



SHINE A LIGHT NJ

SHINING *The Light*

Welcome to our first edition of Shining The Light, our quarterly newsletter!!

This inaugural edition will give you insight into our history, share highlights from our summer events, and give you a sneak peek of our plans for the fall season. We thank you all so much for your support as we strive to 'do good' in the community!!!



OUR STORY

Shine A Light NJ was established to provide extracurricular academic and recreational activities as well as additional forms of social support for families in Jersey City who identify as asset limited and income constrained although they are employed. Shine A Light NJ is managed by a volunteer-led

board, comprised of four Black and Latina women who have raised their children in Jersey City during their formative years, so there is a keen awareness of the need for community resources. Shine A Light NJ is built upon the values of positive youth development, socioemotional growth and community engagement

The official launch event for Shine A Light NJ happened on Saturday, June 29th at M's Paint Bar in Jersey City!



We gathered together to create our own body butter, learn about the mission of the organization, and had a great time overall!

BULLY THE BULLY TRAINING



Bully the Bully training is the anchor program of Shine A Light NJ. Led by Coach Jesse, the training program is a productive way to engage the youth of Jersey City and help them develop social skills as well as emphasize the importance of physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle.



THE POWER OF A COACH

Fueled by a passion for sports and community involvement, our Coach Jesse emphasizes physical fitness, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Jesse played football at the high school and collegiate levels before transitioning into coaching in 2019. The combination of his instructional skills and experience on the field has translated into success as exemplified through Elijah Williams. Jesse aims to replicate his coaching success with more budding athletes in his program.



SPOTLIGHT ON ELIJAH

Elijah Williams is a highly decorated defensive lineman who plays for the Morgan State University Bears. As he approaches his senior year, Elijah continues to maintain a relationship with Coach Jesse, who nurtured Elijah's talent while he attended Lincoln High School. In an interview, Elijah recounts being most proud of receiving an award for being a great practice player while in high school, noting that it gave him the drive to not "get complacent and keep going."

~ quote from morganstatebears.com

Shine A Light NJ was also created to honor the legacy of Sharon Baker. Her story, which she simply labeled as "From Rikers to Rutgers" was nothing short of amazing, as she exemplified the power of redemption. Sharon was a social worker for many years and an active member in her church.



She always sought to make sure the people around her were 'good' by providing assistance whenever she could, whether it was a home-cooked meal or a listening ear. She definitely had an impact on those she touched. Sharon instilled the spirit of giving within us, and now it's our turn to 'do good' for the community.



DAY OF DADS

On Saturday, August 3rd, Shine A Light NJ attended the Day of Dads in Jersey City, which was hosted by the Charles A. Johnson Jr. Foundation. During this event, we were able to connect with Jersey City residents and develop relationships with other community-based organizations. We also gave away goodies and raffle prizes. A fun time was had by all! Check out our website for more photos from this event.



GIVING BACK AT C.A.M.P. ME

Thanks to your financial support and in-kind donations, we were able to provide back to school backpacks filled with school supplies and school uniform gift cards for the children who attended CAMP Me this summer! Check out our website for more photos from this event. We look forward to doing this again next year!!

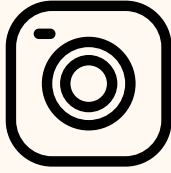


LOOKING AHEAD

There's a whole lot happening in the fall! We'll be collaborating with other community-based agencies for the following:

- Back to School Night at PS 22
- Pumpkin Picking at A Small Green Space
- Thanksgiving Giveaway
- Winter Coat Drive

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