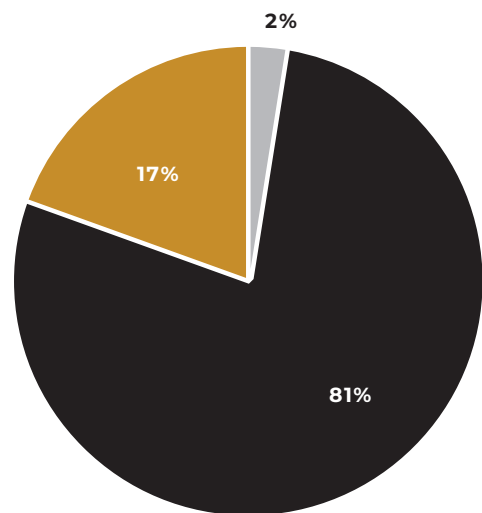
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## REVENUE



- Milwaukee County
- MPS
- State of Wisconsin
- City of Milwaukee
- Donations
- Workforce
- Other

## EXPENSES



- Program
- Management
- Fundraising

# Donor Recognition

**Support Our Mission!** Your financial contributions to Running Rebels Community Organization makes a HUGE impact in our community by providing a safe and engaging space for Milwaukee's young people.

## **\$100,000 - \$200,000**

Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation  
The Zilber Family Foundation  
Daniel M Soref Charitable Trust  
The Burke Foundation, Inc.  
\$50,000 - \$99,999  
US Bank  
Every Day Good Foundation

## **\$20,000 - \$49,999**

Diercks Family Charities  
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Milwaukee Area Labor Council





## **2020 Impact Report**

*40 Years of Serving Milwaukee  
Youth and Families*

### **East Location**

225 W. Capitol Drive  
Milwaukee, WI 53212

### **Central Location**

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Milwaukee, WI 53205

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