

Kevin Collins, Mentor

Project MALE Mentoring Program

Kevin



As a Dallas native, I grew up like most of the mentors in the Southern sector of our great city. As a product of the Dallas Independent School District from elementary to high school, I enjoyed the highs and endured the lows of being an African-American male in our society. But, my rock was my Mom and she had help from coaches seeing my skills and personality and adopting me as their mentee, playing the role of positive male. I went on to college to play basketball on the collegiate level and truly embraced and learned various lessons from the experience.

Over the years, I have raised three daughters, and participated in several mentoring programs, including the Project Male Initiative. The fulfillment and learning experience I have received from the program is immeasurable. Over the years of being part of the program, I have had many memorable moments: Hearing how proud our kindergarten group shares their learning experiences with the group that also includes their parents. But the most memorable event for me was our first Christmas celebration with our kids at Antioch Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church where I worship. I remember the joy the young people felt being surprised by gifts at the end of the session. One of our moms approached the mentors and expressed how thankful she was to have men take time from our lives to spend time with her child. As I recall, when she shared her feelings with us, each one of us standing there felt her emotion and shared tears of joy because that is what the program is all about for me--giving to these children what was provided for me by various coaches in my life.

It has and is a pleasure to be part of this activity that allows men to come together on one Saturday monthly, demonstrating images of hope for our boys from our community. The program has educators, businessmen, entrepreneurs and general laborers--all coming together for a common goal, our children. Thank you, Project Male Initiative leaders, for allowing me the privilege to serve my community in this capacity.