



# ON FIRE!

Quarterly Newsletter (First Edition)

JUNE 2015

## 50 LARGE—Leadership, Achievement, Responsibility, Growth, and Education

Our goal for the 2015-2016 school year is to expand our outreach to include middle, and high school students from Title 1 schools in the most challenging areas of the Leon County School district. The City of Tallahassee is facing tremendous challenges concerning economic mobility, gun violence, and discrimination, and 50 LARGE is an integral part of the answer to the complex issues facing our community. The following newsletter provides insight into the phenomenal growth 50 LARGE is experiencing and why it's important to expand its outreach to more deserving young men in our community!

### Why 50 is Important to our Community

In December, the Mayor and the Council identified education and poverty as key issues related to the rise in violence, particularly among black males age 18 to 29 years of age. **Increasing the graduation rate, particularly among black males, will directly impact the rising issue of community violence.** 50 LARGE works diligently with young men, mostly black males, to direct them on a more positive path, and the program is a key ingredient to help our community reach shared goals and outcomes.

# 87%

*The percentage of participants who participated in at least 8 50 LARGE leadership sessions who were promoted to the next grade level.*



AmeriCorps Tutors honored at the Capitol for work with 50 LARGE clients.

### On the Move

- Partnerships on the Rise
- Impact is Real
- Building Stronger Community
- Plan to Expand
- \$100K Fundraising Goal



50 LARGE and PeaceJam make a great team!

## Impact is Real

We are a gang prevention program that prepares young men to be leaders in our community. Our impact is real!

It's apparent in an 87% promotion rate for regular participants, but more importantly, our impact is evident in areas difficult to measure like hope and inspiration.

We help the deserving men of 50 find new meaning in their lives, and we provide training that gives them confidence to cultivate opportunities that arise like lunch with the mayor or dinner with the governor.

For less than \$200/month per participant, we can continue to impact our community in a positive way by touching more lives in despondent areas.

## Partnerships on the Rise

The most significant attribute of the 50 LARGE program is its community-wide collaboration. We provide benefits for our clients from public, private, and independent sectors. Our stakeholders range from restaurant owners to the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Recently we have joined forces with PeaceJam of the Southeast United States headed by Mrs. Rody Thompson. Mrs. Thompson worked tirelessly to ensure our clients were able to participate in the PeaceJam conference for the spring, and as you can tell from the photo, IT WAS A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS!

The whole experience embodied what a community partnership/collaboration should look like. The cultural diversity, sensitivity, and awareness renewed a sense of humanity to everyone involved; the impact is destined to affect grades, behavior, and future outlook of our program participants. (See photo above again)

All of our participants are excited about a return to PeaceJam's spring conference next year. It was truly an amazing time for participants, staff, and volunteers!

## Stakeholders Matter

We would like to thank all of our stakeholders, but we would like to especially thank, **The Florida State University College of Education** for the tutoring and cultural awareness training. We would like to thank **Madison Social** for the weekly wings and things. We would also like to thank the **Department of Juvenile Justice** for the ongoing funding, and the **City of Tallahassee** for the use of the **Palmer Munroe Teen Center**. We would also like to thank the **100 Black Men of Tallahassee** for the informative Saturday Success Academy. Last but not least, we would like to thank the administration and staff of the **Leon County School District**, and the **Foundation for Leon County Schools**.



Mayor Andrew Gillum and Malik Darisaw have lunch together.

# Building Stronger Community

Our involvement in the community is a win, win, win for everyone!

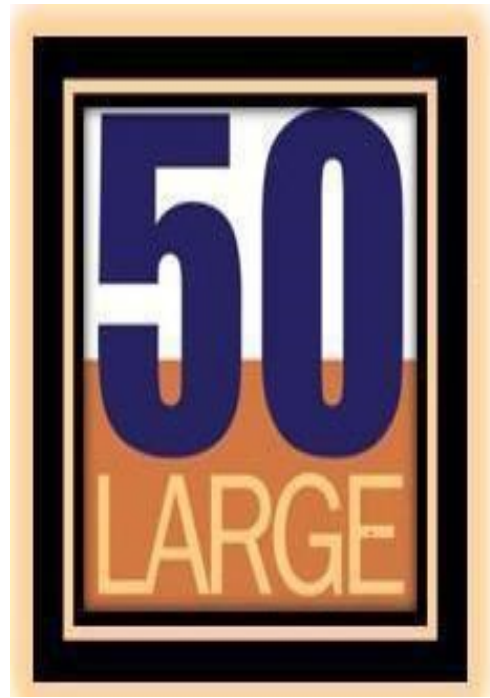
Whether our young men are called to speak at the Governor's Mansion, or working on the farm with Dr. Boggs, or volunteering at the Shakespeare Festival at Cascades Park, we are making a difference wherever we go.

We are making a difference in the lives of our young men, and we are making a difference in the lives of others.

We expect our young men to change perceptions of the people they come in contact with, and constant contact is the key!

We need more young men to be in constant contact with a community that cares and a community that cares in constant contact with them.

Constant Caring Contact is the key to ebbing the recent violence in our community. 50 LARGE is up for the challenge!



From the Capitol to Cascades Park, we are a pivotal part of our All-American City!

## Plan to Expand

Our goal for the 2015-2016 school year is to expand our outreach to include middle, and high school students from Title 1 schools in the most challenging areas of the Leon County School district.

We have a strategy over the next three years to aid the local school district significantly by helping students improve promotion success, reduce student referrals, and prepare high school students for job opportunities. Constant community contact, chess, cadet training, and other components will be instrumental to our success.

The program will steer young men away from gangs, poor academic performance, and poor behavior and steer them toward strong leadership, citizenship, and success. We plan to serve at least 100 students in the 2015-2016 school year, 250 students in 2016-2017, and 300 or more students in 2017-2018.

For \$200/month per participant, we can turn a young man's life in the right direction, and we need our community's help to make this happen successfully.



Tallahassee an ALL AMERICA CITY — AGAIN!!! 50 LARGE helps to make the case

## \$100K Fundraising Campaign

We are taking the recent events in our community very seriously. Although everyone in our community is affected when a life is lost, members of our program have had to mourn the loss of a friend, classmate, or confidante on more than one occasion over the past two years. In fact, two young men who were murdered in our city were once members of 50 LARGE.

We, at 50 LARGE, want to continue to give our deserving young men of 50 a fighting chance at success through positive outlets and experiences that help our young men avoid tragic endings. Additionally, we need support to keep them encouraged in the wake of such tragedies.

We have devised a strategy to reach at least 100 young men for the 2015-2016 school year, and we need an additional \$100,000 to be successful. For as little as \$200/month per participant, we can work wonders!

### Help us curb the violence in our community!

You can support our program financially; make your check payable to the Foundation for Leon County Schools - memo earmark = 50 LARGE. We are also always looking for volunteers and positive enrichment activities.

**50 LARGE, "We take them to raise!"**

## Contact Us

50 LARGE

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