

# Moving from Awareness to Action: Growing Responsible Male Youth



## 2011 Northeast Family Strengthening Conference



**Fit for the Future: Asset-building Strategies and Solutions for Families and Communities**  
**Tuesday, September 27, 2011**

### Facilitators:

**Rev. M. Julius Hayes, PhD**  
The Saturday Academy for Positive Self-Development

**Mr. Leon Sankofa, MSW**  
National Call Dad, Inc.

Moving from awareness to actions...growing responsible male youth requires an effective learning relationship and reflections throughout the process. Learning from experience is the key level in helping males to learn the importance of internal and external assets. This interactive “power shop” will provide you with tools designed to stimulate and guide reflective practices by helping build solutions to develop and expand existing skills repertoires. What happens in a mentoring relationship can have a profound, deep and enduring impact. Do not wait until tomorrow; the advantage of being involved with the male culture is in the moment.

Men all over the country find themselves struggling with talking to, being with caring for and working with male youth. People often spend very little time talking to one another; however, they often say plenty during this silence. Young men imprint themselves onto the men in their lives, copying them and looking to them as important sources for forming their identity and self-worth.

A young man’s early relationship not only teaches him the how-to of manhood, but also establishes the orientation towards self and others that he will use in building from both internal and external assets taught.

You are encouraged to increase the awareness and issues young males face daily.

Young men limit themselves because of their fear and lack of faith. We cannot afford to settle with being comfortable with their pain or disappointment rather than helping them to learn how to get peace of mind. Once you begin to practice the skills of internal and external assets with young males they will be able to notice the beauty of their intelligence and legacy within family, community and other males. The proper use of internal assets will help with the cornerstone of emotional pain. Psychological difficulties and young men unable to talk about issues that divides and put them against one another.

“Whatever they might be we have the responsibility to move from awareness to action and grow responsible male youth.”

M. Julius Hayes, PhD

- Make sure that good relationships are the first priority
- Listen first and talk second
- Set out the facts; learn the truth
- Explore solutions together

## INTERNAL ASSETS

Internal assets help to develop a greater sense of competence, self-worth, and identity and enhance moving from awareness to action.

- **Commitment to learning**; helps the male to bond to school and becomes motivated to do well in school
- **Positive values**; helps the male to place high value on helping other people  
Integrity – help males to act on convictions and stand up for his beliefs  
Honesty – help males tell the truth even when it is not easy  
Responsibility – help males accept and take personal responsibility
- **Social competencies** – help males with resistance skills  
Help them to recognized the important to resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations
- **Positive identity** – personal power help males to feel that they have controls over things that happen  
Help them to be optimistic about their personal future and know that there life has a purpose

## **EXTERNAL ASSETS**

- **Support** – family life provides high levels of love and support
  - Other adult relationships
  - Caring community
  - Caring school climate
- **Empowerment** – community values
  - Males perceive that adults in the community value them
  - Males as resources give them useful roles in community
  - Safety males feel safe at home, school and in the community
- **Expectations** – family have clear rules and consequences, and monitors the males whereabouts
- **Constructive use of time** – creative activities, male programs, time at home and working in organizations in the community

## WHAT MAKES INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ASSETS WORK?

- **Commitment and trust**
- **Choice**
- **Principle**
- **Model**
- **Orientation**

### Criteria for success

- Committed to moving from awareness to action
- Good communicator, open questions, listener
- Knowledgeable about the value of responsible male youths
- Can apply theory to practice
- Determine to honor your own internal and external assets learned

