

My Brother's Keeper

AUGUSTA



COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

Mayor Hardie Davis Jr.

May 15, 2015

THANK YOU

With support of Georgia Regents University, we have identified initial partners to begin the work of MBK Augusta. These partners will be critical to ensuring the launch of MBK Augusta is a success and establish the foundation for the growth and expansion of opportunities available through the MBK Augusta platform.

AUGUSTA MBK PARTNERS

Augusta Public Library

Babies Can't Wait

Birth Right

Rotary of Augusta: Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program

United Life Christian Learning Academy

Boys and Girls Club of the CSRA

Georgia-Carolina Council, Boy Scouts of America

Georgia Regents University Literacy Center

Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia

Mach Academy

Richmond County Performance Learning Center (PLC)/Tubman Education Center

Sand Hills Community Center and Park

Sigma Pi Alpha Fraternity

Augusta Technical College

Georgia Regents University

Goodwill Industries Job Connection

Youth Works

Richmond County Performance Learning Center (PLC)/Tubman Education Center

Workforce Investment Act

Out of School Youth

AFL-CIO Partners

Augusta Training Shop

Georgia Department of Labor

Augusta Richmond County Sheriff's Department

Child Advocacy Center and Court Appointed Special Advocates

National Youth Advocate Program

Kids Restart

Sand Hills Community Center and Park

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

We as a community are responsible for the success of Augusta's sons and daughters. This is our plan to employ a laser focused strategy on the success of our sons. As you know my son, Benjamin, my nephews and my godsons are near and dear to me. I pray for them, I serve for them and for the hope of their future in Augusta.

It is the steps we take today that will forever set the path for my son and your sons. Your son matters to me and is an important part of Augusta's sustainability. It is imperative that we open doors for our boys and change the trajectory of those who are often left behind so that all our sons can stand together and proudly say, "Failure is not an option for me."

Thank you for being part of the village and committing to our children. They cannot make it without every one of us taking a stand for them. I am honored to stand with you as we act together to change the future for them in this city for the long term.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Haebe Davis". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

THE MY BROTHER'S KEEPER CHALLENGE

On January 8, 2015 Augusta, Georgia officially accepted the My Brother's Keeper Challenge, and has since been working to develop a strategic program to:

- Ensure all children enter school cognitively, physically, socially and emotionally ready
- Ensure all children read at grade level by 3rd grade
- Ensure all youth graduate from high school
- Ensure all youth complete post-secondary education or training
- Ensure all youth out of school are employed
- Ensure all youth remain safe from violent crime

The My Brother's Keeper Augusta Community Summit convened on January 29, 2015 with more than 150 attendees to include, young men and boys, educators, elected leaders to include the Sheriff, commissioners and judges, Department of Juvenile Justice leaders, community partners, business and industry leaders, volunteers and other community stakeholders. During the breakout sessions, the following goals were address in the manner of discussion and opportunities:



Goal 1: Ensure all children enter school cognitively, physically, socially and emotionally ready

Discussion:

"It starts at home. Home has to be conducive for our children to flourish. Start with parents and focus with parents. Teach them how to care for their children."

"If parents don't have it to give, they can't. Other extended family members must have the tools to step in and help. It takes that one person to help them along."

"Faith-based community should be engaged more and identify ways to intervene at this early stage and give emotional support. We are ignoring a wealth of resources to young ages (1 and 2 years old.)"

"Working parents have limited time at home and rely on after-school programs to help bridge the gaps. Provide more facilities and seek grants to help with those resources."

Opportunities:

Incorporate more early childhood educational training while addressing the social and emotional needs of students.

Establish a Role Model and Mentor program.

Adopt the organizational model of Augusta Partnership for Children.

Employ an "it takes a village to raise a child" approach between families, communicates, the healthcare system and faith based organization.

Goal 2: Ensure all children read at grade level by 3rd grade

Discussion:

"Reading emphasis has to start at birth. 3rd grade is too late, however, critical to long-term success and school interest. The students need to be strong readers by 3rd grade."

"Parents must be engaged and know what resources are available."

"Some parents may be illiterate and lack the ability to assist with student's home studies."

Opportunities:

Promote summer reading programs at public libraries.

Integrate reading opportunities for business leaders to read to students during the school/ workday.

Compliment the Accelerated Reader programs in schools with Special Guest Readers.

Initiate reading incentives for students and parents.

Goal 3: Ensure all youth graduate from high school

Discussion:

“Many problems our children face are driven by cognitive and/or emotional factors...“They have to know that we care.”

“Link high school curriculum with career pathway plan to help develop and refine personal interests.”

“Identify top reasons students do not graduate and develop a plan to address these issues and offer specific solutions.”

“Provide assistance/tutors to help students after school with homework”

“Invest in low level performing schools and the students attending them.”

Opportunities:

Utilize community centers and neighborhood resources to provide tutorial services.

Incorporate project based opportunities with business partners that demonstrate the need for education in certain subjects.

Promote successful students who are graduates of the schools they attend.

Promote life skills training for students and parents.

Success Training. Help students identify their own successes and plan for their future.

Goal 4: Ensure all youth complete post-secondary education or training.

Discussion:

“Expose children to different experiences, new careers, and different career opportunities available locally, and outside of the area.”

“Introduce career and workplace exposure at the middle school grade level.”

“Work with employers to promote support for opportunities for young people with a criminal history to demonstrate their abilities and commitment to their own destiny.”

Opportunities:

Initiate summer youth employment program to expose students to the workforce early.

Collaborate with local technical schools to create strategies to increase enrollment of high school.

Goal 5: Ensure all youth out of school are employed.

Discussion:

“Soft skills trainings are extremely important and not utilized. “

“Students need to be educated on the process of choosing jobs and how create a resume to support their pursuits.”

Opportunities:

Offer incentives to employers to aid in employment of recent graduates from certificate and training programs.

Consider career opportunities from apprenticeship-based programs for participating college students.

Develop a job resource bank that is cross-referenced by industry.

Provide state, regional, and national career forecast opportunities to assist students identify training and experiences needed in a competitive job market.

Encourage volunteer / outreach opportunities that can lead to full time employment.

Goal 6: Ensure all youth remain safe from violent crime.

Discussion:

“Allowing second chances for youth who are nonviolent offender; Ensure they have the opportunity to complete secondary education.”

“Many problems grow from the desire to belong to gangs and “fit in” that can often be addressed with an appropriate support network.”

Opportunities:

Work with the Board of Education to organize camps during school breaks to offer meaningful opportunities and alternatives to our youth.

Collaborate with the mental health services to provide professional access for support and care to students and family members who suffer with physical, mental, substance or other abusive environments need access to professional support and care.

Addressing truancy and offer support to parents by increasing awareness of programs and resources.

THE ROLE OF THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

MAYOR'S OFFICE NEXT STEPS/ TIMELINE

On May 14, 2015, Mayor Hardie Davis Jr. and a small group of key community leaders received an analysis from Georgia Regents University of the MBK Goals and community organizations that he should identify as initial implementation partners to begin work to immediately address the goals of MBK Augusta.

Based on the information provided there are some short-term measures identified as critical to the success of MBK Augusta that will be addressed prior to executing a broad MBK strategic action plan for the community.

Key areas that need to be addressed and a timeline for resolving those issues are included in the following timeline that leads to execution of a successful MBK Augusta action plan

Develop MBK Augusta website - June 5

- Single point of reference with information about MBK Augusta, the goals, data, projections and resources. This is being developed by the Augusta IT Department and linked through Mayor Davis's webpage.

Establish MBK Augusta Youth Advisory Board - June 12

- At every stage, it is imperative that we engage young people whose lives we plan to transform. An advisory board will be in place to ensure that these young people realize that we have a genuine interest in their long term success and to expose them to the public policy process.

Hire a VISTA Volunteer - July 3

- Support personnel to serve as a community resource, help with linking organizations to technical assistance and building awareness of MBK Augusta is key. We will leverage federal service programs to have a full time person to engage, "own" and be accountable for the day-to-day execution of the MBK Augusta plan with direction and direct support from Mayor Davis.

Establish MBK Augusta Resource Directory/ Registry - July 6

- One of the issues identified by Georgia Regents University is the need for a single place for parents, young men and others to identify resources to help. This will begin by providing web based information through the MBK Augusta website and take a multidimensional approach to the MBK Goals.

Launch extensive communications and public relations campaign - July 6

- Awareness of resources and investment is KEY to the success of MBK Augusta. It is imperative that we engage our media partners at the onset and in the years ahead to make people aware of the community of resources identified to support our children and their parents as they embrace this cradle to career strategy. As we launch the MBK Augusta Action Plan, this strategic piece of the puzzle will also build awareness throughout the non profit sector, with students, parents, extended family, educators and other who play a role in ensuring the success of Augusta's sons.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PRIORITY OPPORTUNITIES

Open communication with the Richmond County School System is important to the success of our young people and to maximize the impact of MBK Augusta. We are partners for our students' success from the cradle to their career.

There are opportunities to establish partnerships with the Chamber of Commerce, large businesses and the Board of Education to implement programs that provide mentoring opportunities to achieve some of the MBK Augusta goals addressing early education issues.

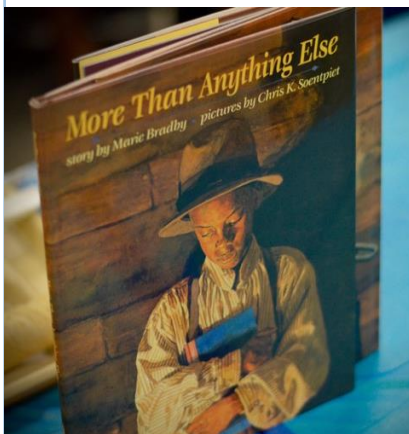
We are working to identify large employers to "adopt" elementary schools and have the employees engage with students in a meaningful way to establish accountability and support for students working on strengthening reading skills.

Our plan is to utilize a strategy similar to that of the Everybody Wins program, where first or second grade students will begin the school year with a weekly lunch reading partner and develop that relationship throughout the school year.

We have also engaged the business community and other community partners to launch the new Mayor's Summer Learning and Earning Experience. Seventy-five young people will begin working this summer in a variety of industries and businesses large and small.

We have an opportunity to use this summer experience as a way to engage our youth with professionals in a setting they may not have been able to experience, expose them to career pathways they may not be considering and motivate them positively during the summer months when they are more inclined to be involved in passive activity.

The faith community will also play an integral part in providing support for families and our youth and for sharing information broadly within their respective congregations and communities of service.



For additional information about this plan and related activities, please contact Lynthia Owens at lowens@augustaga.gov or 706-821-1831