

# MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

## Community Action Plan

### SOUTH BEND, INDIANA



In February 2014, President Obama announced the My Brother's Keeper initiative to ensure all youth, especially boys and young men of color, have the greatest opportunity to overcome any barriers and succeed throughout life. To do such, President Obama's administration has challenged cities and towns across the country to take on the My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge. This challenge encourages communities to examine the specific needs of its residents and implement an action plan to reduce and eliminate any barriers to success.

### LOCAL ACTION SUMMIT

On October 27, 2015, community leaders met at the Charles Martin Youth Center to discuss the My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge. It was there that community partners talked about the efforts needed to eliminate opportunity gaps, pointed out barriers, brought to light the challenges the youth face in the community. Youth from existing community programs, such as the Robinson Community Learning Center, also gave input. Based on this feedback, the My Brother's Keeper Community challenge will focus on the following:

Getting a Healthy Start and Entering School Ready to Learn

Keeping Kids on Track and Giving Them a Second Chance

Successfully Entering the Workforce Ready to Work



“Our community is organized and energized to achieve the goals of My Brother’s Keeper. Like the rest of America, South Bend cannot achieve its full potential as long as major disparities persist between young men of color and the rest of the community. This challenge will help to galvanize our community to address these inequalities so that all our residents can thrive.” - Mayor Pete Buttigieg

## GETTING A HEALTHY START & ENTERING SCHOOL READY TO LEARN

The foundation for success in school and throughout adult life starts in the early years of a child's life. Before children experience their first day of school, important developmental milestones occur. The following organizations are incorporated into this milestone: the St. Joseph County Health Department, the Indiana Black Expo (South Bend Chapter), El Campito, La Casa de Amistad, and Memorial Hospital.

## KEEPING KIDS ON TRACK & GIVING THEM SECOND CHANCES

The MBK Community Challenge seeks to protect boys and young men of color from becoming victims of violence and abuse and ensure that they do not come into contact with law enforcement or intersect with the juvenile justice system. The following organizations/programs incorporated into this milestone are: the 100 Black Men of Greater South Bend, South Bend Group Violence Intervention, the South Bend Police Department, Made program, La Casa de Amistad, St. Joseph Probate Court, and the City of South Bend Youth Task Force.

## SUCCESSFULLY ENTERING THE WORKFORCE

Boys and young men of color face persistent gaps in finding employment opportunities. Factors affecting employment are numerous and networked, as cycles of poverty, early school dropouts, and unlearned professionalism compound. The following organizations are incorporated into this milestone: Goodwill Industries of Michiana, Inc., Pathways Program, the South Bend Fire Department, and South Bend Code School.