Congratulations to the new CB College Graduates!

Khalif Hill - Virginia State
Quintin Thomas - Morehouse College
Brandon Westbrook - Morehouse College
Namaste,

In this season of Giving and Reflection, I am inspired by how powerfully, wonderful 2017 has been to CB and the young men we serve. I am also cognizant of how important community building is to our continued success. We started 2017 with our successful 10 for 10 campaign. The 10 for 10 Campaign led by our parents and their supporters was instrumental in allowing the young men to travel to explore Colleges and Black History locations in California. As a result of additional engagement with our community each of our Rites of Passage young men received $5,000 in scholarships, one of CB’s largest scholarship endowments thus far. We are immensely grateful to Erica Wala, Lori White, Yusef Hamm, Mr. & Mrs Logan, Debra Lewis and William Calloway who selflessly gave to our 2017 ROP graduates for their college fund.

I am awed by the experiences we are providing for the young men with all of our trips, both big and small. During our February trip we were privileged to meet Little Rock Nine Member Ms. MinnJean Brown-Trickey, as we toured Little Rock High School and the National Civil Rights Museum in Arkansas. In addition, the young men also explored colleges in Memphis, Tennessee during this trip.

Our vibrant and successful Parent Institute coordinated several successful Fundraising and fellowship events during the first half of the year. From our Bowling Night, Game Night, 80s Party, Roller Skating and our Mother & Son Dance each event provided purposeful fun. In addition, our Parent Institute workshops throughout the year focused on a curriculum of managing the hard topics, of speaking to our sons about Sex, Finances, and Discipline.

When the school year came to a close, there was mounting excitement as we prepared the young men to travel to California. For many of them this was their first time on a plane and some had never been to the West Coast either. In July, we traveled through San Francisco, Los Angeles and Oakland, visiting colleges, technology companies, and historic locations. We created unforgettable memories with the young men.

We were also excited as our YM, Families and Partners came together to celebrate CB’s Annual Gala, this year’s accomplishments and the Rites of Passage candidates crossing over into manhood. It was wonderful to honor our most recent 3 sons who moved on to college. I want to thank the Campaign for Black Male Achievement, Eagle Foundation, the MALIK Fraternity, Inc., Rev. David Brawley and church family at St. Paul Community Baptist Church, Rev. Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood and the Mt. Pisgah church and all our supporters for your continued contributions in sustaining the Chionesu Bakari mission. We can not mentor and guide the young men to success without you!

As we bring the year to a close, I am continually grateful for the CB Staff who give of their time, talents and treasures and fully embody the mission of Chionesu Bakari. However, CB’s year was not without setbacks and losses as our beloved Director of Strategic Planning, David Nelson passed away. Perry Williams joined CB as the Director of Community Relations, leveraging what David started in broadening CB’s external connections. In 2017, I was thrilled that we had several opportunities for the CB staff to travel on behalf of CB to network and build connections with like minded organizations. 2018 will see these planted seeds blossom in places like Chicago, Atlanta and Dallas.

Looking ahead, we will be deepening the health of our Parent Institute community and broadening our reach, both inside our Parent Institute and with current and new partners. A strong healthy community is the necessary environment to raise strong minded sons. Our goal is to strategically connect with individuals and organizations that can enable us to expand our mission within Schools and Communities across the US. Whether you are meeting us for the first time, or you joined this vital voyage to renew the lives of young black men previously, I look forward to you embarking on this journey with us in 2018.

P.S. I hope you see how the earnest and vital service we do for the young men changes lives and families. Make a difference and donate today www.youngblackmanonline.org/donate

Sincerely,

Horace L. Moore
Founder & Executive Director
Chionesu Bakari Program for Young Men
Life & Loss of David J. Nelson
Director of Strategic Planning

On January 17th, the Chionesu Bakari family experienced a major loss as our beloved Director of Strategic Planning, Mr. David J. Nelson transitioned out of this life. David was a quiet leader and avid supporter of CB, that worked tirelessly behind the scenes.

CB Founder and Executive Director, Horace Moore reminds all of how David was instrumental in broadening the spectrum of his vision for the program by creating an awareness of CB to the MALIK brotherhood, and by making necessary connections with outside resources. David was also involved in developing innovative ideas and enhancing the visibility of the program through social media platforms. David, was a close friend and mentor to Horace, and he always provided encouragement and a "safe space" to talk about anything. His passion, dedication, inspiration and motivation made him a giant in his accomplishments for the program in the short years that he served, Chionesu Bakari will continue to honor the life, spirit and legacy of David J. Nelson through its work with CB young men. In addition, the MALIK Award, given to an Alumni young man who displays the qualities of strong character, self-discipline and leadership at our Annual CB Gala every year, was renamed the David J. Nelson Award. CB is also supporting David's legacy by contributing to a college scholarship fund for his 13-yr old daughter, Naja. May the legacy David created be incorporated through us. He will always be in our hearts and minds and his legacy will live on. David, we honor and salute you; may you rest in Power!

Written by Paulette Bailey
Compilation by Charisse Smith

CB Parents & Sons Movie Event – I Am Not Your Negro

“If any white man in the world says, ‘Give me liberty or give me death’, the entire white world applause. When a black man says exactly the same thing, he is judged a criminal and treated like one. And everything possible is done to make an example of the bad nig**r so there won’t be anymore like him.” - James Baldwin

On March 4th, the brothers of Malik Fraternity, Inc. sponsored a day of reflection for teens and their families by providing tickets to a viewing of the film "I Am Not Your Negro" featuring James Baldwin. The young men 12 years+ along with some of our parents attended the viewing. This Oscar nominated documentary was drawn from footage of James Baldwin, and included his words and notes from an unfinished book titled, Remember This House that he begun to write before his death. This unfinished book was set to highlight the lives of Medgar Evers, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King and racism. Having known all three men, Mr. Baldwin had a bird’s eye view of their journeys through the civil rights movement.

CB young men, parents and staff alike were moved by the connection the film made between the racial plight that Black people face today versus 50 years ago and how relevant Baldwin's thoughts and ideas remain with regard to the Black experience. CB is dedicated to ensuring that the young men are cognizant of their history, so that they will tap into their full potential. Understanding where they come from creates clarity on where they are going. Chionesu Bakari extends another heartfelt thank you to Malik Fraternity Inc. for creating an opportunity for CB family to view this film together!

Written by Tosca Myers
Compilation by Sophie Louis
Mid-winter recess, is usually a time when most students can’t wait to get out of school and take a much needed break after having studied and stressed out over mid term exams. It usually falls during February which is Black History Month. Chionesu Bakari uses the month to remember the important contributions and achievements of African Americans throughout our nation’s history.

This past February, CB utilized the mid-winter recess to travel to the Mid-West, to explore Memphis, TN and Little Rock, AR with the young men. This trip covered visits to the University of Memphis, Blues Hall of Fame, National Civil Rights Museum - Lorraine Motel, University of Arkansas Pine Bluffs, William J Clinton - Presidential Library Museum, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Central High School - Little Rock Nine and the Daisy Bates House where Ms. Daisy Bates, NAACP President lived at the height of the Civil Rights Movement. This trip was infused with lots of history, art, nature, college tours, life-long lessons and memorable experiences that the young men will carry with them into the future.

The visit to the National Civil Rights Museum - Lorraine Motel in Memphis, TN had a huge impact on the young men. One young man commented that “There was a lot of history made in that motel during the 60’s” and another said, “It was comforting to know that we stood in some of the same places that Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stood”. Others were in awe of their visit to Central High School where the “Little Rock Nine” attended. They couldn’t believe that they actually had the opportunity to meet Ms. Minnijean Brown, one of the Little Rock Nine (group of 9 African Americans who broke the color line, by being integrated into their White segregated school in 1957). According to some of the young men, this trip ranks up there with one of the best CB experiences thus far. Malcom X once said “The future belongs to those who prepare for it today” and CB is definitely preparing its youth for the future by exposing them to their history to prepare them for what’s ahead of them!

On Friday, May 12, 2017, the families of Chionesu Bakari came together at the Rotunda Room of Brooklyn Borough Hall for our Annual Mother & Son's Dance celebration.

The evening started with each young man escorting his mom to the location for an evening of dinner, dance and friendly competition. Dinner was served by the Fathers and there was music dancing and friendly competition among the mother-son teams to be named the best at karaoke, dance or the best dressed mother-son team. A great time was had by all.

A few weeks later, CB dance activities continued with the Sisters With Purpose Cotillion Ball. CB partnered with Sisters With Purpose and some of the CB young men escorted their young ladies to the annual cotillion, where these debutantes were introduced to their community. CB young men led the debutantes in a series of classical dances like the waltz.

This Mother & Son Dance and Cotillion Ball led up to a special time of year for the CB family. As the school year moved toward a close, CB parents learned which young men achieved honor roll status and the college acceptance choices of the ROP candidates were announced.

CB leads our young men on a journey to learn and grow through exposure to positive activities that reinforce loving family relationships and build character. These types of out of the box activities contribute to that goal. We are thankful for the vision of the Director Horace Moore and the dedication of the CB Staff.

Compilation by Sharon Swain

Written by LaTasha Green, Compilation by Paulette Bailey
Chionesu Bakari began this mild summer day in the twilight hours of the morning as 60 CB young men and staff members made their way to JFK airport. There was an electric excitement in the brisk air that was met with a calm demeanor. Each family arrived at LaGuardia airport for a 5 a.m. check-in on JetBlue Airlines for their trip to California. For some, flying was a brand new experience while for others this was just one of many flights in their short lives already. Regardless of flight experience, each young man worked to contain themselves, as they boarded the plane. This was the first time ever, that CB both boarded a plane, and went clear across the country, together!

CB Takes Flight to California

One of the first things CB YM discovered upon landing in 85 degree, sunny Los Angeles, was that flying for 5 hours and 39 minutes to California was like flying through a time capsule backwards 3 hours. CB’s luggage collection went seamlessly because of the advanced planning and execution by CB staff members. Following check-in at the hotel and a quick bite to eat, our CB group set out to hang out on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, the most famous sidewalk in the world! Our guiding lights of noble promise could not wait to see where so many celebrities are honored for their accolades in motion picture, television, recording and radio. CB experienced the coral colored stars adorning black sidewalks for 15 blocks on Hollywood Boulevard and some took time to share their thoughts:

CB young man Ryan Richardson said “There were stars for a lot of people I knew.” Jeremiah Smith-Fleming said “Being on The Walk of Fame was like being at a big party. Everyone was in a celebratory mood.”

While the hustle and bustle of Hollywood’s Walk of Fame was not foreign for our CB young men from NYC, they all agreed it was a nice experience to see how Hollywood lays out their glitz and glamour.

Wednesday, July 19th (Day 2)

In keeping with an honored and long-lived CB tradition, our CB young men boarded their charter bus with CB resident driver Mr. Raleigh, after breakfast and went to visit Charles R. Drew University. Named after one of the first African American medical researchers, physicians, and surgeons, Dr. Charles R. Drew is most notably known for pioneering methods of storing blood plasma for transfusion and he organized the first large-scale blood bank in the US. Our CB young men were graced with the presence of Dr. David M. Carlisle, President & CEO during their visit. Dr. Carlisle sat and talked to the young men about the importance of caring for the under-served, increasing underrepresented groups in the medical field and educational opportunities at the university.

This school had a huge impact on many of the young men, especially those interested in pursuing careers most closely represented here.
CB’s Jaire Brown thought visiting Drew University was “AMAZING” and really a great experience since he’s interested in Sports Medicine. Our very own Jeremiah Smith-Fleming/future engineer was thoroughly intrigued “the technology was AWESOME especially the machines that allowed us to see different layers of the human body.” Preston Kittrell added, “though this was a small HBCU, I see the benefits of smaller classes and more individualized instruction. It would be a great fit for me especially if I’m really going to stick to science.” CB young man Ryan Richardson summed it up best when he shared what one of the tour guides imparted with the young men; “It is better to come to a house that has been built for you, than to go to a house where you have been invited to visit.”

THURSDAY, JULY 20TH (DAY 3)

California, is a huge state with lots to see, so in an attempt to cover as much ground as possible CB loaded onto their bus after breakfast on Thursday, July 20th, for a 5.5 hour picturesque ride from Los Angeles to San Francisco. Mr. Raleigh drove passed views of palm trees, mountains and miles of highway and CB bus time was spent fellowshipping, sleeping, reading and lots of horse play, but you will have to spend some time with a CB young man if you want additional details. Although, lots of luck will be needed with this tight knit brotherhood, because apparently what happens on a CB bus, stays on a CB bus!

FRIDAY, JULY 21ST (DAY 4)

CB young men spent day 4 in Silicon Valley! This destination was chosen with intentional purpose of exposing the young men to careers in technology. The first stop on this hi-tech adventure was Intel Corporation, an American multinational corporation, technology company, and a leader in the field of computing. 14 year old, CB YM Jeremiah wants to be a software engineer and spoke of the visit to Intel. “I learned coding in 6th grade and I really enjoy doing it and most things technological so this place was incredible!” There were interactive activities that encouraged the young men to experience the world of code. “A few of us spelled our names with code and displayed it on an interactive touch screen!” exclaimed 10 year old Preston Kittrell “ 9 year old Joseph McMichael was very impressed with the visit to Intel also. He said, “The INTEL Museum was cool. We were able to see what happens inside a computer. They showed us what happens with a computer chip when it comes out and how it is made. It was very interesting. Some of us were able to put on the work equipment (glasses,jumpsuit).”

Then, the young men ventured to the Ames Exploration Research Center, home of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics also known as NASA! Some recognized the career connection right away. Chaka Phaire had the realization, “It’s like a career option. I felt like this is doable. It’s definitely an option, that we can be a part of NASA!” Jeremiah Smith-Fleming stated, “When I was younger, I wanted to be an astronaut, so it was really exciting to go inside of the spaceships and read about some of the space missions.” Some of the young men were in awe of the site, one young man remarking, “I really liked the ‘space food’. They had a gift shop where we could buy some. It was real food. Mac and cheese and chicken was on display in the space ship.”

SATURDAY, JULY 22ND (DAY 5)

Day 5, was a warm and sunny 86 degrees, and many people in California spent this beautiful day at the beach. However, CB continued on their mission to renew and recondition the minds of the young men.
Stanford University

So, they started their day with a visit to Stanford University. Stanford is ranked 2nd by Forbes and 5th in the 2018 edition of Best Colleges and National Institutions making it one of the world’s leading private research institutions. Although the young men, visited in off-peak summer season, just being present on Stanford’s beautiful suburban campus with 8,180 acres of land seemed to impact the YM in many ways.

Jeremiah Smith-Fleming noted that, “This school is on a big beautiful campus. It is one of the nicest universities I’ve been to so far.”

Then CB headed to see the Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco’s #1 tourist attraction. At 4,200 feet long, it is one of the longest bridges in the world. CB young men enjoyed the view as they walked across a portion of this suspension bridge, and took some pictures to memorialize the moment.

Sunday, July 23rd (Day 6)

After spending Sunday morning in Oakland at The Palace Theater getting their praise and worship on with Bishop Keith L. Clark and his congregation, CB’s young men were show-stoppers at the Bay Area Black Expo. This expo is California’s largest African-American trade show and it was held at the Oakland Alameda County Coliseum East Side Club. Just imagine spending your day at an expo visiting exhibitions put on by successful entrepreneurs, financial institutions, academic institutions and community resource organizations and catching a glimpse of 50+ young Black men, well groomed, well mannered and all in uniform about their business,

USC Berkeley is one of the world’s most prestigious universities and the top public university in the country. It would have been remiss of CB not to visit while in San Francisco, and so on Monday, July 24th the entire crew ventured onto campus and our young men took the initiative to interview some of the students they encountered on campus. CB YM were determined to discover what the census on student experiences across campus was. Marcus Watson, having completed his first year at college already and a big sports fan, was glad to see what USC looked like. Marcus learned that most USC Berkeley students have the same problems that his fellow classmates and CB alumn brothers are working on. The extensive collection of books from centuries ago to present within the campus’ libraries was very impressive to rising 9th grader Jeremiah Smith-Fleming. One thing our sons seemed to agree on while at USC Berkeley was that they liked the vast eating options on campus. Watch out Lavar Burton, Reggie Bush, Forrest Whitaker and Lynn Swann, CB’s got next!

Then CB switched things up a bit with a visit to San Quentin State Prison Museum. San Quentin State Prison is the state’s oldest maximum-security correctional facility for men and it houses the largest population of death row inmates. Although a prison facility is not counted as one of the most coveted places to go, The San Quentin Prison Museum is a popular attraction as it offers visitors the opportunity to see things like prisoner designed weapons,

Monday, July 24th (Day 7)
prisoner designed music boxes and understand the negative impact of these things as well as life in jail.

Given what he’d seen on TV regarding prison life, John Robinson, CB Staff Youth Liaison & Director in Training, expressed that he felt somewhat uncomfortable being in that setting and viewing all types of weapons that belonged to prisoners. He was somewhat amazed at how curious the younger men were to view the weapons first-hand and learn about prison life. CB young man Jeremiah said, “We had the opportunity to visit the museum portion of the jail. I could not believe how many different types of weapons the inmates have made over the years, using things around the prison!” Joseph (JoJo) added, “We learned what takes place inside on a daily basis in a jail facility. There is a lot of negativity. I also learned jail is not a place you want to be.” CB uses experiences like this as teaching tools for the ‘Decision Making’ portion of its curriculum.

TUESDAY, JULY 25TH (DAY 8)

CB got their “Power to the People” on by visiting the central headquarters of the Black Panthers in Oakland. This central headquarters location served as the heartbeat of this revolutionary, grass roots organization and was integral to the Black liberation and power movement. What an awesome opportunity for our CB young men to stand where plans to build, develop and empower people of color were formulated. The young men got a chance to tour the site and soak in the spirit that is no doubt rooted in the location. Although some of the younger men may not grasp the full brevity of visiting, it is with great hope that with time and additional history lessons, the experience and the pictures they took will motivate these young men to seek and do more for their communities at large.

Feeling empowered by the work that the Black Panthers did with and for their communities, CB young men were reminded that there is much work that still needs to be done in the face of civil rights and social injustices as they took a train ride to Fruitvale Bart Station platform in Oakland, California. In preparation for visiting this site, CB young men were required to watch a documentary style film titled “Fruitvalie Station” so that they would understand the significance of the visit. Fruitvale Bart station is the platform where Oscar Grant, a 22 year old was pinned to the ground, handcuffed and fatally shot by Bart police officer, by Johannesburg Mehserle on New Year’s Day in 2009, after reports of a fight on a train.

Ryan Richardson, remarked that this was a powerful experience and actually seeing and being where it happened made him wonder how Oscar Grant was feeling at that very moment. Thankfully, justice prevailed in the end with Mehserle being terminated from the City of Bart Police Department and found guilty of involuntary manslaughter.

CB tweeted Michael B Johnson (the 22 year old who played Oscar Grant in the film) while at the station and he responded to the tweet and gave CB a shout out! Talk about the power of social media!

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26TH (DAY 9)

Chionesu Bakari visited the Museum of the African Diaspora, in San Francisco, CA on Wednesday, July 26th. CB’s young men got to examine the experiences of the African Diaspora through videos, audio performances, and other interactive displays. These teachings were confirmation and in alignment with CB’s intention of exposing the young men to the richness, struggles and strength of their ancestors. We are the sum of our experiences, the totality of our exposure, and a
collective of our history and this visit to the Museum of the African Diaspora reminded our young men that we are because our ancestors were.

FRIDAY, JULY 28TH (DAY 11)

After a day of travel, CB YM took some time to relax and explore The Santa Monica Pier catching waves and having fun! The Santa Monica Pier is a landmark attraction that is over 100 years old. The CB young men and staff spent time on the large double-jointed pier that has an iconic entrance at the foot of Colorado Avenue in Santa Monica, California. A good time was had by all as they embraced the scenery, interacted with the people, played games, went on rides and shared good vibes. Marcus Watson added, “It was cool going to the pier, I went to the arcade and beat John (Robinson) in air hockey!”

SATURDAY, JULY 29TH (DAY 12)

All good things come to an end, and so CB boarded their return flight on JetBlue Airlines from LAX airport in Los Angeles, California, bound for LAG airport in New York, City. While this trip was eventful, educating, fun and filled with more life long memories and laughs than any newsletter can possibly capture, the entire CB crew, young men and staff alike were definitely ready to get back, be greeted by their loved ones and be home, and that is exactly what they did!

What an amazing trip to have taken with 60 brothers, this trip is going down in the record books and it was a huge success!!!!

This year’s Chionesu Bakari Annual Gala and Rites of Passage Ceremony (ROP) was awesome!

Our “high holy week” as we affectionately call it, began on Thursday, June 1st with a private ceremony to honor CB’s ROP Candidates/High School Graduates, (Dennis Hedgpeth, Naseem Washington and Najee Quick). It was here that these young men were graced with a humbling foot washing ceremony “by their mothers”, presented with gifts, words of guidance, encouragement and renamed with African names that were carefully selected based on their individual characteristics.

Then on Friday, June 2nd CB family and friends’ roared into the 1920’s, put on their nicest threads, and shimmied into Antun’s Banquet Hall in Queens Village, NY. There was plenty of laughs as they dined, danced and honored the ROP Candidates and over 60 young men with achievement awards for their accomplishments throughout the year. Rev. Dr. Alfonso Wyatt (keynote speaker) encouraged attendees to practice an “All Hands on Deck” approach to provide much needed support to our young black men. CB’s 3 ROP Candidates were also presented with over $15,000 in scholarships money.
On Saturday, June 3rd, the CB's 3 ROP Candidates gathered for a luncheon and then spent time in East NY, being introduced as the newest men of the community. Finally, the paramount Rites of Passage Ceremony, transpired on Sunday, June 4th. The Village of CB arrived at St. Paul Community Baptist Church, dressed in their best African garb, to witness the public induction of the 3 ROP Candidates. It was here that the candidates bowed as adolescents and rose as men. Words of wisdom, additional gifts and the “charge to manhood” were bestowed upon these young men from the men in the village. The ROP candidates stood before the village and attest to their readiness to take on the charge of manhood. Each newly proclaimed man of CB, then passed the baton on to the next set of young men that are expected to step into manhood, and each rising young man accepted the charge! It truly was an inspirational sight to bear witness and participate in the celebration of boys becoming men.

CB in Schools Expands

2017 marks the 3rd successful year of the CB-in-Schools program, which brings the CB mentoring core curriculum to 4th and 5th graders in New York City’s public schools. This external CB program, started with the visionary Brooklyn CS 21 Principal, Leslie Frazier and has expanded to PS 269, and Brooklyn Collaborative Middle School. The CB in Schools young men meet once a week for a few hours and they are in sync with the rest of the CB program’s curriculum. These young men eagerly learn and focus on the key components of the curriculum -- Character Development, Decision Making, and Skill Development.

This year CB in Schools young men were exposed to building trips to the Barclays Center, Madison Square Garden, and to a lunch at a Black owned restaurant to practice their manners and decision making skills while in a social setting. They also worked to perfect the presentation of their mantras on self-discipline.

Chionesu Bakari is poised for significant growth through a strategic plan to expand this portion of its’ program in schools. This plan serves to grow the number of young men and families that CB is able to serve, and it also will enhance and extend the support they provide. Through collective efforts, they are empowering and reclaiming our under-served young men, renewing and reconditioning their minds, thus providing them with the necessary tools to tell their story in a positive way.

Written by Susan Rodriguez

CB Parent Retreat

12 YEARS: TRANSFORMATION OF MIND, BODY & SOUL TO RECLAIM OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY

Chionesu Bakari’s annual parent retreat serves as a deliberate act to withdraw from the noise and pressures of everyday life. This process allows parents to refocus their energy on themselves and their connection with God. This year’s amazing, retreat was thoughtfully planned and executed by a Special Planning Committee (Antoinette Miller, Kendra Brown, Kim Jeter, Eboni Hill, Alana Bernard & Darryl Henderson-Roy). It kicked off on Friday, November 17th - 19th and the work began on the Connecticut bound charter bus. CB’s weekend was filled with workshops on “How Prayer Gets Us Through the Mission” (led by Antoinette Miller, Denise Simmons & Millicent Smith), “Forgiveness” (Renee Muhammed), “Devotion & Daily Prayer Walk With God” (Elder Vaughn Curmon), “The Escape Room” (Dion Oliver & Elder Victor Young) and “Circle of Identity” (Alana Bernard). Parents LaToya Harris, Angela Lynch and Syeatta Bolden stepped out of their comfort zones to share hidden talents and to serve! In addition, there were assignments to do that required inward reflecting. However, the focus was also on community development and that message resonated in the group projects, the escape room, game nights, group dinner, group breakfast and one on one’s. CB is serious and intentional in their work of Community Building. Positive relationships within the village are necessary for the healthy development of our young men. Afterall, it takes a village to raise a child, and “it is easier to build strong children, than to repair broken men.”

Written by Charisse Smith
At Chionesu Bakari we try to live by the motto that “It is better to give than to receive.” This year Chionesu Bakari made a concerted collective effort to provide at least 30 days of community service efforts throughout the year.

CB would like to thank the Brooklyn DA’s office, Sisters with Purpose, St. Paul’s Community Baptist Church, Brookdale Hospital, and the Bowery Mission Soup Kitchen for welcoming CB to partner with your organizations’ so that our village could serve multiple communities along-side you! In addition, CB is thankful that our village is so rich in the spirit of giving! Thank you to all of our CB volunteers for donating your time, resources and care. We are truly proud to have served to distribute food, clothes books, and driving services. Thank you CB for your donations of books, clothes, magazines, crayons, colored pencils and your expertise to ensure that a difference was made in somebody’s life.

Our founder, Horace Moore and the CB Alumni entrusted CB families with the challenge of providing 30 days of service and the village committed to making it a reality. As a unit we are humbly reminded that we should always work to give back. To whom much is given, much is required. Thank you for always answering the call to service.

The annual Rumble Young Man, Rumble (RYMR), conference, hosted by the Campaign for Black Male Achievement (CBMA) in the late fall, brings mentoring leaders from around the country to focus on providing strong networks, support groups and resources to black men and boys. During the year CBMA holds regional events around the country. Chionesu Bakari’s Founder & Director Elder Horace Moore was honored to be one of the mentoring leaders invited to the NY event.

In February, Rumblers were invited to the New York Historical Society Museum and Library, where two exhibits (a) Muhammad Ali, LeRoy Neiman, and the Art of Boxing and (b) I Am King of the World”: Photographs of Muhammad Ali by George Kalinsky were showing. Rumblers were treated to a private tour of the exhibits and given space to fellowship and dine with each other. The RYMR also provided opportunity for local Rumblers to catch up with one another and provide updates since the last conference. Amongst our very own Horace Moore were Rumblers Paul Forbes / Expanded Success Initiative (ESI) and Thabiti Boone / Former Fatherhood Representative for President Obama. As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another and this conference not only provided space for Moore to give an update on Chionesu Bakari program being implemented in public schools, but also to exchange thoughts and develop new ideas. Afterall, as our young men develop and grow, so too must Chionesu Bakari.

In late November, the national 7th Annual RYMR7 convened in Louisville, KY bringing together over 200 advocates and change-makers for the empowerment of Black Males. CB’s Dir. Of Special Services Elder Vaughn Curmon and 3 young men Reggie H., Ryan R., and Tyaree R. were invited to attend the conference. Elder Curmon and the young men returned thoroughly inspired by the workshops which included topics of forgiveness, handling emotions (for the young men) and the overall goal of community building in the wider sense of building connections among organizations and leaders focused on improving the lives of black males. It was a powerful convening of leaders which included, Dr. George Fraser, Ambassador A. Shabazz - daughter of MalcomX who shared gems of wisdom about building individual and community wealth, and creating a meaningful legacy upon which to strengthen and inspire future generations.
The CB family is truly thankful to the dedicated Parents of the Social Media Committee, Paulette Bailey, Terri Butler, LaTasha Green LaToya Kittrell, Tosca Meyers, Antoinette Miller, Charisse Smith, Sharon Swain, and Susan Rodriguez, who volunteered their talents and time to produce this newsletter for the last 5 years. We thank you for elevating CB's exposure and ensuring the vital work of CB's Mission and Services was made visible over the years. We look forward to what the next level brings!

Thank you to all for a wonderful and momentous year supporting the Young Men of Chionesu Bakari!

Visit youngblackmanonline.org/2017yearinreview for more pictures

2018 CB Upcoming Events

December 2017

Dec 29
CB Bowling Event
Strike 10 Lanes, Brooklyn

February 2018

February 18
CB @ the Movies
"Blackout" Black Panther Movie Day
Lindenwood Theaters, Brooklyn

February 19 - 23
CB YM TRAVEL TO Maryland, DC and Virginia

May 2018

3rd Annual Mother & Son Dance

June 2018

June 15
7th Annual Gala & Rites of Passage Celebration
Da Mikele Illagio, Queens, NY

June 17
Rites of Passage Ceremony
St. Paul Community Baptist Church

Check our Events Page online for updates on all CB Events

Visit Chionesu Bakari Online
Learn More about our Program & Support Young Men!
www.youngblackmanonline.org

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2018 CB Upcoming Events

CHIONESU BAKARI, a Swahili phrase meaning “Guiding Light of Noble Promise,” is engaged in the ministry of saving and developing young black males by reclaiming, renaming, renewing and reconditioning their minds. We strive to motivate young black male children to think critically and prepare their minds and the minds of their respective parents/guardians for the men they will grow to become.

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