



Ready to Rise: Expanding Opportunities for All L.A. County Youth

(Los Angeles, CA - June 9, 2020) - The Bridge Builders Foundation (BBF) is pleased to be a member of a public-private partnership between L.A. County Probation, Liberty Hill Foundation, California Community Foundation, and 49 L.A. based nonprofits providing community-based youth development services.

Ready to Rise will expand opportunities and resources for programs that keep youth out of the criminal justice system, and help those in the system successfully transition back into the community. The partnership seeks to provide capacity building and financial assistance to successful community-based organizations with a shared commitment to youth development.

Resources provided through this partnership will allow the Bridge Builders Foundation's weekly "Thriving Under The Influence" Mentoring, Coaching, Literacy and Leadership Program, which currently provides mentoring services for over 100 students, to expand and serve over 250 youth of color. BBF programs seek to augment "standardized curriculum" with evidence based, culturally relevant supports and resources, targeting vulnerable, hard to reach, and hard to retain African American and Latinx youth.

Thriving Under the Influence (TUI) has a robust pool of dedicated men of color, who volunteer hundreds of hours each year. TUI exposes students to real-life social and emotional supports, developmental assets, discussion platforms, and tutoring and educational resources. BBF's program design focuses on "Attendance, Citizenship and Homework Completion rates." TUI assumes students who come to school, are not disruptive, and complete their homework (on-time), will emerge as stronger, better prepared students. Participating students are rewarded through bi-monthly, incentive-based community field trips to sporting and educational venues.

According to BBF President, James Breedlove *"Exposing African American and Latinx boys to dedicated same race, same gender role models, who can teach them "success roles," serve as tangible role models, and provide meaningful mentorship is invaluable....BBF is excited to be recognized as a community influencer and provider of quality programs."*

Ready to Rise is taking innovative ideas from the community and taking them to scale through a public-private partnership. Liberty Hill President and CEO Shane Goldsmith notes, *"Community based organizations have already demonstrated their power in helping to effectively allocate these critical resources."* Chief Deputy Probation Officer Sheila Mitchell who oversees Juvenile Operations for L.A. County, notes *"L.A. County Probation is proud of this partnership and our financial contribution to grow programs proven to successfully prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system, while cutting the recidivism rates of those we have."*

BBF has also added a "Distance Mentoring" platform to reach students who would otherwise not have access through school site engagement. We are Stronger Together! #readytorise; @LACProbation@calfund, @libertyhillfoundation.

To learn more about this program, or other Bridge Builders Foundation programs, visit
www.BridgeBuildersLA.org