

# Program The Parks

## *Sherman Park Youth Initiative*

#WeAllWeGotMKE is a community movement that usually specializes in community policing, and mediation between the community and police, offering an alternative, but also bridging the gap. However, on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, myself and my partner Gab Taylor were made aware of violence and incidents in Sherman Park, which pretty much was summed up as out of control teens. We started a community patrol initiative in the park to make it safe and enjoyable for everyone, which at first started out as daily break ups and foiling of fights between teens from all over the city who would usually meet up at Sherman Park to handle beefs.

After the first "rock incident" between the youth and the police, we made a literal effort to be in the park EVERY SINGLE DAY from that point on to ensure that would not happen again. Other organizations, non profits, and community leaders joined us for a 3 day period, where "programming" was introduced, including the Office Of Violence Prevention, headed by Reggie Moore and the Mayors office, and more directly the Sherman Park Community Association. For 3 days, we made the park live and festive with African drumming, dance, kick ball, jump rope, football games, and poetry. After that 3 day period, myself and Gab gathered the community to help us keep that energy and positivity going through donations and volunteering.

We implemented weekly program days such as "Chili Tuesdays", "WeAllWeGot Wednesdays (Free MMA and Karate Lessons)", "Pizza and Movie Night Fridays", "Cookout Saturdays", and "Smore Sundays".

Along with community donations, we have worked with several organizations and leaders to bring resources, jobs, food, clothing, and even mentoring to the youth no one else would work with. Those who engaged in disorderly conduct, fights, etc. Those who once stole cars, ran away from home, etc. Some of these youth are now employed, and or on a completely different path since being a part of our program, which basically is just a showing of community love and unity, and letting them know they are cared about and everyone has not abandoned them, nor sees them as failures. We have a youth ambassador program which takes some of the most improved youth and spot lights their journey to change. Ones who used to be the main youth in fights, now help us break them up. Ones who threw trash all over the park now help us serve other children meals and keep the park clean.

Through an incentive program, we award these youth (when donations or funds are available) with gift cards, cash, and other incentives for their good behavior and work. We are looking to connect with the Brewers organization to sponsor and support these youth as well, whether that be through game tickets, baseballs, sports apparel/jerseys, or however your organization can assist. We started taking the youth to Brewers games during the 2016 summer, and they enjoyed themselves, some of them it being their first time going to a baseball game.



Teenage girl stands as park peacemaker despite any tensions |...

[youthriseemke.com](http://youthriseemke.com)





#WeAllWeGot

# **Program The Parks**

*Sherman Park Youth Initiative*

## **People's Public Pantry**

### **Program Information**

On Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Program the Parks initiative joined forces with Just One More Ministry to bring free food and meals to Sherman Park and the surrounding area. This service is free, no ID is required, and anyone is welcome to participate! We recognize that our community needs assistance on all levels, so additional to our youth programs we have implemented in Sherman Park since June 2016, we have always offered free food and meals to the community in the form of small community events like Cookout Saturdays, Pizza and Movie Friday, Chili Tuesdays, and Salad & Smore Sundays. As the weather has changed, so is the dynamic of our program. Just One More Ministry has committed to maximizing the efforts and resources our community has access to in Sherman Park. This service is not, or will not be limited to the Sherman Park area soon. A very simple and basic sign up and sign in process is required. Also note that we recommend you bring your own plastic bags, boxes, or paper bags to transport your items! This program was created with those who need additional food and meals, those who have been cut off assistance, or who are unable to keep food consistently due to poverty or mishap. Please keep others in mind while you take your items!

#ProgramTheParks    #WeAllWeGot    #JOMM    #PeoplesPublicPantry

Please visit the Program The Parks facebook page for further information!!

Or call 414-600-3623



# **Program The Parks**

## **Sherman Park Youth Initiative**

## **Program Outcomes**

### **Programs and program extensions outside the park include:**

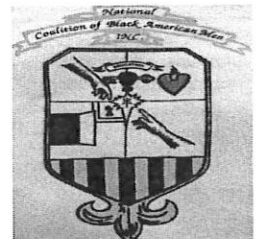
***Youth Stipend Program – The People’s Public Pantry – Cultural Community Library – Movie Nights/Pizza Friday – Chili Tuesdays  
Restorative Justice Program – Single Parents Club MKE – Community Cookout Saturdays – Salads and Smores Sunday – MMA Wednesdays***

In June 2016, Sherman Park was recognized as a hub for youth from all over the city of Milwaukee. Coupled with the lack of structured activities, it also became a hotspot for violence, robbery, vandalism, car thefts, etc. Being previously involved in community advocating, activism, and mentorship, we took those talents and experience and joined it with our Community Patrol initiative to bring a sense of safety, mentorship, and positivity to that space to ensure that the park could be a safe zone where all ages can share the space, but also to bring in services and programs to ensure positive alternatives would be available to combat the lack of positive things to do with the idle time of the youth.

The objectives of our program are proven effective when the past year is taken into account. Our number one goal is to provide safety to the community at large, but more directly, to ensure safety for youth in the park from outside dangers, as well as each other. This was accomplished by addressing the things the youth and community lacked, which directly attributes to crime and behaviors, which include resources, access to meals, lack of jobs, training, and opportunity. By implementing a seven day program, we implemented structures that addressed these issues. The hidden aspect is that we go after youth and people that most all other organizations and structures see as undesirable, unmanageable, and lost causes. Our approach is relating to the issues of people most are disconnected to. We understand the dynamics and culture of the demographic area, and by bringing back the attitude and practice of “It Takes A Village”, we have accomplished changes in that park and area in total in a short period of time.

Also, acting as “Community Resource Connectors”, we understand that there may be issues we cannot directly address ourselves at this time, so we use our knowledge of alternative programs and funnel appropriate people to those existing alternatives. For instance, we found that homelessness was a huge issue in the park. Numerous times we had to refer and connect youth to places like Pathfinders and other teen placement shelters. We also worked to bring other community leaders and organizations together to create an understanding, and even to provide mediation efforts to address issues between law enforcement and other community fixtures and the youth. For instance, the Sheriff’s Dept. and MPD did not totally understand why youth would not leave the park at 10pm closing time. Their response was to arrest and ticket, but we had to inform them of the huge problem last year of runaways and homeless youth who had nowhere to go, so they were sleeping in the park. This brought a more relaxed and considerate approach to address the issue, which successfully brought down confrontation between the two.

Through implementation of our Youth Stipend Program, we aim to train and offer entrepreneur style employment opportunities to at least 200 youth. Through our food program, we expect to feed 1000 youth and citizens, if not more. Through our educational initiatives, we hope to improve the grades and class behaviors of at least 200 students.. Through our Youth Ambassador program, we hope to expose over 100 students to experiencing their first trips to Bucks games, Brewers games, museums, and other opportunities to see the world they would not otherwise get the chance to through incentivizing good behavior and improving their grades. Through acting as community connectors, a concept offered by Senator Lena Taylor, we hope to connect at least 100 youth and adults to employers for training and employment. Through our community patrol program, we hope to continue to affect the crime in the park and the area as we did last year, bringing police/sheriff dept. calls down from 5-8 calls almost daily, to less than 1-3 a month. The police and sheriff presence is visibly unnecessary as of around late September of 2016, due to our proactive approach to preventing and stopping the fight and crime culture of the area, essentially making the park a safe zone. We also hope to help 100 youth and adults complete 1000 hours of community service and volunteer hours this year, whether court ordered or self- initiated, via our Restorative Justice program. We have worked with several existing community organizations and programs to help provide services we cannot, or to strengthen initiatives that address issues that range from homelessness, nutrition, and employment opportunities, such as Running Rebels, Food Justice, Growing Power, and Pathfinders.



# **Program The Parks**

## **Sherman Park Youth Initiative**

### **Program Agenda 2017**

*Current, New, and Upcoming Programs*

#### **Monday – MMA Mondays**

*Organized boxing training and self defense technique*

*courses free to all ages, 5 and up. Refreshments and fruit will be provided if donation funds are available. Game of Cans tournaments and free Karate Lessons by Lions of Judah are also available.*

*3pm – 10pm*

#### **Tuesday – Chili, Nacho, or Taco Tuesday**

*Free meal of chili dishes, and or nachos with refreshments will be provided by community members and or organizations. Anyone and everyone is encouraged to make their best dish!!*

*Possible games of football or kickball may be organized additionally as well, with possible prizes for winners.*

*3pm – 10pm*

#### **Wednesday – MMA Wednesday**

*Free Karate lessons, led by Timothy Montgomery and Robbyne Baylor. Cream City may also provide free organized boxing training as well. All activities are free for ages 4 and up, refreshments and fruit will be provided depending on available donation funds.*

*Game of Cans tournaments and free bike rides will also be available!!*

*3pm – 10pm*

#### **Thursday – Think Tank & Tutor Thursdays**

*Open meeting for community members and leaders on next steps and addition ideal programs.*

*We will provide young children with activity and coloring books, chess lessons, and soon we will have open community access to our #CulturalCommunityLibrary program. As the night falls, we will pull out our telescopes for those interested in star gazing or Astronomy. Newly added to our program, Thursdays will be designated for agriculture and gardening on the 41<sup>st</sup> street area of the park.*

*Game of Cans tournaments and free bike rides will also be available!!*

*3pm – 10pm*

#### **Fridays – Movie Night and Pizza Friday**

*Starting roughly around 6 pm, a projector and screen will be provided and a family/children friendly movie will be shown free for the enjoyment of the community. Pizza, subs, or a featured meal will be provided additionally as well.*

*Game of Cans tournaments and free bike rides will also be available!! Movies are generally shown starting at about 7:30pm.*

*3pm – 10pm*

#### **Saturday – Community Cookout Saturday**

*Every Saturday we will host a community cookout. Canned drinks, meat, grilled or bbq items will be provided.*

*Possible games of football or kickball may be organized additionally as well, with possible prizes for winners.*

*Game of Cans tournaments and free bike rides will also be available!! Agriculture and gardening training are also available!!*

*12pm – 10pm*

#### **Sunday – Salad or Fruit and Smore Sunday**

*We will provide a healthy meal of salad or fruit and possibly grilled or baked chicken or sandwiches with refreshments.*

*As the night approaches we will pull out the fire pit and provide the opportunity for smores!! All ages welcome, very family friendly! Game of Cans tournaments and free bike rides will also be available!!*

*5pm – 10pm*





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*Donate @ [Paypal.me/WeAllWeGot](https://www.paypal.me/WeAllWeGot)*



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# **Program The Parks**

## **Sherman Park Youth Initiative**

### **Additional Program Info and Guidelines**

All youth and families must know the parks officially close at 10pm legally. Participation in our program is free, all that we ask of our youth and families is to adhere to our program guidelines.

1. We must keep the park clean and safe for EVERYONE to enjoy
2. No fighting
3. No use of weapons
4. Respect the space. Keep language down, cursing to a minimum, especially in the presence of elders and children.
5. Respect our program and any staff or volunteers associated with our program. We are here for YOU!

Clean up is required either prior to or after meals. Do not throw any trash on the ground!! Garbage cans and bags will be provided. Youth will be given an opportunity to assist our program as volunteers or become youth ambassadors who regularly assist us. Youth ambassadors, who are youth recognized for their leadership qualities and taking initiative to lead will be rewarded with stipend opportunities, gift cards, extra snacks, etc.

## **Additional Program the Park Initiatives and Programs**

### **The Peoples Public Pantry**

*This program will provide a free pantry style program for families who need additional assistance with food.  
No ID required!! This program is through a partnership with Just One More Ministry*

### **Cultural Community Library**

*We are building a community library, culturally centered, but also a computer lab and open classroom for tutoring, job readiness trainings, and more.*

### **Youth Stipend Program**

*This program is geared toward employing and empowering ages 12-25 by finding them work opportunities, or connecting them to companies, businesses, and organizations willing to employ them. Our program will put up funds they can earn through participating in our job trainings and community events.*

### **Restorative Justice Program**

*In conjunction with the Youth Stipend Program, we will provide the opportunity for all ages to document and sign up for community service hours or volunteer forms. These can be used on resumes, or can be used for those on Probation or Parole to document their time is being used constructively servicing the community.*



#WeAllWeGot

*Donate @ [Paypal.me/WeAllWeGot](https://www.paypal.me/WeAllWeGot)*



## Community Young Adult & Youth Violence Prevention Action Plan

In the past 4-6 months we have recognized a need to address some extremely dire issues concerning our inner city and disadvantaged youth. Ages 12-22 are in a range of young people who are likely to engage in negative, negligent, and criminal behavior due to a number of factors. I believe a community led and 2<sup>nd</sup> chance approach is necessary to address and correct a lot of these cases from not only reoccurring, but proactive prevention as well. Through working with youth in Sherman Park, we directly came across dozens of youth who had been previously, or were even at that time still engaged in criminal or violent behavior. We found that most of these youth had circumstances that directly led to them essentially giving up on life and not caring about things they did. This, coupled with drug and alcohol use, issues at home, poverty, and a general lack of positive and accessible structured activities and programs, led to them having large amounts of idle time on their hands, and peer influence to participate in making bad choices. Through implementation of structured programming and activities, we created a space to address idle time. Next, we reinforced the programs and activities with mentors and a supportive atmosphere to help see into their key issues as individuals, in hopes to eliminate or alleviate as many of their personal problems as we could assist with. Lastly, knowing that poverty has a direct affect on crime, we introduced opportunity for young people to become entrepreneurs, build job related skills, and connect them to existing job opportunities.

That being stated, we propose a unified front to address these same issues on a larger scale. With the abundance of city owned property, I believe we have an opportunity that can address a number of issues. Each district affected by these problems should allocate 3 properties to be used as resource centers to address youth, general homelessness, and veterans issues. I believe all aldermen and alderwomen who live in districts that have these issues should support this plan of action. I believe adequate proof and evidence are available that suggest that when more opportunity is available, people are less likely to engage in or look to crime to support themselves. These resource centers can be used as safe spaces to address missing persons, amber alerts, run aways, general community concerns and complaints, teen employment training, landlord complaints, and more. I also think these can be great checkpoints to bridge communities to their aldermen and women on a more regular and consistent basis. This can be coupled with our Single Parents Club initiative to help support single parent households.

Additionally, I believe this can be an opportunity for Restorative Justice to be implemented. Community service hours can be assigned and monitored to young people on probation. Group home youth can be linked into services, mentors, and more. Those aging out of group home services can come and have access to workshops, trainings, and empowerment, including classes on credit, financial literacy and management, stocks and investments, and independent living.



#WeAllWeGot

WeAllWeGot MKE, LLC



The National Coalition of Black American Men, Inc.

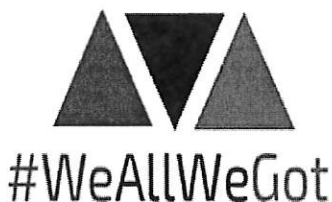


# Client Population

***Programs and program extentions outside the park include:***

***Youth Stipend Program – The People’s Public Pantry – Cultural Community Library – Movie Nights/Pizza Friday – Chili Tuesdays  
Restorative Justice Program – Single Parents Club MKE – Community Cookout Saturdays – Salads and Smores Sunday – MMA  
Wednesdays***

Our program services target ages, which varies depending on program and service. Essentially our services are free to all ages, although we target youth, we service adults and parents as well to increase impact. Our base programs however, specifically those that include employment, meals, and outreach, target ages 13 – 24. This is the range of the most common people that participate in our program. Because Sherman Park is known as a hub for disadvantaged and economically disparaged youth, our program is essential to the area. These youth centralize in Sherman Park, but live and commute there from all over the city of Milwaukee, a large number of them coming from zip code 53206. The visual implementation of our services draw ages below and above the 13 – 24 target range. For instance, parents with small children usually enjoy participating in our free Community Cookout program on Saturdays, while those 35 – 70 enjoy our free Peoples Public Pantry program.



***Non Profit Status – The National Coalition of Black American Men, Inc.***





## Program Background 2016

*Established June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016*

*Launched Haunted Park Party event Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>, which featured a giveaway of 8 new bicycles*

*Held 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual RBGiftMust program Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, adopted/sponsored 8 families, gave away over \$500 in free toys to disadvantaged youth and families alongside Running Rebels. This initiative was created in 2015 to uplift families who lost a loved one to some form of violence or tragedy and left children behind.*

*Created and Launched #PeoplesPublicPantry late 2016 to provide free vegetables, canned goods, meats, and other food needs for the park youth and surrounding area families*

*Received a recognition award from #300Strong at the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Eric Von Memorial BMA awards*

*Launched #CommunityCookout program on Saturdays to offer free meals to youth and surrounding families*

*Created and Launched #YouthStipendProgram November 2016, which gave at risk and community youth training and opportunity to earn stipends through community service. This program was created in the spirit of entrepreneurship and to give a positive and productive outlet for youth to make their own money legitimately, while also rebuilding relationships with the community around them. Services such as snow removal, leaf raking, and lawn care are offered free to senior citizens and disabled.*

*Drastically affected the crime in the park and surrounding area between June and December. The volume and severity of police calls drastically changed, and can be directly attributed to our proactive work and services.*

*Created and launched a back to school drive which we will keep going annually*

*Created a direct link and platform for youth to openly and freely engage with public figures, elected officials, and other prior out of reach individuals, such as Senator Lena Taylor and many others.*

*Bridged gaps and connected youth to services and programs to address their underlying issues such as homelessness, lack of resources, mentoring, and more.*

*Brought in trainers and self defense coordinators to teach skills as a means of discipline and conflict resolution. This led to programs such as #MMAWednesdays*

*Led efforts towards community and police relations prior to and after the uprising in hopes to keep tensions at bay between the teens, community, police, and organizational entities in the area.*

*Created safe space atmosphere in Sherman Park, including making Sherman Park No Fight and No Stollies Zones.*

*Provided pantry items and meals for over 1000 youth and community members between July and December 2016.*





# Staffing/Volunteers

***Programs and program extentions outside the park include:***

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Restorative Justice Program – Single Parents Club MKE – Community Cookout Saturdays – Salads and Smores Sunday – MMA  
Wednesdays***

Our program has only 2 consistent “staff”, which are the program Founder and Co Founder. However, we have a base of supporters and parents who assist facilitate and secure events, services, and activities whenever their schedule allows. Volunteers are encouraged, and taking into account we work with teens who may have probation or parole agents, we have developed forms for those who volunteer for community service hour commitments.

Most of our volunteers happen to be parents whose children frequent the park. We hope to provide CERT training, CPR training, and basic safety and de-escalation trainings. Anyone who works with us goes through a screening process, which includes background checks to ensure pedophiles or violent offenders are not a danger to the youth and community at large. Even so, about 75% of our programming and activities are facilitated by the founder and cofounder to ensure things are ran in safe and efficient manner. Several of our support volunteers are also current or former educators.



# **Program The Parks**

## **Sherman Park Youth Initiative**

### **Program the People - Transitional Teen Open Housing Facility**

The launch of Program the Parks Youth Initiative in 2016 revealed quite a few things about the conditions and issues of young people in Milwaukee. One of the most intense realizations we came to, was the fact that a large number of teens were homeless, bouncing house to house, or dealing with lack of things like food, electricity, parental structure, safe and clean water, even evictions.

As we continued to build relationships with the young people in and around Sherman Park, they developed a trust and respect for us. They confided that some of them were currently in group home or foster care settings where they were experiencing abuse, neglect, or were left to fend and do for self while money was made from them simply occupying a bed. Our young people are very well aware through a heightened awareness of when a person is being genuine or using them.

Transitional Teen Open Housing will be a safe haven for teens who may be homeless, potentially runaways, or a space for general resources, opportunity, and socializing. We are looking to provide trainings, mentorship, and a system of utilizing ourselves as community connectors, who can essentially funnel them into existing programs that we may not offer, but that they may need to serve them in the maximum capacity. Some of the trainings we hope to provide are

CPR - C.E.R.T. - CBRF - CNA - Carpentry/Construction - Silk Screen Printing - Parenting Skills  
Graphic Design/Media - Community Home Ec (Life Skills) - Audio Engineering/Studio - Entrepreneurship  
Basic Rights Trainings - Restorative Justice - Community Service - GED/College Prep -  
Conflict Resolution - Anger Management - Addressing Mental Health - Tutoring Services -

We will also work with these youth to ensure that they transition successfully into adulthood well equipped with proper life skills. Mentorship with a big brother/sister approach, but also offering reintegration and rebuilding relationships with the community around them is essential. They must see value in themselves, and in turn they will see value in those around them, which can be done by addressing their root issues instead of addressing issues that are a RESULT OF the root issues.

# Program The Parks

## *Sherman Park Youth Initiative*

### Youth Stipend Program Event

We have recognized this city is in need of plausible and practical solutions to address crime, poverty, and employment, especially when it comes to the age group of 12-25. The events of Sherman Park over the past few months have driven home the need for change in Milwaukee, and it has shown us that we cannot necessarily wait for our elected to provide those things. We are aiming to take a proactive approach to address our communities most dire issues.

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 we will jump off an effort to employ the youth and young adults of Milwaukee in an effort to service their communities. Program the Parks and Running Rebels have come together this fall season to offer one of many services to our cities elderly and disabled for free, which is part of a larger initiative to provide and bring opportunity to those who most need it.

### What is this program and how will it work?

Running Rebels, and Program The Parks will be offering a stipend of \$20 for youth to come together from different organizations, sides of town, and backgrounds to rake lawns for our cities elderly and disabled.

Each organization will feature some of their respective youth to participate, but a limited number of youth are open to sign up and participate as well for this one day event. However, the sign up process goes beyond this one day of unified service. By signing up with your area's respective organization, you can take advantage of a year round employment opportunity, in which youth ages 12-25 can rake leaves in the fall, shovel/remove snow in the winter, and be trained in lawn care for the summer months as well.

As a resident who is not elderly or disabled, you can sign up to support our youth by paying \$20 or sponsoring to have someone's lawn raked, shoveled, or mowed. By signing up online or at your respective youth organization location, you help eliminate us having to go door to door and signing people up who may not want the service. The work will be done in crews of 4, which will be essentially broken down to be \$5 per crew member per yard. This minimizes the time it takes to finish a yard, and maximizing the amount of yards to be done in the allowed work times. Donations of rakes, shovels, gloves, etc. are also welcomed and encouraged!!

For more info contact  
Vaun Mayes – Bey 414-600-3623



# MKE

## Single Parents Club 2017

Founded by Lynaettia Parker and Vaun Mayes in January 2016, this initiative was put into action to address one of our most prevalent issues in our community. Single parents have it hard in a sense of maintaining their personal responsibilities and lives, work, bills, and raising children. In the past 1 or 2 years, the relief resources and programs they could usually count on, have been gradually reduced or altogether cut off.

This group is meant to recognize both single mothers AND fathers, and general families inbetween who have fallen on hard times and just need help. This collection of us who are in positions to assist in the following services

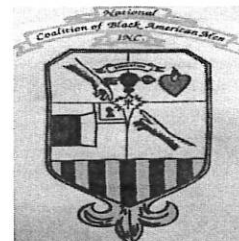
- Rides to and from work/school, or cash for bus passes
- Have clothes to donate or cash for clothes (Newborns, etc)
  - Have misc baby items to donate
  - Adopting a family for a holiday or event
- Willing to purchase or donate towards groceries
- Info or plugs on job opportunities for new parents

Donations can be given directly to the person in need, or to key “staff” of the Single Parents Club. Do NOT give any donations to anyone who isn’t recognized as a go to person of the group. We also ask that for people receiving help, do NOT sell any items donated to you. If you don’t need the assistance, don’t take the opportunity from someone who does need it. Through trial and error in our first year, we found out the hard way that there are people who will try and take advantage of people’s kindness.

**#WeAllWeGot**

**#ItTakesAVillage**

**#SingleParentsClubMKE**



# **Program The Parks**

## **Sherman Park Youth Initiative**

# **Program Information**

### **Programs and program extensions outside the park include:**

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**How will we positively impact zip codes that suffer from significant racial disparity?** As a product of zip code 53206, I understand and know first-hand what racial disparity looks like applied to real life situations living in the city of Milwaukee. Looking around and seeing the lack of plausible and sustainable work, resources, even essentials such as quality and consistent meals and housing, I recognize the need for something that addresses these issues. Our program tackles those issues and more head on, providing opportunities, or at the very least a link to those we link.

**How will we prevent future incarceration of program participants?** By simply providing alternatives to negative behaviors and lifestyles. Giving people access to critical assistance and opportunity, whether that be a meal, clothes, jobs, or simply a true sense of mentorship to depend on in times of struggle and need. Poverty can be directly linked to spikes and rises in crime, and even violence. If a person is hungry or has nothing, they are likely to be victims of high stress, anger, and are more likely to engage in activity with a loss of care for consequences.

**How will we increase access to programming and recreation offered in Sherman Park?** We understand most people lack, first of all, the information of existing programs and services. Aside from our daily routine, we can funnel people who need services to those who offer the services they need through acting as community connectors.

**How will we decrease the incident of violent crime committed by youth?** By addressing the root causes and issues of why people are engaging in those behaviors in the first place. Until we address the poverty, education failures, and or mental health issues of people, crime will continue to rise. We recognized situations of extreme poverty, homelessness, etc. We worked with those youth one by one to see what we could do to help alleviate those stresses and issues they faced additional to their need for structured activities.

**How will we improve classroom behavior, school attendance, and reducing the rate of dropouts?** By providing more of a mentor and big brother/sister approach they can count on where parenting may lack at home. Youth in our program know they can call us at any time if they have no food at home, if they need help with personal issues, if they are being bullied, even in fits of potential suicide. They understand this is not just a “program”, but a genuine second family. We check on them regularly to make sure they aren’t fighting, help them get to school, and incentivize good behavior and accomplishments.

**How will we improve employment outcomes of clients served?** Our program improves opportunity and the consistency of work available by creating jobs to take advantage of between jobs. Our youth stipend program, which I accredit to the program of Andre Lee Ellis, utilize community based work coupled with community donation based incentives for participation.

**How will we foster community relations?** Our program believes that implementation of community based work and programming, we are bridging the gap between ages, as well as between peers from different “hoods” by having them work alongside what would usually be a peer from a “rival”. The visual implementation also raises the moral and hope of those who are usually akin to seeing negative images of teens in the city. We seek to return to the “It Takes A Village” mentality, and erase the disconnect in our communities.





# **Program The Parks**

## *Sherman Park Youth Initiative*

### **What Is Program The Parks?**

Milwaukee has quite a lot of non-profit organizations. Organizations who are business as usual, organizations with set hours, then clock out and head for home, organizations who continuously receive funding, yet don't necessarily impact the community nor individuals' lives past single events.

Program The Parks is a community led, true grass roots movement. Although we focus on disadvantaged youth, we service all ages in multiple aspects. What truly sets us apart from other copy and paste orgs? Well, the unique lane we have built has and continue to build highlights our ability to work with and change the ostracized youth and adults. The youth and adults other organizations cannot reach. The ones who fall through the proverbial gaps. The ones no one wants to deal with. Our services are not limited to one or two strengths, but we have found the formula to unify all aspects of social service and activism, including employment, education, mentoring, food/nutrition, fitness, health, self defense, conflict resolution, address community & police relations, and much more.

We offer services that are completely free and available to the public, and also uniquely, we readily connect people to any program or service we may not cover.

Our movement is based in Sherman Park, but is not limited to Sherman Park. Our youth are reached in Sherman Park, yet do not necessarily live in that area or zip code.

During the several days of uprising, what other organization can say they were in the streets saving lives and peace keeping?

While others sat at home watching the events unfold, only to later jump into the fray of millions of dollars of funding by vowing to do work in the area post uprising, our program's staff made sure everyone made it home safe, free, and whole. While others continue to start trying to have the conversations over and over about the same issues we held talks about prior to the uprisings, we are implementing solutions so further talks are not necessary.

*Our program currently is funded by the people via donations and volunteering.  
To help support us, please donate @ [paypal.me/WeAllWeGot](https://www.paypal.me/WeAllWeGot)*

### **Some of our current and upcoming programs 2016-2017**

#MovieNights      #PizzaFridays      #PantryInThePark      #PeoplesPublicPantry      #MMAWednesdays      #ChiliTuesdays  
#HauntedParkParty  
#CommunityCookoutSaturdays      #SaladAndSmoresSundays      #MobilePantry      #StarGazersAstronomyProgram      #CurriculumCamp  
#CocoaAndCoats  
#TacoAndTutorThursdays      #BeautyAndBarberMondays      #AfricanArtsAndDance      #YouthStipendProgram      #RBGiftMust



# ***Program The Parks***

## ***Sherman Park Youth Initiative***

### ***Restorative Justice Program***

Starting November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 #WeAllWeGotMKE and Program the Parks will implement our Youth Stipend Initiative, which will both offer community services, and year round youth employment via lawn care, snow removal, and leaf removal. The service will be offered to elderly and disabled for free, which will essentially be made available for felons, those on probation/parole, or those who need community service hours.

Others can participate and take advantage of the stipend program, where we train youth ages 12-25 in lawn care and more. Community members can sign their youth up to participate, or sign up to have their yard serviced by our youth.

For those who sign up for our Restorative Justice Program, we have registration forms on which they can provide information on their case, amount of hours needed, and any agent/case worker information so that their hours can be documented and verified. We aim to give young adults an opportunity to reintegrate and service the community they may have wronged previously. Here at Program the Parks, we believe our youth need a chance to prove they can change, and given a genuine opportunity to do so. They will be given an opportunity to serve meals, help set up events, pass out flyers and literature, and more. They will also be given mentoring, job opportunities and information, access to computer literacy, email, and resume training. Additionally, we show our youth a more correct and civil way to address community/police relations. This program is our alternative to incarceration for non-violent, non-sex related crimes.



#WeAllWeGot

# **Program The Parks**

*Sherman Park Youth Initiative*

## **Partnerships and Collaborations**

**Programs and program extensions outside the park include:**

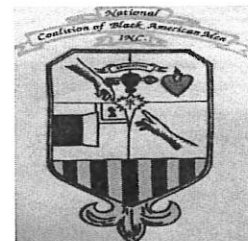
***Youth Stipend Program – The People’s Public Pantry – Cultural Community Library – Movie Nights/Pizza Friday – Chili Tuesdays  
Restorative Justice Program – Single Parents Club MKE – Community Cookout Saturdays – Salads and Smores Sunday – MMA  
Wednesdays***

We have made several partnerships and collaborative efforts since our program launched June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016. Partners and collaborations will essentially fill in the proverbial gaps of our program, assisting to provide resources and services we cannot, or enhancing the range of our key programs. Partners and collaborations do not only include organizations and corporations, but elected officials, faith based orgs, and community partners. Since June 2016, we have collaborated and or worked with Running Rebels, Food Justice, Growing Power, several local pastors, Sherman Park Community Association, Safe and Sound, A Cry For Help Foundation, Office of Violence Prevention, Safe Zones, Bader Philanthropies, Just One More Ministry, WNOV 860, Homer Blow Radio, Senator Lena Taylor, WISN 12 News, and others.

These collaborations and partnerships have manifested through successful events such as Coats and Cocoa Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual RBGiftMust 2016 (Toy Drive), Haunted Park Party (Halloween), our September Back 2 School Drive, the launch of the Peoples Public Pantry program, and the launch of our Youth Stipend Program in November 2016.

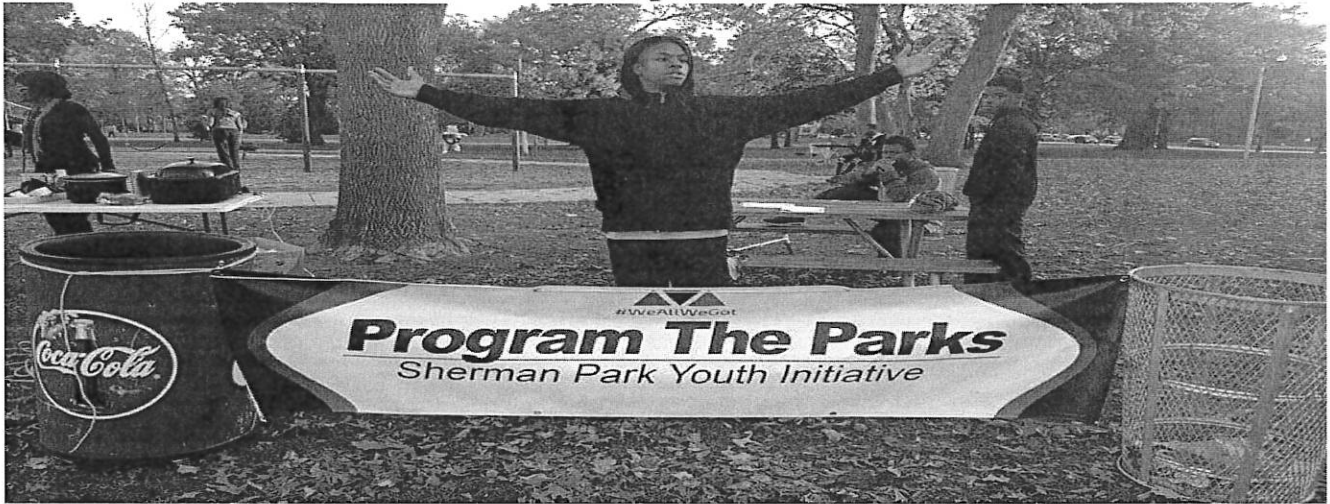


*Non Profit Status – The National Coalition of Black American Men, Inc.*



# Program The Parks

## *Sherman Park Youth Initiative*



Please join our fight to uplift, empower, educate, and employ the people of Sherman Park, specifically the youth in the 12-25 age range. This area has seen many ups and down over the past few months, and many people are unaware of the great work that has been happening under the radar in the area. Since early 2012, #WeAllWeGotMKE LLC has been boots to the ground, hard at work combating and addressing every issue our city has from poverty, homelessness, community/police relations, and crime. We centralized our efforts into Sherman Park in early June this year, offering patrols and structure to the events the community expressed concerns with in the park itself over the summer. All summer long, we patrolled the park proactively, offering security and mediation to the youth until the first “rock fight incident” between them and MPD. In July, an initiative was created called “Program The Parks”, which gave our movement a recognizable name. Since then, we have worked day and night, 7 days a week most times, towards bringing positive activities, resources, guidance, and mentoring to the youth in the park. We implemented programming days, such as “Chili Tuesdays”, “MMA Wednesdays” (free Karate/Boxing lessons), “Pizza and Movie Night Friday”, “Smore Sundays”, and more.

5 months later, we have moved into offering more in depth assistance to the youth and the community, using the Park as a base. Additional to recent events we have thrown, “Cocoa & Coats Drive” this past Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>, and “Haunted Park Party” just this past Oct.31<sup>st</sup>, we are now helping find youth training, housing, clothing, employment, and even additional education assistance. We need your help to keep this movement alive and this is our way of filling the community in on what they have missed, and what the news has failed to cover these past few months. Positive images and coverage of how the park has transformed and is now safer than ever. Follow our work on our facebook page, which is “Program the Parks”.

For more info contact

Vaun Mayes – Bey 414-600-3623

Donate @ [paypal.me/WeAllWeGot](https://www.paypal.com/WeAllWeGot)





#WeAllWeGot

# Program The Parks

## Sherman Park Youth Initiative



Founder – Vaun Mayes

Co Founder – Gab Taylor

### Dear Citizen of Milwaukee, and or more specifically, current resident of Sherman Park...

We would like to inform and invite you to join us this year as we begin a new journey towards empowering and serving disadvantaged and troubled youth in this city. Since June 2016, our program has been the highlight of the community, helping change the negative views of what Sherman Park is about, as well as helping change the culture it had become known as home to when it comes to teens in the city of Milwaukee. We understand that 2016 was a struggle for our city, so the birth and development of our program was to directly combat and change the issues surrounding Sherman Park since early spring 2016. This year we seek to come back bigger and stronger, hopefully with your help!!

Our program mission is to address all the negative aspects of life in our community, from poverty, safety, crime, mentoring, economics, education, nutrition, homelessness, and community accountability, all in one program. We have since created a 7 day program, which many in the city have tried and failed to copy and duplicate. Our services and programs included a free open pantry, free karate and mma/self-defense trainings, movie nights, free community cookouts, free pop up concerts, conflict resolution, community patrols, mentoring, finding run-aways, helping people find jobs, creating job opportunities through our stipend program for youth in the spirit of encouraging entrepreneurship, field trips to Bucks and Brewers games, contests and prizes, back to school events, clothing drives, mediation between the community and law enforcement, and connecting people to resources and existing programs that offer services we do not or cannot provide.

Our program has run unfunded for the past year, and has been the proof that community involvement and investing through donations can make a huge impact on the city. Unfortunately, media hasn't covered our program the past year as it should have, so we use social media to show the city and the world the work that has been going on in Sherman Park that others have tried to keep a secret. We encourage you as a citizen and as a resident to come out and enjoy our free programs, spread the word, refer a neighbor, or sign your youth up. We also encourage you all to get involved by helping us spread the word via social media, or donating items, equipment, or cash to help us continue the work for our 2<sup>nd</sup> year!!

**Facebook Search - Program the Parks**



The National Coalition of Black American Men, Inc



#WeAllWeGot

Vaun Mayes 414-600-3623

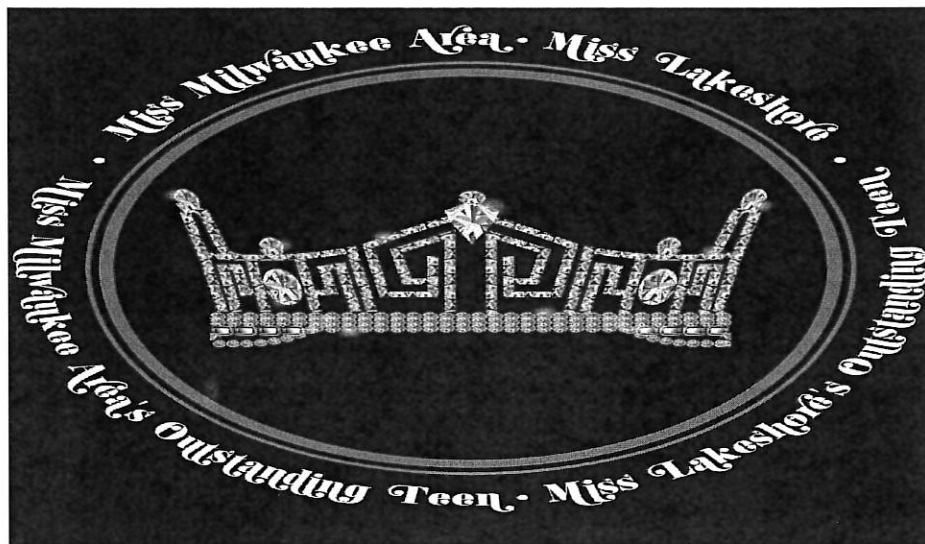
Donate @ [paypal.me/WeAllWeGot](https://www.paypal.me/WeAllWeGot)



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# Program The Parks

Sherman Park Youth Initiative



## Miss America's Outstanding Teen Competition 2017

*Miss Milwaukee Area Scholarship Beauty Pageant*

*Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 @ Pius XI Catholic High School*

*135 N. 76<sup>th</sup>, St Door Entrance #14*

*Daytime Activities 12pm - Pageant Events 6pm*

*To support and or donate to the girls <http://www.missmilwaukeearea.org/donate.html>*

*To register for competition and or get tickets [www.twbcc.com](http://www.twbcc.com)*

### Program the Park Youth Contestants



*Chrishana Holmes*



*Terrianna Dotson*



*Tatyana Jones*



*Nautica Whitelaw*



*Tytianna Jones*

*Brought to you and Sponsored by*



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OF  
COMMERCE

