BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR KNOWLEDGE: TY’MEKA’S STORY

Our King County Youth Violence Prevention (KCYVP) staff first met Ty’meka when she was 16 years old. She had a reputation for fighting, using drugs and had essentially no credits as an incoming high school junior. Her counselor at Highline High School referred her to the program, but it was her friend’s relationship with our staff that made her open working with us. Our dedicated staff took the time to understand that Ty’meka didn’t have a strong support network at home and needed a sense of accountability to get her back on track. Thanks to their consistent check-ins, extra class time and open conversations, Ty’meka’s grades steadily improved as did her respect for herself. She skyrocketed under the guidance of her counselor and teachers at the University of Washington. Today, Ty’meka is a junior at South Seattle Community College.

COMMITTED TO CONNECTION: ONE FAMILY’S STORY

Our East African Family Advocate, Farhiya Mohamed, has worked with countless clients over the years, but one stands out in particular for the lasting connection and continued success within the family. Farhiya met the client seven years ago when she travelled alone with her seven children to the United States. Farhiya was able to find them housing and even offered to help her do grocery shopping on the weekends. Farhiya also set up all of the client’s children within the Seattle Public School system and enrolled the client in a driving program to further her independence. Today, the whole family has settled into life as American citizens. The client is working while finishing up her Associates degree and four of her children are now old enough to continue their education at the University of Washington, Evergreen College, and South Seattle Community College.

REDEFINING SUCCESS

We seek to make our institutions, systems and procedures fit the needs of people, rather than make people fit the institution. To be true to this commitment, we need your support to advocate for fair systems at every level of our communities.

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We believe
Only when we all commit to equity and expanding knowledge can we build a community of acceptance, belonging and hope, where all families thrive.

EQUITY

The percentage of clients who identify as immigrants or refugees. 50%

2016 FINANCIALS

Revenues

2016

Fundraising

14%

Contributions

12%

Government Grants

11%

Foundation Support

11%

Other Revenue

5%

Expenses

2016

Management Expenses

16%

Program Services

83%

We are supported by amazing donors who make an incredible impact in their own community:

Microsoft

University of Washington

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Washington State Charitable Foundation

City of Seattle

City of Bellevue

Community Foundation of King County

United Way of King County

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EQUITY

The percentage of clients who identify as immigrants or refugees. 50%
When I grow up, I have you to look up to
Words so fierce it stings and leaves a buzz in your ears
Holding your own, knockout punch between their eyes
Courageous and stoic, spittin’ poetry and rhymes with No Fear

When I grow up, I have you to look up to
Speaking in foreign tongues only understood by those with open minds
Moving mountains with your innovation and creativity
Letting go of the insecurities to let your inner star shine
Survivors of depression
You keep it real
Survivors of abuse
You keep it real
Survivors of abandonment
You keep it real
Survivors of violence
You keep it real
Survivors of inner turmoil
You keep it real
Survivors of life
Keep on writing and keep on shining

I am permanent ink staining the hands of writers and every loose page of lined paper stuffed and folded into binders and backpacks, and I will always exist in the margins of errors and corrections and finally perfected metaphors and similes that get caught in the back of your mind.

I am from the deep blue Pacific Ocean
The island of palm trees, coconuts and bananas
Most people think of it as a beautiful island that is believed to be incredible
Yet my people are suffering day and night just to afford food
We come to American shore in search of a better future
Just to be called FOBs, Fresh Off the Boat, for speaking broken English
Can’t really afford the American lifestyle
Well, blame that on the $4.52 minimum wage
given by the American government that colonized Samoa
Never once felt accepted because
my thighs were thicker than average
Never had my people succeed in life
They turn their backs and resort to the military,
become high school drop outs and gang bangers
But never once did I give up on my people
I keep my head up and embrace what my ancestors created.