



-YMWAP NEWS-

December 18, 2020

***** Wishing you all safe & happy holidays *****

Thank you for your continued support. In this challenging year we feel that the YMWAP family of students, alumni, mentors, Board & staff has in many ways grown even closer.

Mentors: Summer's national racial trauma was deeply felt. November's 1) mentor retreat at Pinnacle Leadership Center and 2) Trauma Informed Care training further united the mentors in brotherhood and shared ownership of YMWAP's mission. We continue to grow as a team and as individual mentors, doing everything possible to educate, prepare, and expose our young men to what is needed for them to access healthy sustainable futures and to protect them from pitfalls.

Students and Families: We're doing incessant "intrusive coaching" with our kids--discussing grades, goals, Boston violence, mental health, music, weight, sex, the benefits of mastering the skill of remote learning. Parents reach out to us for help: "He will listen to what you have to say."



Food boxes, food and personal care gift cards: YMWAP has been enormously fortunate to receive generous donations of food and funds that enabled us to deliver much needed relief to our families, starting with 100 food boxes, courtesy of the Lewis Family Foundation. Funds from Haymarket People's Fund and Boston Resiliency Fund, along with Stop & Shop's donation of gift cards, allowed us to deliver 164 gift cards to our kids. YMWAP also delivered masks, cleaning and personal care items, and video games. In making these deliveries we are able to see our young men face to face. Many families are struggling. Pictured here is Greg Polanco (2020 grad from BCLA) who has successfully completed boot camp for the US Army. His goal is to become a Boston cop.

YMWAP Leadership News: Jaykyri (Dr. J) successfully defended his doctoral dissertation at New England College on December 9. His research explored persistence factors and campus racial climate as described by 13 Black males who graduated from PWIs (predominantly white institutions) between 2010 and 2020. Jaykyri also completed the Lewis Family Foundation's 2020 Strong Leaders program and was recruited into the Nonprofit Executive Directors of Color Capacity Support pilot offered through TSNE and funded by The Boston Foundation, Barr Foundation, Hyams Foundation and the Klarman Family Foundation. It launches in January 2021.

Looking ahead to 2021: We hope to offer small group sessions in early 2021. We also look forward to offering a robust Summer Program that will include job site visits, daily drop-in hours, individualized Success Planning, academic, SEL and health programming, and recreation.

Thank you; stay well; please reach out with any questions or concerns—Jaykyri, Des & Marcia