



A collaborative match made in heaven, Melanin Youth Foundation (hereafter referred to as MYF) spearheaded by Krystal Singh and Much More Than Mentorship (hereafter referred to as MMTM), Head Cheerleader, Jacqui Dobens, joined forces to achieve a wider reach than either of them would have been able to do alone. The heart of MYF is to offer pertinent essential skills to often overlooked youth. While MMTM saw a vacancy in the marketplace that desperately needed to be filled.

While the mentorship space is crowded with services and programs that provide a corrective approach, few, if any, offer a practical, organized, and systematic approach. While group and individual 'rap' sessions have their place, MMTM takes an Aspirationally Inspired approach to disseminate durable life skills in a gamification environment. Initially inspired by the very successful program, The Amazing Shake, the brainchild of the Ron Clark Academy in Georgia, we've plussed it and made it our own by offering The Amazing Shake prep sessions. These prep sessions provide students with the opportunity to develop not only the desired skill set, but also the mindset and methodology behind it, in real-time. This is achieved through our one-of-a-kind dissemination method.

Our delivery process consists of 1) modeling 2) providing how-tos for implementation, 3) immersion and 4) reflection. Modeling consists of demonstrating what implementation will look like, feel like, sound like, etc. Where applicable, an example will be provided and/or a framework for success. The step-by-step instructions are delivered to the students in advance of their immersion opportunity to imitate, assimilate, and innovate. This method ensures that each participating student has the opportunity to learn and embrace the modeled skill.

We've been blessed to have the opportunity to share our mission, system, and success on various interviews. Feel comfortable viewing the videos above for an expanded peek into our program.

Not one to rest on our laurels, we've recently expanded our flagship program, Our Brothers Keepers. Our Brothers Keepers is a one-of-one program where Black and Brown men present what is possible. We have everyone from a newly retired Math Professor, an Etiquette Instructor, an Improv Facilitator, and an active duty Police Officer teaching critical thinking via Crime Scene re-enactment, and a licensed marriage and family therapist to name a few.

Our intention is for students to see that, regardless of where they've come from, they can bypass the temptations of making less-than-stellar choices. Who better to have access to than someone who has already been there, done that, and got the t-shirt? Providing an opportunity for students to have access to someone that they can identify with and relate to is very needed. Representation is extremely important. We've opted not to provide a roster filled with exes. You know, ex-gang members, ex-drug dealers, ex-convicts. While we agree that redemptive representation is valuable, we believe that preventive representation is just as valuable and should be offered as an option.

A few of these program modules include:

COMMUNICATION a. Presentation 1. How to introduce yourself 2. Personal elevator pitch b. Effective communication involves active listening

The presenter will model an introduction, including a personal elevator pitch. After which, students will be guided with the key elements that make for a proper introduction. They will be encouraged to craft their own, present it before the class, and be allotted sufficient time to imitate, assimilate, and innovate to ensure that it feels authentic to them.

IMPROV Students will learn how to speak extemporaneously with ease using tips, tools, and tactics: 1. I, We, They - Launchpad words 2. Yes, And - The foundational principle of accepting and building on ideas. 3. Active Listening - Students will improve their ability to listen and respond spontaneously. 4. Spontaneity - Development of quick thinking skills to create engaging interactions.

EMPATHY a. Description of what empathy means b. Convey what empathy looks like c. Use the walk a mile in my shoes adage. d. Rip the headlines by using trending stories, Tik-Tok, and other social media platform examples.

In a round-robin format, the presenter will openly discuss with students ways in which they have expressed empathy and/or times when it was expressed to them and how it made them feel. They will also be encouraged to share times in which they wish they had been shown empathy as a way to demonstrate its importance and impact.

Check this tab often for upcoming programs, added schools, ways to participate as an event judge, or presenter.

If you have any questions regarding our programs or would like a tailored program to meet your specific needs, feel comfortable contacting me directly at: MYF@MuchMoreThanMentorship.com. I'd be more than happy to enter an exploratory conversation with you.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacqui Dobens" followed by a stylized flourish or monogram.