



Staff: Joe Johnson, Maime Butler, Brandi Pritchett-Johnson, Cheyla Milo, Walter Malone, Anthony Daniel



## FUTURE 4 TEENS Newsletter



# W e l c o m e M e s s a g e

## November 2014

### Welcome Message from F4T Founder, CEO/President

What a year! First and foremost, thank you to everyone that has supported the Future 4 Teens mission over the years. We are entering our 8th year of programming. I recognize that without your encouragement, support, and donations we would not be able to celebrate over 600 students served.

To those of you that are new supporters or have never heard of us, this is just the beginning! To our students, you inspire us to keep hope alive. Our future is bright with young, talented, and promising young visionaries like yourselves and our goal is simply to help you become successful and live according to your maximum potential.

In this final 2014 edition of the F4T newsletter you will get a brief overview of all of our success over the year and learn of a few very promising changes within the Future 4 Teens structure. You will meet our two new Youth Development Specialist, meet a few of our students, celebrate the success of this year, and learn how you can make a contribution. Welcome to the family!

## M a j o r F 4 T C h a n g e s

As a 501c3 tax-exempt organization that has made a significant impact for nearly 8 years, we are ready to take Future 4 Teens to the next level!

Each year students request "more time" and "more programs/services". In order to meet their needs we need to grow and expand.



Dr. Brandi Pritchett-Johnson, CEO/President

*"I think it is a privilege and my responsibility to lead this organization to the next level for greater impact on the lives of our youth, this nation, and eventually the world."*

### In 2014 we have...

- Created new executive roles (VP of Program Operations, VP of Research & Evaluation) more in line with successful business best practices
- Hired and trained 2 new Youth Development Specialist
- Created a more intentional professional development strategic plan for staff
- Revised the format and purpose of our annual staff retreat
- Expanded fundraising efforts

*"In my humble opinion, our future is incredibly bright. We need your continued support and encouragement. Will you join us?"*

Our mission is to help youth and young adults become successful by providing mental health and educational services to youth and young adults with social, emotional, educational, and financial needs.

## Goals:

- Increase college exposure as a critical component to college readiness
- Develop critical thinking skills to make mature life decisions
- Provide experiences outside of participants communities to enhance development
- Facilitate the development of healthy interpersonal relationship

## Values:

- Empowerment, self-confidence, self-awareness and self-esteem
- Treatment of others according to God's expectation; with kindness, love, and respect.
- Pursuit of knowledge, education, personal and professional growth



## A Little Bit About Our Program Model

For those of you that are new to the Future 4 Teens family, it feels important to share a little about the F4T framework.

We strongly believe in nurturing positive relationships and teaching our students how to create healthy relationships throughout their lives. We do this by getting to know our students and their families. We seek to discover their unique strengths and refocus their areas of growth so that they feel empowered to create positive changes. We as staff attempt to model healthy dynamics and reinforce one another and our students for doing the same.

Because the F4T staff are all professionally trained counselors, we value supporting not just our students' academic goals but their mental wellness and their hearts. We attempt to intentionally care for their self-esteem, social, and emotional well-being. In many communities therapeutic support is stigmatized, but it doesn't have to be!

You may notice that a majority of our programs are fairly small. This too is done very intentionally to allow for the intimacy and attention needed for each student to have a rich experience.

Finally, we believe it takes a village to support us all. We believe in collaboration and working with other really amazing organizations to create a better experience for the young people of today and leaders of tomorrow.



## Introducing **Maime Butler** YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

### **Why did you become interested in serving as a Youth Development Specialist with Future 4 Teens?**

*I became interested in Future 4 Teens because of the staff that were already doing the work. They introduced me to F4T and when I became aware of the work being done and the students who were being helped within this program it sparked my interest in being a part of the work too.*

### **What do you hope to contribute to Future 4 Teens and the youth that the organization serves?**

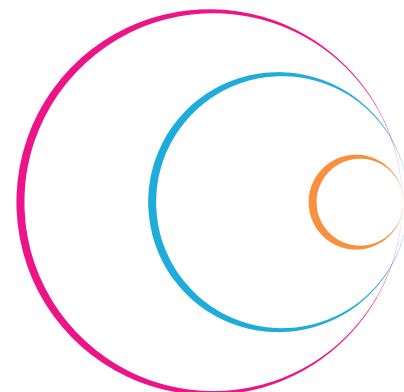
*Because I strongly believe in volunteering, my work with F4T fits my own personal attribution to the mission of F4T and helping others who may have suffered hard childhoods to know they can have a bright future ahead of them.*

### **What advice or support would you give youth about college and/or growing up in general?**

*I would like to help the youth of this generation cope with growing up in today's environment and know that they can conquer all things and follow their own dreams.*

### **What would you say to community members or funders looking to support the Future 4 Teens organization?**

*Supporting Future 4 Teens is not only supporting our teenagers but supporting our own futures. The youth are the future and we hold the key to helping them develop into bright, young, successful adults.*





## Introducing **Anthony Daniel** YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

### **Why did you become interested in serving as a Youth Development Specialist with Future 4 Teens?**

*I became interested in serving as a Youth Development Specialist with Future 4 Teens when I talked with Cheyla and Walter about the activities the organization was providing in the community. The program exposes students to psychological concepts and principles that create a space for critical thinking about their future.*

### **What do you hope to contribute to Future 4 Teens and the youth that the organization serves?**

*I want to continue the success Future 4 Teens has had up to this point and be a positive male role model for the students involved with the program.*

### **What advice or support would you give youth about college and/or growing up in general?**

*Employers are looking for more than just a degree. For students already in or starting college I would suggest gaining experience outside of the classroom that aligns with their career goals and aspirations. This experience can take the form of becoming a research assistant for a professor or simply shadowing a person that is working in a career you wish to pursue in the future.*

### **What advice would you give Future 4 Teens youth about college and/or growing up?**

*I would advise each youth of Future 4 Teens to find a mentor that has successfully achieved college and can relate to them on a personal level. College is too big a playing field to not have a coach or counselor help you through it. Having a wise and humble mentor truly makes a difference in a student's life*

### **What would you say to community members or funders looking to support the Future 4 Teens organization?**

*Future 4 Teens is a unique organization that provides a supportive and nurturing environment that allows students to critically think about the world and themselves. Future 4 teens is needed to bridge the gap between high school and college. For students that are unsure about their next steps we are here to help. The activities and programs such as the college visitations and the retreats are structured to allow students to develop a clear vision and roadmap for success in life and their academic endeavors.*





## Re-Introducing Joe Johnson YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

### **Why did you become interested in serving as a Youth Development Specialist with Future 4 Teens?**

*I couldn't imagine not being apart of this organization because I've been connected to the mission, the staff, and the students for a long time. I wanted to be truthful to the F4T team and myself by re-committing to the organization in a way that I could give it my best.*

### **What do you hope to contribute to Future 4 Teens and the youth that the organization serves?**

*I'd like to continue to grow our programs and make them stronger. I'd like to serve as a role model and stay connected to the youth that we have built relationships with over the years*

### **What advice or support would you give youth about college and/or growing up in general?**

*Knowing who you are is key. Exposing yourself to things that you are not use to is valuable. Ask for help even when your pride or ego tells you not to.*

### **What would you say to community members or funders looking to support the Future 4 Teens organization?**

*Look no further! Future 4 Teens works with a diverse group of youth but many of our students would never even consider college, leaving their neighborhood, or feel they can take advantage of different opportunities if it weren't for our programs or the exposure that we give them. Their experience in F4T truly does make a difference. Our ability to make an impact with limited funding is just a glimpse of the impact we will achieve with greater support. All of us are trained professionals in the counseling and education fields and we see the need and actually make an impact on our students social and emotional development.*



# 2013-2014 IMPACT REPORT

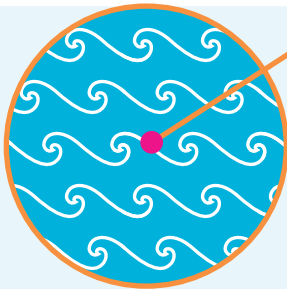
Ladies Only College Experience (LOCE), Black Male Summit (BMS), Real Talk Youth Retreat (RTYR), Summer Youth Basketball League (SYBL)

**72**  
youth  
participated

**98%** (of those that completed evaluation) stated that they would participate in F4T programs again



Youth say that F4T programs were –



**100%** of LOCE & BMS youth "strongly agree" their F4T experience made them think more deeply about going to college, academic, and career goals.



**"fun"**,  
"helpful", "inspiring",  
**"unbelievable"**,  
"unforgettable", **"a dream come true"**

## Youth Reported...

- greater confidence to attend college
- stronger and more specific academic and career goals
- deeper sense of their own personal identity
- request for more or longer F4T programs



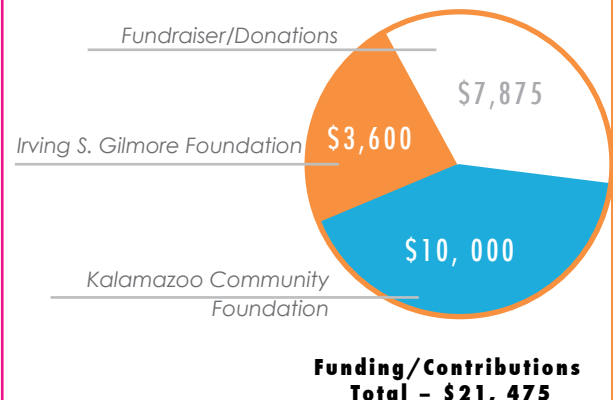
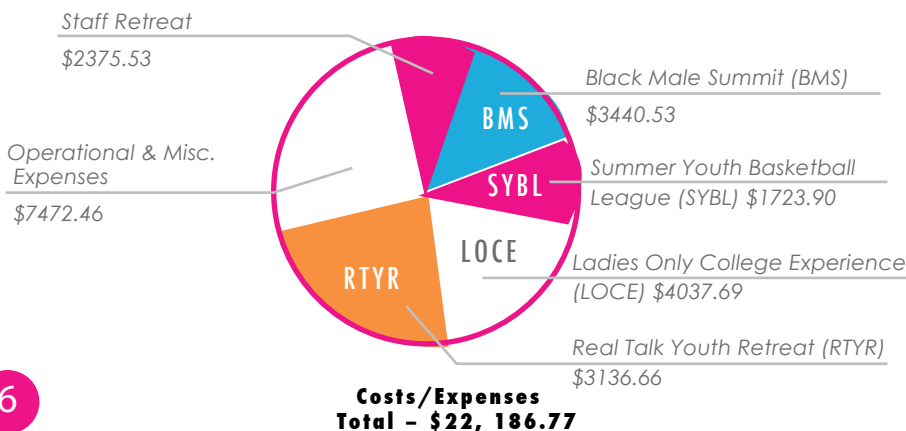
"I just realized how hard I have to work to get where I [want to] be."

"I think this trip was the best thing ever in my life"



"[L.O.C.E.] made me really want to speak up more"

## What Did it Take to Make a Difference?



## Student Impact Story

### ARE YOU READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

#### Ladies Only College Experience Gift Amounts (LOCE) Gift Amounts

A gift of ACCESS	\$250	\$25 supporter
A gift of PURPOSE	\$500	\$50 supporter
A gift of WORTH	\$2,500	\$250 supporter
A gift of TRANSFORMATION	\$5,000	

*"Before I went on this trip I didn't really take school seriously, but afterwards I became very focused and starting getting more into school by joining the Newspaper, Knight Life. This trip helped me notice that if I don't straighten up and get serious then I won't have the future that I want."*



Breonna Burnside is currently a sophomore at a Kalamazoo area high school. During her freshmen year high school, she participated in the LOCE. Breonna had this to say about her experience.

The Ladies Only College Experience (LOCE) allows young women to experience college in a way that a university-hosted tour simply will not. The ladies are able to interact with students and faculty members from underrepresented groups who can speak to the unique college experience that they will likely encounter just based on who they are. Fortunately, there is always time to organically process the experience to make it meaningful for each individual participant. Your gift will help Breonna and other young ladies just like her have a literal life changing experience.

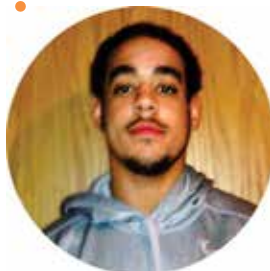
## Student Impact Story

*"F4T has taught me how to communicate and interact with others. I also have developed meaningful relationships with staff and look up to them as role models".*

#### Black Male Summit (BMS) Gift Amounts

A gift of ENCOURAGEMENT	\$250	\$25 supporter
A gift of NETWORKING	\$500	\$50 supporter
A gift of PROMISE	\$2,500	\$250 supporter
A gift of TRANSFORMATION	\$5,000	

Terrehl Kelly is currently a senior attending a Kalamazoo area high school. Upon graduation Terrehl Kelly plans to attend Central Michigan University where he desires to major in major in Mechanical Engineering. Terrehl has participated in the Black Male Summit and the Summer Youth Basketball League. Terrehl had this to say about his experience:



The summit hosted over 1000 in attendance and held sessions related to social issues in the Black community, race relations, self-esteem, healthy relationships, and strategies for personal and professional growth. As an addition to the learning that the summit naturally presents students; Future 4 Teens offers direct mentorship on how to strengthen professionalism skills, develop self-esteem, and engage in networking. We provide the space and support to critically discuss their experiences and reflect on the personal successes and challenges they face. You gift will help Terrehl Kelly and other young men just like him to have a literal life changing experience.

### Real Talk Summer Youth Retreat

A gift of EMPOWERMENT	__ \$250	__ \$25 supporter
A gift of AWARENESS	__ \$500	__ \$50 supporter
A gift of VOICE	__ \$2,500	__ \$250 supporter
A gift of TRANSFORMATION	__ \$5,000	



"The Real Talk Youth Retreat helped me to come out of my shell. I use to hold things in but the retreat encouraged me not to hold back and to share what's on my mind. I learned that what I have to say can actually have a positive impact on someone else."

Who wouldn't want to offer high school students a safe and encouraging space to find their voice, gain awareness, and empower them to learn new ways of expressing themselves? In many communities around the world youth resort to violence or engage in unhealthy relationships with others and themselves. The Real Talk Youth Retreat offers students a transformation of self. Students are front and center with what they think, how they feel, and are challenged to become who they desire to be!

Shadston Malone attended Clawson High School located in Clawson, Michigan. He currently attends Oakland Community College (OCC) majoring in criminal justice. Upon graduating from OCC he plans to attend either Michigan State University, or Central Michigan University and continuing in his major and picking up a minor in computer science. His future plan is to enroll into the police department and eventually become an FBI Agent.

### Student Impact Story

#### Summer Youth Basketball League:

A gift of BELONGING	__ \$250	\$25 supporter
A gift of INCLUSION	__ \$500	\$50 supporter
A gift of LEADERSHIP	__ \$2,500	\$250 supporter
A gift of TRANSFORMATION	__ \$5,000	

I came to the "The Future 4 Teens Basketball Camp" to learn how to be a man. He also says, "He has learned that it is important to always stay safe, help others, and be a leader".



Jeremiah Richard attends Kalamazoo Central High School located in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Upon graduating from high school, Jeremiah plans to attend college and take advantage of the Kalamazoo Promise scholarship.

The Future 4 Teens Summer Basketball Camp allows middle and high school males the opportunity to learn and play competitive basketball on the campus of Western Michigan University. More importantly, the participants are exposed to a college campus and learn personal development skills such as "Managing Emotions", "Critical Thinking", and "Leadership". This camp allows participants the opportunity to practice these skills on the basketball court and within their personal lives. Your gift will help Jeremiah and other young men take steps toward manhood



November 2014

A Blast from the Past  
**ONWARD & UPWARD:**  
A Fundraising Gala  
2014



Mark your calendars now for our 2015 fundraisers!

**Gainesville, FL**  
March 13th 6-8pm

**Kalamazoo, MI**  
April 16th 6-8pm

**Detroit, MI**  
April 17th 6-8pm

**Details Coming Soon!**

Future 4 Teens extends a warm thank you to all of our Onward & Upward Attendees and Sponsors. Your generosity has made a significant impact on the lives of today's youth forever!



Western Michigan University



Advantage Management Group



Millennium Restaurant Group  
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Katherine & Matt Colles  
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Janice Brown & Ed Birch  
Aijah Jackson  
Kenney & Michelle Banks  
Kandace Lavender

Boys and Girls Club of Kalamazoo  
Kelsey & Kevin Hastings  
Dr. Mary Z. Anderson  
Tim & Gretta Terrentine  
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Thank you all for a great year!

Make your final 2014 tax-deductible donation today!

Summary of your 2014 contribution(s) will be mailed during the first of the year.

FUTURE

Let's make a difference together!

4 TEENS

