



KOPMN

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Over 33 Years of Dedicated Service  
Empowering the Youth of South Florida



## A BRIGHTER FUTURE

OUR COMMITMENT TO CREATING LASTING CHANGE  
IS EVIDENT IN EVERY PROJECT AND ENDEAVOR.



KOPMN staff photos.

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## Community Service Since 1990



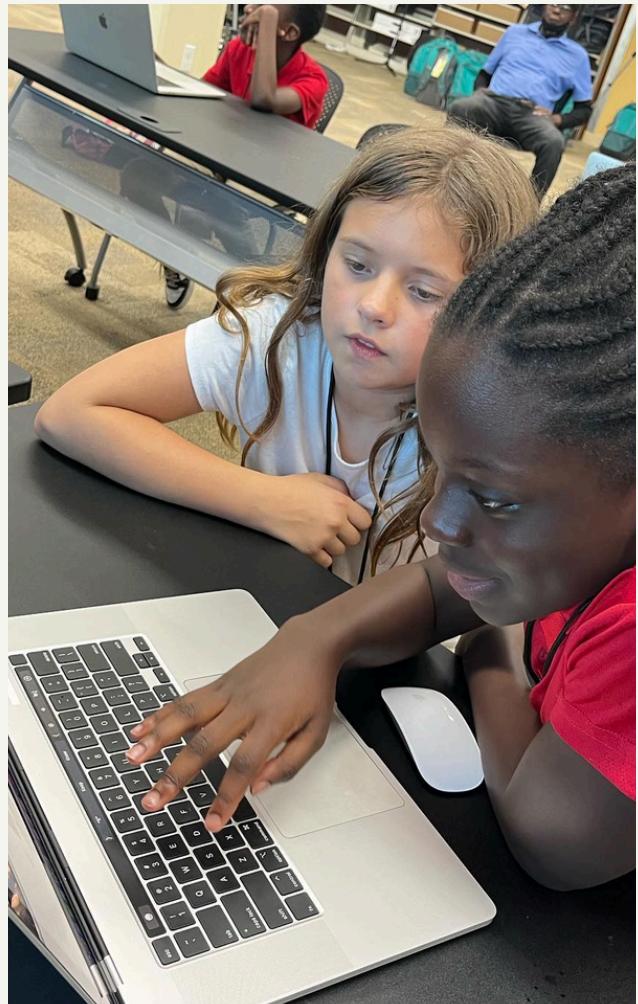
KOPMN staff photo.

Early reading is important  
to academic success.

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Where Network Building Has No Borders and Learning is Constant



KOPMN staff photo.

**STEAM education empowers  
students to thrive.**

## A message from our founder

**C. Ron Allen**  
President and CEO  
KOP Mentoring Network

**As we reflect on the incredible journey we've shared this year**, we are profoundly grateful for the unwavering support and commitment for our mission. With heartfelt thanks to our KOP Mentoring Network (KOPMN) staff, educators, volunteers, partnering organizations, donors, grantors, sponsors, and countless others who are the cornerstone of this outstanding and successful year!

KOPMN's unique strength and success stem from the trust we've built with over 33 years of experience in providing immediate support and empowering youth and families to thrive throughout South Florida. This Annual Report highlights this achievement and provides an overview of KOPMN's effective mentoring and intervention programs. Our programs are designed to address specific needs of youth. Moreover, our programs enrich the lives of our mentees while strengthening families and their communities. We take pride in our role in tackling numerous challenges faced by youth, fostering transformative and meaningful outcomes.

The inspiring transformations observed in the lives of countless individuals through our targeted intervention programs have laid the groundwork for our **A Brighter Future Project—Empowering the Next Generation**. KOPMN leads the way in STREAM (science, technology, recreation, engineering, arts, and mathematics) camps in South Florida. These camps, combined with KOPMN's mentorship and intervention programs, offer exceptional methods to equip young individuals for a brighter future.

We hope this overview of KOPMN's achievements inspires continued support for our program to provide guidance, resources, and opportunities for our youth and communities to thrive.

**Together, we will continue to transform the lives of youth and communities, fostering hope, resilience, and inspiration for generations to come!**



**C. Ron Allen, KOPMN founder, pictured with smiling youth campers.**

By empowering today's youth, we positively impact the next generation, paving the way to a brighter future.

# History, Mission, and Vision

## HISTORY

KOP Mentoring Network was founded by C. Ron Allen, a former South Florida Sun-Sentinel reporter, local entrepreneur, and community leader. From 1991, since its formal inception mentoring three students to servicing thousands of young boys and girls throughout South Florida, KOPMN has had a significant and material impact on the lives of those we serve for over a generation. KOPMN offers young people the wrap-around services they need to lead healthy and productive lives. Today, our programs serve more than 2,000 students annually, impacting countless youth and their families.

KOPMN continues to empower and improve individuals' lives while providing access to critically needed programs to enrich and provide opportunities for entire communities.



**Students learn to be self-reliant and productive members of society.**

## MISSION

KOPMN's mission is to empower youth, ages 7 to 17, to become self-reliant and productive members of society, ready to compete in the global economy. The overarching goal of our mentoring programs is to decrease juvenile crime, recidivism, truancy, and other anti-social behaviors, while increasing opportunities for leadership, academic success, and civic-mindedness. We do not dismiss or give up on youth for bad behavior, instead we remediate them, rotate them through our programs, and provide them with leadership opportunities.

## VISION

Our organization helps youth discover their strengths, then build upon those strengths to foster meaningful change and positive development. **We seek to empower tomorrow's leaders, one child at a time.**

### OUR MISSION IS

EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE TO BECOME SELF-RELIANT BY RESOURCING, CONNECTING, MENTORING, AND EDUCATING TOMORROW'S LEADERS.



### OUR VISION IS

TO EMPOWER TOMORROW'S LEADERS, ONE CHILD AT A TIME.



KOPMN staff photos.

# Who We Are

## KOP: Knowledge, Opportunity, and Prosperity

### KOP MENTORING NETWORK — EMPOWERING FUTURE LEADERS, ONE CHILD AT A TIME.

KOPMN provides students with the tools needed to prepare them for their prosperous futures. Through our academy and camp programs, students are guided along an exciting path of exploration and discovery. They acquire new skills, visit new places, and connect with new people, all while developing the discipline, dedication, and character required not only to graduate but to thrive both academically and behaviorally. With the aid of local experts in their respective fields, educators and volunteers who have a passion to see our youth prosper, **we offer our students a one-of-a-kind learning experience.**

### 2

### EMPOWERMENT

Our mentoring programs effectively decrease juvenile crime, recidivism, truancy, and other antisocial behaviors, while simultaneously fostering opportunities for leadership, academic success, and civic engagement. We are committed to supporting young people instead of abandoning them due to their behavior; our focus is on rehabilitation, guiding them through our programs, and providing them with leadership opportunities. As a result, our programs **empower students to recognize their significance and envision a brighter future!**

### 1

### GOALS

KOPMN is a character-building mentorship and gang prevention initiative aimed at nurturing leadership, academic success, and civic responsibility among youth aged 7 to 17. Our programs focus on the reduction of juvenile crime, recidivism, truancy, and other anti-social behaviors while increasing healthy opportunities. We provide our participants with the essential skills and resources they need to become **productive and contributing members of South Florida.**



### 3

### OUTCOMES

Youth acquire valuable knowledge and insights from experienced professionals.

KOPMN equips students for a brighter future. **Our track record of success is evident** in the achievements of our former students, who have become:

- Law enforcement officers
- Military personnel
- Television show hosts
- Members of the clergy
- Educators
- Medical doctors
- Multimedia producers
- Engineers
- Artists
- Aviators
- Leaders within our community.

KOPMN staff photo.

# Who We Serve



**Mentorship, Intervention, and Collaborative Learning.**  
**KOPMN mentoring programs inspire youth to envision a prosperous future.**

**KOPMN PROGRAMS ARE DESIGNED FOR:**

- Children aged 7 to 17 in South Florida.
- Many of our students are from low socio-economic backgrounds attending Title One schools and are eligible for free or reduced-cost lunches in impoverished areas of South Florida.
- On average, KOPMN serves over 2,000 youth and their families annually.
- In addition to mentoring and academic services, KOPMN offers transportation for programs and provides nutritious meals and snacks for students, mentees, and campers.

**REFERRAL PROGRAMS:**

KOPMN staff photo.

- KOPMN accepts referrals from principals, educators, teachers, and peers and maintains an ongoing waiting list for services. Historically, referrals have also come from the court system (judges) and police officers as part of a comprehensive diversion process.
- Once a referral and application to the program are submitted, each young person is interviewed by a panel of current participants, who collectively decide on admission to the program.



**Children who rely on free or reduced lunches** throughout the academic year often lack access to these essential services during school breaks and the summer months. KOPMN's programs bridge this gap by offering healthy meals and snacks during these periods..



**KOPMN mentorship and intervention programs** offer mentees essential guidance, resources, and opportunities to thrive.

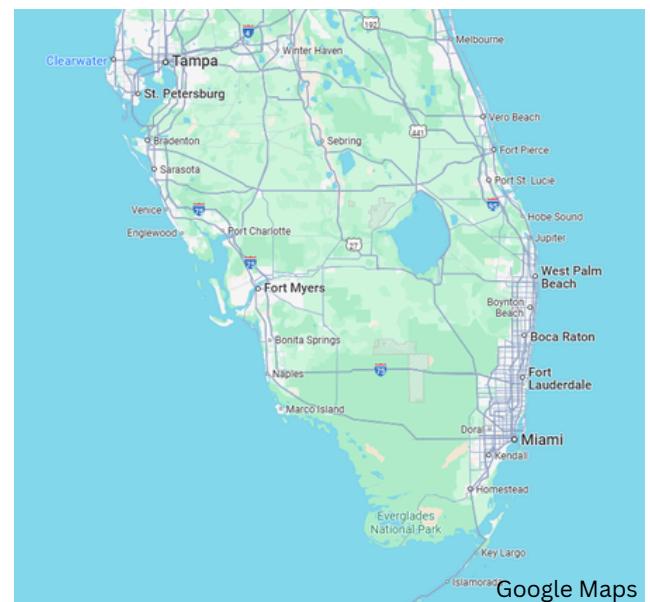
# Where We Serve



Students are shown engaging in the transformative benefits of KOPMN's mentoring programs.

**KOPMN serves over 2,000 youth annually in South Florida.**

- A significant number of our students live in impoverished areas of South Florida.
- KOPMN provides transportation for camps, fieldtrips, and other program services to assist those students who encounter obstacles in attending due to their parents' schedules, travel restrictions, or financial difficulties.



# Program Description



Through the KOPMN mentoring, academic, and camp experiences, our students are guided along an exciting path of exploration and discovery.

## **KOPMN MENTORING PROGRAMS:**

- KOPMN mentoring programs stand out, offering a comprehensive approach to combating the effects of poverty, truancy, recidivism, and delinquency.
- **KOPMN instills in our youth** the understanding that **knowledge** liberates, commands respect, builds self-esteem and enables them to have a positive attitude about their life choices. **Opportunity** opens the doors of opportunity for our youth to hear from and interact with a diverse group of experts. We take pride in our ability to help every child develop his or her talents regardless of their circumstances. KOPMN chooses **prosperity** because as mentors, we point the way, raise the bar and expand children's understanding of what is possible. No one flourishes alone, any more than an acorn can become an oak tree without soil, water, and sunshine.
- **Our programs strengthen families** by reinforcing family involvement, recognizing it as a crucial component throughout the application and enrollment processes.
- **KOPMN requires school participation:** To participate, young individuals must attend school regularly. The KOPMN program serves as an incentive for school engagement as appropriate class conduct is required to continue in the program.
- **Use of evidence-based strategies:** KOPMN's comprehensive truancy and delinquency prevention initiative provides effective programming while offering STREAM (science, technology, recreation, engineering, arts, and mathematics) learning opportunities, along with high school and college readiness training. We incorporate dynamic STREAM camps and programs, including aviation, communication and multimedia, guided physical activities, financial literacy, music and arts, horticulture, and mental health and wellness support, among others.
- **Each program emphasizes social-emotional learning, academic success, and pre-career development** for youth to cultivate a positive mindset to thrive and look forward to a brighter future.

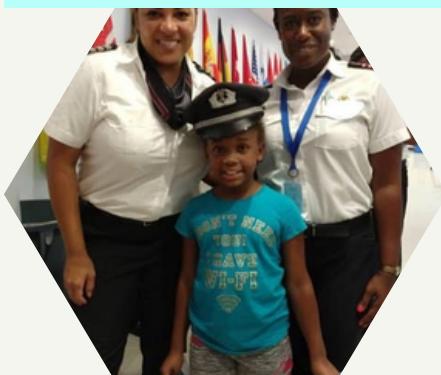
# Mentoring



C. Ron Allen, KOPMN CEO, poses with police chief of Delray Beach. KOPMN emphasizes fostering interactions between students and community officials and leaders.



Students are enthusiastic and motivated to learn from experts in their respective fields, inspiring them to reach for their dream goals.



Representation allows students to envision themselves in leadership roles.

## Mentoring Matters!

**KOPMN's programs engage youth with compassionate mentors who serve as advocates and role models.** Our mentors work directly with teachers and school counselors to monitor and encourage school attendance while discouraging truancy and negative behaviors. KOPMN is a character-building, mentorship and gang prevention initiative aimed at fostering leadership, academic success and civic-mindedness among youth ages 7 to 17.

58% of young people say that their mentor has supported their mental health. 85% of young people with a mentor say this key relationship helped them with issues related to school and their education. ([Mentoring.org](https://Mentoring.org))

### MENTORING MISSION, VALUES, AND VISION

**Mission:** Empowering young people to become self-reliant, productive members of society ready to compete in the global economy.

**Values:** We prepare our youth to thrive in school, work, and civic life through the values of: Compassion | Respect | Entrepreneurial | Excellence | Diligence | Non-judgmental | Integrity | Courteous | Relational

**Vision:** To empower tomorrow's leaders, one child at a time.

### GOALS:

- **REDUCE:** Reduce the number of retentions and truancies.
- **RECRUIT:** Host monthly complimentary events to attract, meet, and connect with youth and their families.
- **INVEST:** Build relationships that lead to program enrollment and deepen trust via mentoring and coaching.
- **TRANSFORM:** KOPMN events are used as a tool to learn responsibility, problem solve and develop leadership skills.
- **EMPOWER:** Educate, prepare, and train youth in life and professional skills and provide internship opportunities.
- **SUSTAIN:** Generate sustainable revenue from KOPMN's community as well as merchandise sales to impact lives for generations to come!

### Opportunities:

- Scholarships and Grants
- Community involvement /Give back to their community
- Motivational Mentorship
- Discovering Your Inner Strength and True Gem

KOPMN staff photos.

# STREAM Camps

## STREAM CAMPS

## MUSIC & THE ARTS

**STREAM (science, technology, recreation, engineering, arts, and mathematics) Camps** offer engaging learning experiences that align with principles and learning for all grade levels. Camps create enriching indoor and outdoor field trip opportunities, teaching the youth we serve about civic-mindfulness, environmental stewardship, real-world challenges, critical thinking, and hands-on learning.

(Note: All camps provide campers with nutritious meals and snacks).



### QUEST

**Camp Quest** is a nine-week summer camp centered around STREAM learning that offers enriching indoor and outdoor activities designed to spark curiosity, ignite a passion for learning, and equip children with essential skills vital for their future. Campers engage in a variety of activities, including aviation, equine, marine science, kayaking, fishing, arts, underwater robotics, biking, camping, science, hiking, boating, sports, yoga, golf, swimming, snorkeling, gardening, visiting parks, interacting with animals, playing board games, cooking, shopping, and developing emotional intelligence.

### CAMP IMAGINATION

Camp Imagination combines key childhood development elements such as leadership, respect, teamwork, confidence, self-esteem, memory, creativity, coordination.

#### Activities Feature:

Kids Fitness Zumba, an engaging program tailored for children. This activity promotes age-appropriate games that improve coordination, boosts self-confidence, helps campers conquer fears, encourages teamwork, and provides numerous additional benefits.

### Spring BREAK CAMP

This multicultural camp provides 30 campers with a variety educational, creative, musical, and engaging experiences that inspire them in a fun group environment. Instructors use interactive, hands-on learning techniques to improve, leadership, communication, and teamwork skills, all while ensuring that the learning process is enjoyable!



### Blues CAMP

#### The Fernando Jones Blues Camp International

This fun-filled week of Blues immersion engages 30 students through ensemble instruction and public performances.

Participants learn America's "root" music in a structured program under the tutelage of qualified and internationally traveled instructors. The program inspires beginner, intermediate, and advanced level vocalists and instrumentalists, ages 7 to 17, to be curious about the world and become globally aware. By understanding and respecting similarities and differences, campers gain a deeper understanding of their identity in the context of race, ethnic group, culture, religion, language, and family history. This program also enriches their knowledge of the world around them with meaningful information they will not forget. The camp is conducted annually in 21 cities across the US, Cuba, and Japan.



#### Benefits of a "KOP" Quester:

- Setting Goals
- Social Etiquette
- Communication
- Relationships
- Self Esteem / Self Respect
- Dressing for Success
- Guys & Girl's
- Girls Talk
- Brotherhood and Sisterhood
- And much more!



Students enjoy interactive, experiential learning.



Campers spent the day kayaking on the Loxahatchee river, thanks to the Sierra Club of the Palm Beaches.



### BLUES CAMP FLORIDA

KOP Mentoring Network & Blues Kids Foundation Present Fernando Jones' 4th Annual

BluesCampFlorida

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL YOUTH AS THEY PERFORM AMERICA'S ROOTS MUSIC.

BluesCastles | TAKK De Marte LaLuna Blue Is Blue | America Beatz DJ YAHU



Campers are pictured at the 15th Annual Fernando Jones Blues Camp, hosted in Chicago, where aspiring musicians refine their skills with the mentorship of experienced musicians.

KOPMN staff photos.

# Financial Literacy



## YOUTH EMPOWERED TO PROSPER!

Youth gain financial knowledge, with the goal of improving financial literacy and independence.

### Financial Literacy for Kids:



- **Building Wealth Workshops** strengthen financial understanding.
- Guided by experienced mentors and financial professionals.
- Promotes financial literacy to thrive in the global economy.
- Fosters financial understanding with real-world issues.
- Youth learn about insurance, wealth building, and money management.
- Youth engage with local businesses and banks to enhance and provide financial expertise and learning opportunities.
- “What goes hand-in hand with gratitude—Giving back!” **Young individuals learn how powerful of a tool giving can be.**
- Complex financial topics are simplified.
- Mentors provide a deeper understanding of financial literacy with an emphasis on planning, risk management, entrepreneurship, personal finance management, and strategic spending.
- Young individuals improve financial literacy with hands-on learning by opening bank accounts and creating budgets.

**Financial  
Literacy for  
Kids**



KOPMN staff photos.

# Communications & Multimedia



## KOP COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

**Empowering Communities through Service and Media Outreach.** *Community Conversations* is dedicated to enhancing social-emotional health, education, career opportunities, networking with community leaders, and addressing police-community relations.

**SOCIAL:** We organize *Community Conversations* weekly—an hour-long forum that allows young people to interact with community leaders and newsmakers, asking the questions that are important to them. To date, participants have included the chief of police, the vice mayor, three school board members, a psychologist, a judge, a medical doctor, and others.



**Only in South Florida, young individuals have the unique opportunity to report the day's news that resonates with their peers.** The live remote-style human-interest program, *Community Conversations*, serves as a safe space for kids to engage in discussions about topics that matter to them. Tune in every Friday night from 7 to 8 pm ET on the KOPMN YouTube channel and the KOPMN Facebook page.



**KOPMN is making headlines by advocating for brighter futures for young people.**

### Fostering social-emotional health and learning through communications and multimedia:

KOPMN is committed to the belief that every child possesses inherent abilities that, when nurtured, can lead to significant positive effects on both themselves, their families, and ultimately their communities. We customize our communications and multimedia programs such as web design, video production, broadcast journalism, public relations, communications ethics, and more. Programs align with each student's unique strengths, guiding them towards tasks that match their skills, interests, and motivations. Furthermore, **we promote class participation and foster positive leadership by encouraging pro-social behavior.**



KOPMN staff photos.

KOPMN staff photos.

# Aviation Camp



Some of our students took their very exciting first flight! #campquest2024

The **Soaring Eagles** is a hands-on, interactive mentoring and STREAM program that encourages elementary and middle school students to develop a love for learning. Our program is designed to introduce these kids to the world of aviation and help them grow into well disciplined, educated members and leaders of their communities.



**Weekly themes take students across the world** and throughout time as they become investigators and problem solvers. Topics include Simulator Training, What Makes Airplanes Fly? History, Science, and Applications of Aerodynamics. Soaring Eagles is open to young boys and girls with an interest in learning more about careers in the field of aviation. The program encourages elementary and middle school students to develop a love for learning through applying STEM principals to the discipline of aviation and flight using field trips, guided tours, and classroom exercises. Soaring Eagles combines exciting hands-on activities with interactions with aviation professionals representing a wide range of careers.

THE SKIES  
THE LIMIT



KOP Soaring Eagles is  
No Ordinary Mentoring Program!



Youth experience first-hand what it is like to be a **pilot**, aircraft mechanic, flight engineer, or air traffic controller. Through engaging hands-on activities—including aircraft building projects, attending aviation shows, training in meteorology, navigation, airmanship, flight simulator lessons, tours of airports and aviation facilities, and networking with aviation professionals—youth develop flying knowledge, learn aviation protocols, and develop vital leadership and teamwork skills. Using Roberts Rules of Order, youngsters manage the program and hone their leadership skills in business meetings, followed by an hour of aviation training. Technology has allowed KOPMN to also include workshop speakers and trainers who would not have been able to join us physically, but who can provide services using remote platforms from wherever they are located. **KOPMN plans to add drone and sea-plane training to this program as engaging activities for young people.**

# Special Engagements

EMPOWERING YOUTH WITH LIFE-LONG LEARNING SKILLS THROUGH SPECIAL ENGAGEMENTS



## Equine Studies

Hanging at the stables! The bond between horses and humans goes back thousands of years. So, it's natural that our Equestrian Program is one of the most attractive programs to our youth. They discover riding a relaxing outlet while also embracing the demands of the equestrian community from maintaining stables to glimpses of horse health care.



## Arts: Painting with a Twist

Our Arts program seeks to find the creator in everyone. There is always a place for traditional activities such as painting on canvas, photography, sculpting, and dance, but going beyond gives youth the opportunity to broaden their abilities. This includes opportunities in color guard, playwriting, environment art, and technical design.



## Special Programs

- Daddy Daughter Dance
- Fishing Excursions
- Golf Instruction
- Seasonal Gardening



## Home and Personal Care

The youth get a taste of what it takes to run a household, and personal management. There is a lot to managing a home from cooking, sewing, budgeting for meals, paying bills, maintaining property, and addressing environmental and educational concerns.



## Internships

Students hone their skills as interns for weekly newspapers and an online TV station. This experience can bolster students' portfolio to prepare them for success in college and beyond.

**TIMETO  
THRIVE**

# Operational Highlights

**We are committed to empowering the next generation of innovators.**

**College Tours and Educational Trips:** KOPMN provided opportunity for high school students and chaperones to tour Florida Atlantic University, Florida Memorial University, Florida International University, Florida A&M University, Florida State University, and Bethune Cookman University over Spring Break. Additionally, children were able to attend the Florida Atlantic University football game and homecoming. These experiences broadened the horizons of our youth, exposing them to new academic environments and opportunities that they might not have otherwise encountered promoting higher education.

**Multi-generational Holiday Happiness:** Seniors and students worked together to experience each holiday (Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa). The sessions included guest speakers who shared historical events and explained how and why people celebrate each holiday. The sessions ended with participants making a craft, treat, or gift to represent the holiday. During the week of Kwanzaa, students performed a poem to represent one of the principles of Kwanzaa at the Blues Camp performance.

**Palm Beach Has Talent:** This monthly talent show provided youth across Palm Beach County an opportunity to showcase their talents and prepare for future entertainment careers. Talent was judged by professional artists, including educators and newsmakers. The monthly event included a fun dance session and additional talent, such as a comedian who energized the crowd for the evening. Monetary prizes were awarded to the winners, who also had the opportunity to perform at events around the county.

**Camp Quest:** KOPMN delivered a nine-week STREAM-focused summer camp to children in eastern Palm Beach County. The camp was a resounding success, immersing campers in aviation, equine science, marine science, the arts, underwater robotics, and emotional intelligence. These enriching activities sparked curiosity, ignited a passion for learning, and equipped the children with essential skills for their future endeavors.

**2024 Fernando Jones Blues Kids Camp in Palm Beach:** 21 students from south, central, and north Palm Beach County had the opportunity to learn about America's root music under the direction of a team of industry professionals. Participants engaged in a variety of activities, including instrumental instruction, ensemble rehearsals, and masterclasses led by experienced blues musicians.



Youth participated in the 30th Annual Men & Boys Leadership Conference held in Melbourne. They interacted with a range of industry professionals, discovered crime-fighting techniques, and explored programs.



KOPMN offers an impressive array of mentoring and intervention programs that have positively impacted countless lives.

KOPMN staff photos.

# Strategic Highlights

## Community Relations is Key!

KOPMN recognizes that strong community relations are the essential foundation for successful mentorship and intervention programs. For over 33 years, KOPMN has forged robust connections with school districts, educators, local businesses, city officials, politicians, media outlets, and industry professionals to collaborate on important programs and initiatives. The evidence speaks for itself. Our partnerships with experts, volunteers, teachers, STEM/STEAM instructors, and others extend far beyond immediate benefits for children. They cultivate a sense of community, inspire hope, and establish a pathway for a prosperous future for our mentees. KOPMN is committed to promoting lifelong skills through established methodologies and tools that enhance mentorship, entrepreneurship, critical thinking, and STEAM education. **Better Youth, Better Families and Better Communities! A Brighter Future for All!**



Our partnerships with educators, industry experts, and community leaders, among others, greatly enhance the effectiveness of the KOPMN mentoring program.

### The Importance of Mentorship

- 55%** **more likely to enroll in college.**
- 78%** **more likely to volunteer regularly.**
- 90%** **are interested in becoming a mentor.**
- 130%** **more likely to hold leadership positions.**

Source: [Mentoring.org](https://www.mentoring.org)

JOIN  
OUR  
TEAM



The Delray Beach Police Department and KOP Mentoring Network extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the sponsors who made our recent fishing clinic for city kids a tremendous success!



Students experience educational and empowering interactions with city officials, motivating them to create positive change.

KOPMN staff photos.

# A Brighter Future

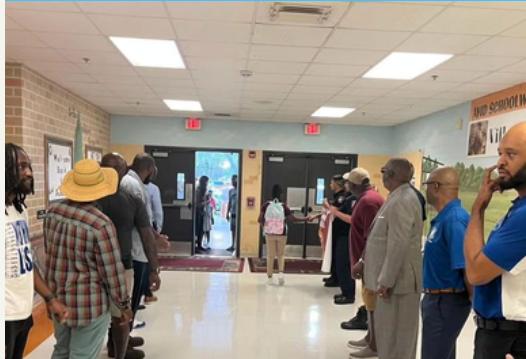
## A Brighter Future Project—Mentoring, Intervention, and STREAM



Youth interact with experts and career professionals.



Youth are involved in real-world and hands-on learning.



KOPMN hosts an annual Welcome Back event, where men of the community come together to greet and support students at two of our schools on their first day of the academic year. This initiative fosters a sense of encouragement and community spirit, setting a positive tone for the school year ahead.

**A Brighter Future Project Focus** is to improve students' outcomes through established methodologies and tools that enhance mentorship, intervention initiatives, entrepreneurship, organizational skills, academics, and social and emotional outcomes.

**Goals:** Mentees will demonstrate growth in core subjects as well as improvement in social-emotional learning and 21st century skills (communication, critical thinking, collaboration skills, and STEAM competencies) for long term success. Mentoring enrichment programs, character building, gang prevention, and truancy programs are implemented to **keep students engaged and prepared for success.**

**Vision:** Mentees learn to work together as highly functioning teams while remaining fully engaged in using their independent creativity. An inspiring transformation is observed in the lives of countless individuals through our targeted mentoring and intervention programs. KOPMN leads the way in STREAM (science, technology, recreation, engineering, arts, and mathematics) camps throughout South Florida. These camps offer a safe space and innovative strategies to empower and equip young individuals. Additionally, we aim to expand our community partnerships and alliances, which will enhance current prospects for mentees, mentors, and the communities we support, all while motivating youth through civic engagement. **Our kickoff was during National Mentoring Month (January).**

**Opportunities:** The learning experiences of our mentees significantly enhance their social-emotional health, mathematics skills, language arts, and future academic performance. Building on this success, we aim to further enhance student engagement through innovative initiatives that provide a diverse range of STEAM learning, and an introduction to healthcare professionals, including dentists, pharmacists, physicians, nurses, healthcare executives, research scientists, biomedical engineers, pharmaceutical representatives, medical device specialists, and other emerging roles within the healthcare sector. We believe that by fostering these meaningful connections, we can collectively make a significant and synergistic impact on the health and well-being of our mentees. We can ensure our youth have access to high-quality mentoring and STREAM programs to foster their success in school and beyond. Programs will include weekly enrichment activities, community conversation, and experiences ranging from fishing trips to attending Presidential Inaugurations to **build confidence and to empower.**

KOPMN staff photos.

# KOPMN Team



## Officers & Directors

**President/CEO**  
C. Ron Allen

**Chair**  
Bobby Cannata  
Market America

**Vice Chair**  
Chris Harvey  
Wellness Financial

**Secretary**  
Mathew Daquan  
School District of Broward County

**Treasurer**  
Leon Ruchlamer

Lt. Beverly Morrison  
Palm Beach Sheriff's Office (Ret.)

Robin Johnson Blake  
Palm Beach State College (Ret.)

Sgt. Oscar Leon  
Delray Beach Police

## Board of Influence

Hon. Moses Baker  
Palm Beach County Court (Ret.)

Chief Deputy Mike Gauger  
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office  
(Ret.)

John Oxendine  
Retired

Dwight Stephenson  
D. Stephenson Construction, Inc



*"It has truly been a privilege to be part of such a talented, dedicated and passionate team. The KOPMN Team invests countless hours with the hope that a child or young adult will be transformed into an incredible contributor to society, paving the way to a brighter future."*

*C. Ron Allen, President and CEO*

**C. Ron Allen**  
**Founder, President/CEO**  
A former reporter for the South Florida Sun-Sentinel, a local entrepreneur, and a respected community leader. He is an award-winning journalist, including a Pulitzer Prize nomination and induction into the Black Journalists Hall of Fame. He has dedicated over 33 years to empowering and mentoring.



**Aida Smith**  
Operations Manager



**Jason Hunter (JHunt)**  
Producer • Media Specialist



**Tamika Taylor**  
Camp Lead • Reading Coach



**Robert D.**  
Assistant Manager

## Recipient of the 2022 U.S. President Lifetime Achievement Award 2017 Men with Caring Hearts Award



**2017 Jefferson Award**

**2007 Bank of America Local Hero Award**

**2006 Florida Governor's Point of Light Award**

**2006 JM Family African American Achievers Award**

**The Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce's Ken Ellingsworth Community Service Award and numerous other recognitions.**

# Honoring Excellence

## *Inspirational* CELEBRATION!



KOPMN proudly celebrated excellence at our 2nd Annual Black Excellence Under the Stars event on Saturday, April 27th, 2024, from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm, hosted at the Riviera Beach Marina Event Center.

**The evening honored five outstanding community leaders** who have excelled in their fields. This gathering marked the joyous return of our annual celebration of black excellence. It was truly a memorable night! We are deeply thankful to everyone who joined us for an evening filled with Black Excellence and Dancing Under the Stars. Your unwavering support contributed to an incredible turnout and helped raise vital funds for the KOP Mentoring Network, allowing us to continue enriching the lives of children in our community. A sincere thank you to all the talented and dedicated dance contestants who illuminated the dance floor with their stunning performances!

This event serves as a meaningful way to recognize those who have made significant contributions to community development. Their vision, commitment, and innovative spirit have not only changed lives but also laid the groundwork for a more sustainable future for the communities we serve.



An evening of inspiration united as a community to celebrate excellence and honor the incredible contributions of outstanding black leaders. Congratulations to all the 2024 recipients for an honor well deserved.



# Needs Assessment



**Mentoring through music and the arts instills a strong sense of self-efficacy among youth.**

**KOPMN's Mentoring, Intervention, and STREAM programs are actively addressing the challenges facing today's youth.**

- **Chronic absenteeism and low academic engagement impact nearly every school district nationwide.** This leads to poor grade retention, increased drop-out rates, and delinquency. KOPMN understands the vital roles mentoring, intervention, and STREAM programs have in mitigating truancy and delinquency while enhancing students' connection to their schools.
- **While the exact cause of chronic absenteeism and low academic engagement is arguable, the concerns are widespread.** Teachers and parents alike see the importance of implementing KOPMN programs. These initiatives motivate youth to take action and create positive changes in their lives, which ultimately benefits their families and communities.
- **Today's youth are facing some of the most complex global challenges of our time,** including climate action, economic challenges, cybersecurity, water scarcity, food security, and infectious disease. Youth are inspired by experts and career professionals to one day take action to help solve these challenges. We believe that every young person has the potential to help shape a better future when they're given the tools, resources, and encouragement to nurture their innovative mindset.
- **KOPMN inspires an innovative mindset** by promoting leadership, civic engagement, mentorship, and STEAM experiential learning. This empowers youth with essential 21st-century skills, instilling the confidence they need to thrive in their future endeavors.



# Needs Assessment

## Fostering Skills that Drive Success

**A Proven Strategy to Enhance School Attendance, Boost Academic Achievement, and Reduce Delinquency:** KOPMN's mentoring, intervention, and STREAM enrichment programs encourage and require school attendance. This is identified as essential to re-engaging students and supporting their overall well-being.

**Chronic absenteeism and truancy pose significant challenges in today's educational landscape, leading to both immediate and long-term effects on student success.** KOPMN provides a robust support for teachers and parents. Through its mentoring programs, KOPMN fosters academic excellence and engagement by amplifying youths' voices, creating a culture of care with supportive adults and mentors. This empowers youth to explore their passions and talents.

**KOPMN exemplary mentoring, intervention, and STREAM programs embody essential characteristics in programming and strategies to re-engage students.** KOPMN strength is in its exceptional support, including mentors, educators, experts in their fields, and program staff. Together, they support students' academic and personal journeys through mentorship, STEAM learning, emotional health, high school and college readiness programs, and various other intervention programs. Older students are even encouraged to develop and pitch their own enrichment activities.

**KOPMN has a united team that shares the same core belief:** when students feel heard, safe, and have a sense of community, they are more likely to show up and be engaged. Our team is dedicated to fostering meaningful, long-term mentorships. These programs provide essential guidance and support, helping young individuals navigate life's challenges. By increasing opportunities for healthy options and opportunities, **our program participants gain the skills and resources they need to become productive and contributing members of society.**



# Needs Assessment



**By exposing young individuals to hands-on and real-world experiences promotes positive behaviors, attitudes, and outcomes.**

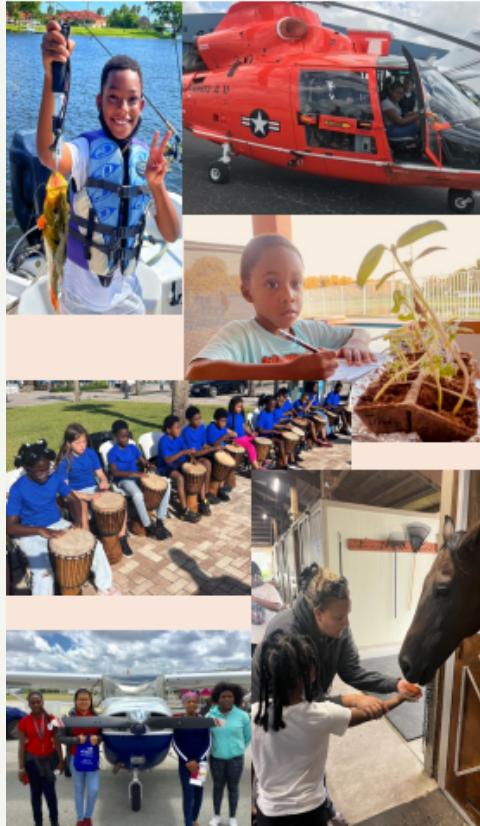
## **HOW TO MEET CRITICAL NEEDS:**

- **Mentoring Engages** youth in need with caring mentors who serve as advocates and role models. Success is realized by evidence-based strategies, comprehensive truancy and delinquency prevention programs, STREAM experiential learning, high school and college readiness training, and career envisioning. To participate, young people must attend school regularly and the program serves as an incentive for engagement as appropriate class conduct is required to continue in the program. KOPMN staff and mentors work directly with teachers and school counselors to monitor and encourage school attendance.
- **Mentoring Promotes** positive behaviors, attitudes, and outcomes for youth and reduces risk factors associated with delinquency, victimization, self-harm, poor school attendance, school failure, alcohol and drug abuse, and juvenile justice system involvement.
- **Mentoring Improves** academic performance, social and job skills, behavioral and other personal development, and reduces consumption of alcohol and other drugs through accountability measures built within program.

**KOPMN's Distinction**—Our strength is the trust we have earned with over 33 years of service and experience providing immediate aid and empowering children and families in need in South Florida. KOPMN has proven methodologies and tools to advance mentorship, entrepreneurship, social and emotional skills, and educational competencies. KOPMN's targeted mentorship and intervention programs improve the lives of children and people who permanently or during crisis do not have the resources to live active and healthy lives. Our strength is the trusted opportunities we provide those in need. KOPMN is committed to mentoring youth in ways that lead to meaningful change in their lives, and in their communities.

# Needs Assessment

## Fostering Engagement, Academic Achievement, and Future Success



**There is a growing need** for programs to address poor school attendance, school failure, alcohol and drug abuse, gang prevention, juvenile crime, victimization, self-harm, delinquency, recidivism, truancy, and other anti-social behaviors.

call to  
**ACTION**

### KOPMN PROGRAMS PROVIDE A SOLUTION:

**Fosters Critical Thinking and Creativity**—Through engaging activities and discussions students develop problem-solving skills, critical thinking, and explore the wonders of STEAM.

**Inspires Students**—Youth are given a voice and are encouraged to pursue higher education and envision a prosperous future.

**Integrates Essential Learning**—Effectively blends history, culture, language arts, and STEAM for a well-rounded learning experience.

**Promotes Well-Being as a Foundation for Success**—Well-being is nurtured by enhancing resiliency and essential life skills. Mentors guide youth to reflect on their experiences, thoughts, emotions, behaviors, and social interactions within a positive and inclusive setting, equipping them to tackle life's challenges and become better prepared to learn.

#### KOPMN AFFIRMATION

**I will go to college**  
**I will succeed**  
**This is my promise**  
**This is my Creed**

**Innovative Learning Opportunities to Build Life Skills**—Designed to foster resiliency and essential life skills, creating an environment where youth can thrive physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially. This foundation equips youth to succeed in academic and extracurricular endeavors, to form positive relationships, and engage in acts of kindness and service to others.

**KOPMN is dedicated to the belief that every child has innate potential**—When youth are supported, it can lead to meaningful positive impacts on themselves, their families, and their communities. Mentoring enhances social and academic performance while decreasing anti-social behaviors. Additionally, KOPMN programs expand youth's horizons, exposing them to new environments and opportunities, enabling them to become the best versions of themselves.



KOPMN staff photos.

# Thank You!

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES!

We would not have achieved so much in 2024 or overcome our challenges without the dedication and support from our KOP Mentoring Network team, staff, educators, volunteers, donors, contributors, partner organizations, sponsors, grantors, and countless others.

The unwavering commitment and generosity have been the driving force behind our success, enabling us to expand our reach and impact countless lives. We are deeply grateful for the expertise, time, and resources shared with us, and we look forward to continuing our journey together in the coming years, transforming lives one child at a time.



*“I couldn’t imagine myself where I am today without KOP Mentoring Network’s leadership.”*

Neilsonsky Noel, KOP Mentoring Network mentee.

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*“I grew up under KOP Mentoring Network’s leadership.” Janet Meeks,  
City of Delray Beach’s Education Coordinator*



KOPMN staff photo.

# Acknowledgements

**OUR SUPPORTERS ARE THE VITAL FORCE BEHIND OUR ACHIEVEMENTS.  
WE ARE TRULY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO  
INVESTING IN THE FUTURES OF THE CHILDREN WE SERVE!**



**Thank  
you!**

*"We are so grateful for the outpouring of support- it truly transforms lives!"*

*"A powerful reminder of the incredible impact we create when we unite as a community."*



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The Automotive Specialist  
Azure Estates  
Brand Your Business  
Children's Services Council  
City of Delray Beach Parks & Recreation Department  
City of Riviera Beach Parks & Recreation Department  
Civil Air Patrol  
CRA Media Group  
Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce  
Delray Beach Elks Lodge  
Delray Beach Housing Authority  
Delray Beach Public Library  
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**Thank  
you!**

*"Every action, every contribution paves the way to a brighter tomorrow."*

*"The heart and generosity of our supporters- showcasing the power of collective impact!"*



# Contact Us



*“... More powerful than physical strength,  
no great work can be done without knowledge.”*

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU...



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KOP Mentoring



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