



MEN OF COURAGE

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020 • VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3



MEN OF COURAGE - LORAIN
L to R: Anthony Jones, Tony Shoulders,
Gregory Bryant, Nathaniel Walker and
Norlan Williams. (Missing: Jeffrey Pye)

MEN'S DEVELOPMENT SERIES

Due to the world-wide pandemic, we were forced to meet via video conferencing platforms versus our normal mode of operation, which is meeting face-to-face (typically at local libraries). Although video conferencing platforms are great and allow men to still have some form of fellowship, its benefit isn't as great as the personal bonding that transpires by meeting in person. We will be wise and continue to use video conferencing, but we are exploring other avenues that will allow us to meet in our traditional manner.

Our plan moving forward into 2021 is to resume our men's piece on Saturday mornings (the frequency of the meetings is still to be determined). The major advantage of the meeting remotely, other than for safety reasons, is that that video conferencing allows for men in various cities across Ohio (and outside of the State) to fellowship and get to know each other, which under normal circumstances, would be much more difficult to accomplish due to the travel involved.

We are also in the planning stages of a collaborative project that will incorporate our men's and youth series with Oasis of Love Community Church in Columbus, Ohio under the leadership of Pastor Alfred Tagoe. Our current Director of Youth Mentoring, Brother Derrick Lewis, will spearhead said project.

"We want people to know we are here for voices to be heard. It could be anything from the violence with the young people we are seeing, to something that might be going on downtown. We want people to come and open up. Men of Courage is a faith-based group, and its men are willing to go out and show love to people in the community, by the grace of God. It's about showing others that God loves them."

– Jeffrey Pye, Youth Mentor

"I feel like so many young men in the area don't have strong male role models in their lives and we're here to fill that gap."

– Norlan Williams, Member

YOUTH MENTORING SERIES



As with our Men's Development Series, our Youth Mentoring Series has been placed on hold somewhat in terms of our normal strategy of school-based mentoring as the Columbus School District and the Lorain City School District both chose to err on the side of caution by adopting remote / virtual learning to begin the school year. Once said school districts decide to use a hybrid model of learning (combination of in-person and remote) we will return to districts in some capacity.

We are also looking at implementing our Youth Mentoring Series outside of the schools in Lorain based on feedback that the students are "Zoomed-out"... meaning that they long for face-to-face mentoring.



"Sometimes it's just to tell a young man that there's a better way. It doesn't always have to be about going out in the streets and doing wrong. There are always other options. It only takes a few seconds to think about what you're doing; you know it's wrong. And if you have trouble with that, reach out to somebody. And that's where I think mentoring comes into play."

"There is so much going on out here, a lot of violence, especially in Lorain lately. We're trying to reach those young men that are out there and sit down and have a conversation with them, see where their mindset is. A lot of this is trying to get them in the right mindset."

- Tony Shoulders, Youth Mentor

COMMUNITY OUTREACH SERIES

The Lorain, Ohio group has been working very hard in 2020 trying to build our brand, implement each of our development series and to foster vital relationships with community stakeholders.

On September 5, 2020, the organization introduced itself to the City of Lorain by holding its initial community outreach event at Shaks Korner. During the outing we not only shared with residents of that neighborhood the services that we provide (Men's Development, Youth Mentoring and Community Outreach), we also encouraged individuals who were not registered to vote, to do so. We provided voter registration forms and information in addition to reinforcing the importance of voting and emphasizing that everyone has a voice and every vote counts. We distributed care packages which included masks, hand sanitizer, a snack, and a Daily Bread devotional.

On October 24, 2020, we had our second installment of our Community Outreach Series at Fligner's Market. Once again, we informed those individuals who frequent said establishment, of our development series and how we are working to improve the quality of life of youth throughout the City (we distributed the care packages again).

Our plan moving forward is to expand to Elyria and Oberlin by hosting a monthly outreach effort from April to October. The more individuals that we can connect with, will in turn, have a positive effect on families in general and youth in particular. The outreach efforts are being duplicated from the COS work that our organization has been doing in the Mt. Vernon Plaza area in Columbus, Ohio for several years. We would like to thank the owners of Shaks Korner and Fligner's Market for their support in our efforts.



"We try to take it a step deeper and get these kids to think about the choices they make in their lives and the consequences of their choices, and how their choices affect other people. They don't think about that. They mostly think about themselves."

- Anthony Jones, Founder, President / CEO



MEDIA COVERAGE

LORAIN MEN OF COURAGE GROUP FORMS TO MENTOR YOUNG MEN

Lorain Morning Journal • September 3, 2020

LORAIN COUNTY'S MEN OF COURAGE SEEK MEMBERS, BRING COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Lorain Morning Journal • September 4, 2020

GROUP MENTORING YOUNG AND ADULT MEN RAISES AWARENESS AT CARRY-OUT SHOP

Elyria Chronicle Telegram • September 6, 2020

LORAIN MEN OF COURAGE MENTORS YOUTH, SEEKS MEMBERS

Lorain Morning Journal • October 24, 2020

MEN OF COURAGE CONTINUES COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Elyria Chronicle Telegram • October 25, 2020



MEET OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM



ANTHONY JONES
Founder
President / CEO



GEORGE PORTER
Director
Men's Development Series



DERRICK LEWIS
Director
Youth Mentoring Series



SCOTT THOMPSON
Director
Community Outreach Series

CONNECT WITH US

Please contact us at (216) 307-2277 for additional information on any of our powerful ministries. Also, our social media platforms are a great way to learn about our organization, upcoming events, involvement opportunities, and more.



MENOF COURAGE-IHN.ORG



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[INSTAGRAM.COM/
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MEMBER CELEBRATIONS

We would like to acknowledge the special occasions in the lives of our members.

BIRTHDAYS

- 09/12 Nathaniel Walker
- 09/22 Roy Gilcrease
- 09/23 Paul Williams
- 09/25 Nick Thompson (Son of Scott and Angela Thompson)
- 09/25 Legacy Dawkins (Daughter of Terrance Dawkins)
- 10/01 Tony Shoulders
- 10/02 Russell Crandall
- 10/03 Makir Clifton (Son of John and Tiffany Clifton)
- 10/14 Wes Thompson (Son of Scott and Angela Thompson)
- 10/23 Zoe Connor (Daughter of Lawrence and Ashley Connor)
- 10/26 Jeffrey Pye
- 10/31 Tymeir Dawkins (Son of Terrance Dawkins)
- 11/03 Zion Clifton (Son of John and Tiffany Clifton)
- 11/15 Carla Lewis (Wife of Derrick Lewis)
- 12/09 Caris Saunders (Daughter of Justin and Areaa Saunders)
- 12/12 Keith Dodley
- 12/14 Senai Clifton (Daughter of John and Tiffany Clifton)
- 12/15 Angela Thompson (Wife of Scott Thompson)
- 12/17 Ashley Connor (Wife of Lawrence Connor)
- 12/20 Terrance Dawkins
- 12/20 Mariah Reed (Daughter of Phillip and Carla Reed)
- 01/01 Cherry Jones-Benberry (Daughter of Anthony Jones)
- 01/10 Taja Dawkins (Daughter of Terrance Dawkins)
- 01/16 Phillip Reed
- 01/25 Tiffany Clifton (Wife of John Clifton)
- 01/25 Scotty Thompson (Son of Scott and Angela Thompson)
- 01/26 Kapri Dawkins (Daughter of Terrance Dawkins)

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 09/02 Phillip and Carla Reed (41 Years)
- 09/04 Scott and Angela Thompson (16 Years)
- 09/28 Lawrence and Ashley Connor (7 Years)
- 10/14 Ryan and Kathrine Brown (14 Years)