

Impact

MissionSAFE Newsletter "Where Hope Thrives"



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A Letter from Nikki

Dear Friends—MissionSAFE has completed its first quarter of 2019 in fine form. We started a Girl's Group at the Timilty Middle School, worked with new ESL youth to feel more at home. As we move toward summer and our paid experiential internship programming, we move forward with our young people feeling more confident, more able to identify healthy choices, more able to avoid violence, with increased communication skills, academic improvement, job readiness and financial literacy skills, creating new experiences, and the good feeling that comes with making the world a better place through their participation in community service and civic engagement activities.

Our youth have explored colleges and careers, had an educational trip to Washington DC, explored art and culture in Boston. Over the next few months, youth will be hosting open mic nights, community celebrations and exhibits of their art and projects. We hope you'll join us for some of them and we thank you for all the ways you partner with us to make MissionSAFE's work possible.



Nikki Flionis
Executive Director, Founder
MissionSAFE

MissionSAFE Youth Improve in School

We are pleased to announce that 81% of our Youth Leadership Service Corps (YLSC) members earned bonus stipends for improvement in their academic efforts and performance. Of those young people, 9% made significant positive progress and 47% improved in at least one grade. MissionSAFE is not primarily an education program, but as part of our holistic work with young people, we engage youth in our daily Power Hour with tutors from different colleges, and staff working to motivate our youth to take their education seriously. MissionSAFE young people, because of obstacles they face in life, often end up not excelling in their academics. All of these young people participated in Power Hour and made serious improvements in attendance and effort. We thank the tutors from Boston College's 4Boston program, from Lasell College and Northeastern University for their dedicated and wonderful work.



"The reason I kept coming back to MissionSAFE was because it was one of the few places I could go to learn in a safe place. As far as academically it has given me a space and a time where I can focus and do my work. Which is kind of hard to find outside of school because as soon as I am out of school I usually just want to do whatever. MissionSAFE gave me an opportunity to focus on my work and also have fun!"

-D'Andre Matthews

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Please join us in support to provide critical programs and services to youth in great need.

MissionSAFE is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization (federal tax identification number 04-3457195), gifts are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.



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Staff Highlight: WaWa Bell



WaWa Bell joins MissionSAFE as Future Coordinator. WaWa speaks on his experience working with the young adults in MissionSAFE's Futures program, "My main objective is giving back to the community and guiding our young adults by learning from our own mistakes and the choices we make. In the Futures program at MissionSAFE we prepare these

young adults for work by assisting with the job readiness process and helping groom our adults for success, creating first experiences that they normally would not have, being an agent of change and supporting the community through service, and mentoring our young adults through group sessions where we discuss conflict in our past and how to better deal with situations moving forward. What I enjoy most about working for MissionSAFE is our group sessions, listening to our young adults share their experience and helping guide them to making better decisions in life. I made similar mistakes at their age in my life so my relatability helps tear down those walls and helps build trust which in turn leads to an honest relationship". MissionSAFE is extremely fortunate to have WaWa on the team, engaging with our young adults in the Futures program through our job readiness programs, mentoring young adults, developing personal growth, experiencing horizon broadening activities , giving back and serving the community, and developing leaders with focus on education.

MissionSAFE Washington D.C. Trip

During Spring Break many of our YLSC youth took a trip to Washington D.C. to explore culture and break out of their comfort zones. We visited The National Museum of African American History and Culture, Howard University, National Air and Space Museum, Lincoln Memorial, WW2 Memorial, Washington Monument, White House, United States Capital, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and Korean War Veterans Memorial. Masiel Delgado Sanchez talks about her experience at the National Air and Space Museum, " I enjoyed the interactive pieces in the air and space museum and seeing the large planes from the ceiling, I did not realize how big they are in real life". MissionSAFE's D.C. trip was lead by four program staff members who assisted in guiding, cooking, mentoring, and educating our youth members. Brandi Artez, Senior Program Associate, spoke of the benefit of taking this trip, "We learned a lot about each other as a group and a team. This was an amazing learning experience for the students to get out of their comfort zone and learn more about our culture in the United States." Follow MissionSAFE on our Social Media for more pictures about upcoming programs.



Thank You David Leathers and John Moriarty and Associates for Hosting MissionSAFE's *Swing Into Action* Golf Tournament on May 13, 2019. Special Thanks to Co. Chairs Steve Tompkins and Ayanna Pressley



MORIARTY

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