



*Abdoul Diallo, Former President, Men of McNair*



*The Men of McNair is building a foundation for the development of young black men into successful leaders of their community. When I heard about this organization at school, I was excited to join a group of young black men with similar goals. Helping communities like mine is very important to me.*

*I was glad to join Men of McNair when we assisted Hurricane Dorian victims in Georgia by aiding them with food and clothes to survive in a difficult time. It was also important to me to thank those who have helped me get to where I am today. One of my favorite memories was when the Men of McNair made breakfast for our teachers and staff at the school. This was an enjoyable experience because my teachers and counselors did such an incredible job helping me get to where I am today, and this was a great way to show them our appreciation.*

*Growing up in a low-income household in East Atlanta, my family lived in a neighborhood riddled with crime and substandard school systems. There were not many examples of successful black men from my neighborhood. However, one of my most memorable experiences from my time at Men of McNair was the Men of McNair Black History Month conference. Mr. Riley, the Director of Men of McNair, worked extremely hard to bring in successful black men and women who grew up in communities like mine, but who earned success later in life despite the obstacles they faced. It was such an empowering experience watching successful black men giving advice to young men like me. I remember talking to one of the guest speakers who was an FBI agent who grew up in a rough neighborhood in Minnesota. Listening to his story about how he navigated living in that kind of environment and how he ended up in his career as a Federal agent was inspirational and motivating.*

*I hope one day after college to return to my local community and give back and create access to opportunities for young men like me. My name is Abdoul Diallo and I am honored to be part of Men of McNair.*