



Contact: Wendy Enderson
Director of Marketing and Communications
Phone: 301-840-3208
Email: endersonw@fs-inc.org

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BROTHERS Receives 2012 *Children of the Dream Award* at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration



(GAITHERSBURG, MD) - The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Committee announced the winners of its 2012 Children of the Dream award, presented at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration held Monday, January 16 at 4:00 p.m. Family Services, Inc. (FSI) BROTHERS, a mentoring program for young men at Gaithersburg High School (GHS), was selected as one of the recipients for the award. Gaithersburg High School chartered a bus for over 50 BROTHERS members to attend the event, which was held at the Strathmore Music Center in North Bethesda, MD.

The 2012 Children of the Dream Awards are presented to one male and one female in high school, or group, or club, who demonstrates outstanding character, community and school involvement. The Honorable Isiah Leggett, Montgomery County Executive; Mr. James Stowe, Chair, MLKCC Awards Committee; Captain James A. Fenner, Jr.; and Ms. Janice Freeman, President, African American Chamber of Commerce presented BROTHERS and Ms. Rabia Missana, a junior at Quince Orchard High School with the awards.

BROTHERS (Brothers Reaching Out To Help Each Reach Success) is a year round program for young men at Gaithersburg High School who come together to support one another in academic, social and emotional growth. The program introduces positive role models to young men and helps them to find ways to tackle life's daily challenges. Through this program, members find the discipline and confidence they need to make safe and positive life choices. In addition, BROTHERS members provide mentoring support to middle and elementary students on a weekly basis and were recognized for volunteering over 1,500 collective hours of community service in 2011.

One of the many program goals set by BROTHERS is to have every member graduate from high school on schedule. Since the program's inception in 1989, 100 percent of the members have graduated from high school, with a large number going on to college. Data shows that in 2011, 100 percent of the 56 participating seniors in the BROTHERS program graduated from high school and 22 had scholarships to college. Further statistical breakdown of the 2011 graduating class shows 50 percent went to college, 40 percent found permanent employment, and 10 percent enlisted in the military.

In addition to their many social and community activities, each year BROTHERS schedules College Tours for graduating seniors interested in continuing their academic education. Last year, seniors toured

over 15 college campuses throughout Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. Funds donated by local supporters were used to go towards the cost of the college tours. If you are interested in making a donation towards the BROTHERS annual College Tour, please contact Kylie McCleaf at 301-840-3267 or mccleafk@fs-inc.org

Picture: Five Representatives Grades 8-12 from BROTHERS accepted the award on behalf of the program. From Left to Right: Kofi D., Tobi F., Greg S., Marvin G., Mohammed S.)

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