



FOCUS ON THE ON THE FUTURE

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Mentoring
New Leaders
to Build Our
Communities




the only program of its kind in the city



Founded in 2011, The Focus on the Future Mentorship Program was established as the inaugural program of Come Thirsty Ministries, Inc. Founded by Willie and Shataun Diggs, the program was designed to aid in building up the character of young men in their community. After serving as lead in a suspension intervention program, Willie Diggs began to research the needs for developing such a program and found that most programs focused on children with behavioral problems and failing grades. It was quite difficult to find programs developed for the average student with moderate to high grades, nor provided that much needed "village" to offer young men the support and guidance they need prepare for life beyond high school and properly transition into adulthood.

After having a conversation with his son one day about focusing on his future, Willie Diggs tapped into his social work experience and began to talk to students across the city and found that like his son, most students, even those that performed well in school, still had questions and concerns regarding their futures.

The conversations proved to be quite revealing as students expressed that they needed help with developing life goals and plans for higher education. Moreover, students reported that they only got in trouble or did not excel in academics because they felt it was not cool to be smart. This disturbing information would become the catalyst for the mentorship program.



program outline

One of the failed assumptions we see in society is that youth from two-parent, middle class homes, don't need help with planning for college and adulthood. We expect that parents have the knowledge and skills to articulate and assist their children with transitioning from childhood expectations to the often overwhelming life as an adult.

The mission of the Focus on the Future Mentorship Program is to connect with young men from middle school through graduation and provide them with an opportunity to address three critical areas of development, which we set as the three pillars of the program - spirituality, academics and professionalism.

The program provides participants with direct connection to a mentor for encouragement, accountability, and growth while being trained in a focused environment. Through the mode of small group dialogue and intentional service activities, mentees are observed and provided guidance in the areas of social skills, building strong family and peer relationships and impacting their community through service and proper engagement.

As a program of intentionality, we also provide workshops for parents to provide them with the support, guidance, and resources to help them raise their young men and cultivate the gifts and talents within.

program pillars

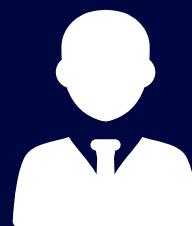
The core pillars of the program are Academics, Professionalism, and Spirituality and has become the foundation of the programs "small talks" and workshops.



SPIRITUALITY



ACADEMICS



PROFESSIONALISM

doubling up on the good stuff

We understand that effective mentorship aligns with the positive conversations parents are having at home with their children. Our goal is not to take the place of these conversations, but to reinforce it.

Our program considers the whole person in development as we tackle mid to high-level skills that we believe our mentees need to learn as they become young adult men. We cover a number of topical themes over the course of our program, bringing nuanced perspectives with every discussion.

Beyond the dialogue, we also provide real world exercises that help them to apply the knowledge they have learned in fun and exciting new ways. For example, activities such as planning a trip to a football game allow them to put to practice critical thinking skills, decision making skills, as well as time management, problem solving, teamwork, leadership, and social skills, just to name a few.

We leverage technology to hold virtual conversations and meet often for activities, group engagement and service projects. All events are scheduled in advance so that parents know how to plan their days ahead and so we can make the most of the program.

what we teach

- Social Skills
- Faith & Freedom
- Emotional Intelligence
- Community Service
- College Prep
- Career Prep
- Entrepreneurship
- Team Building
- Problem Solving
- Study Habits
- Decision Making
- Conflict Resolution
- Leadership
- Project Management
- Creativity & Skillsets
- Hygiene & Attire
- Health & Wellness
- Table Etiquette
- Relationships
- Critical Thinking
- Vision & Goal Setting
- Cooking
- Farming & Fishing
- Time Management

stepping into focus

The Focus on the Future Program opens registration each summer, welcoming young men from all walks of life. As a program of legacy, our mentees often have siblings who have completed the program before them. This is just one indication of the level of impact we are making with our program.

who can apply?

The program is open to young men enrolled in middle school through high school. Parents are asked to complete the profile application which helps us to learn more about the potential mentee and what they hope to gain as a member of the program.

While there are no specific requirements to be a part of the program (except age), not every student that submits an application is admitted into the program. Applications are reviewed carefully, and each new applicant must attend the interview AND orientation. Admitted students are notified after the interview and orientation process has concluded.

Applications are submitted online and include a non-refundable \$25 application fee. There are no additional costs attributed to families to be a part of the program.

Registration opens each year on June 1st . The program activities begin September 1st.

Complete an App!

Start Here

Hi-5 Club

**investing in
young
people is an
investment
in the
future**

our impact

Since our inception, we have helped usher young men into college, set up for success. We guide young men from as early as middle school to ensure they have the necessary foundations before they reach critical high school years. Our mentees go on to become entrepreneurs, tradesmen and often times, mentors themselves. We have a 100% success rate for high school completion, and a 100% community service participation with over 1000 volunteer hours each year.

The Focus on the Future Mentorship program is made possible by our generous donors, ambassadors and business partners. Funds support program activities, uniforms and vital resources that are key to mentee development and advancement.

While there is no cost to participants who join the mentorship program. We do, however, require all mentees to participate in program fundraising efforts each year.

become a focus partner

Focus On the Future Partners help ensure that the Focus on the Future Project remains a low cost program with community impact. All activities, uniforms and resources are provided at little to no cost to the families that are selected for the program.

**become a hi-5
partner today!**

[Start Here](#)

willie f. diggs, ii

Willie Diggs is a Pastor, Educator, Mentor and a Leading Voice for global community influencers in the realm of academia, professionalism, and spirituality. Known for his passion to captivate individuals through small talk, he uses mentorship dialogue, workshops and books to help individuals discover the path to success and prosperity. As a higher education instructor, and community pastor, Willie has helped many achieve success in both ministry and the marketplace, impact the communities they serve and rise to become conduits of change in the world.

He is a workshop speaker, parent educator, and resource builder in his community. He is the founder of Come Thirsty Ministries, Inc., which is a non-profit organization that develops Christ-centered programs to assist people with changing their lives and the world. The programs include the Focus on the Future Mentorship Program, Restore Me Community Health Fair, God's Girls Rock Program, and Come Thirsty Kids Program.



Willie is a native of Brundidge, Alabama. He was educated at Jacksonville State University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Social Work Degree and a 2010 graduate from Alabama A&M where he received a Masters of Social Work Degree.

He currently serves as the Campus Pastor of The Beacon Butler Campus in Huntsville, Alabama, the first community church planted under Superintendent Anthony Wheeler of Beacon Hill Worship Center in Madison, Alabama.

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