



CONCLUSION

WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

“ WE AIM TO CONTINUE LEARNING FROM OUR MISTAKES, TO PROPAGATE SUCCESSFUL MODELS, AND TO CONTINUE FOR YEARS TO COME TO HELP EXPAND THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN AND BOYS CAN REALIZE THEIR TRUE POTENTIAL, SO THAT THEY CAN BECOME FULL PARTNERS IN AN OPEN SOCIETY FOR WHICH THEIR VOICE IS ESSENTIAL. ”

GEORGE SOROS

IN WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT FOR BLACK MEN AND BOYS

Relecting on his investment in the Campaign for Black Male Achievement, George Soros underscores the long-term commitment required by philanthropy (and others) to reverse hundreds of years of systematic racism and discrimination that have resulted in African-American males occupying the lowest rung of nearly every major indicator of well-being. He also highlights what success ultimately looks like.

Indeed, this report documents the herculean efforts of philanthropists, practitioners, policymakers, and researchers, among others, to increase opportunities for black men and boys. We also outline the critical ways in which this work needs to be strengthened in the coming years: by changing the narrative, embracing the power of new technologies, increasing the evidence base, prioritizing holistic and systemic solutions, investing in organizational capacity, building strong partnerships, rethinking traditional approaches to philanthropy, and embracing bold and courageous leadership.

As our report highlights, there is much work to be done. But there are also indelible signs of success. Success looks like the 100 percent college acceptance rate—for five years running—at Urban Prep Academies, a network of all-boys public schools that serves students from economically disadvantaged households. Success looks like BMe, a group of more than 7,000 black men and their friends of all races and genders who build community together and who provided services to more than 130,000 neighbors in 2013 alone. Success looks like the launch of the Institute for Black

Male Achievement, which boasts more than 2,500 members contributing to black male achievement. Success looks like the Young Men's Initiative in New York City, an unprecedented public-private partnership that works comprehensively across city agencies to reduce disparities faced by young men of color. Success looks like leading foundation presidents coming together to form an alliance, and success looks like the President of the United States stepping out to pledge support to transform the life outcomes of black and Latino young men.

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The collective impact of these initiatives (and so many others in the field) will get us closer to the Beloved Community Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. envisioned, one which recognizes the value and humanity of every individual. This community encompasses the full and active participation of every member of a democratic society and is based upon justice, equal opportunity, and love. This vision is not wishful thinking; it is attainable through the efforts of committed individuals, dedicated organizations, and partnership and collaboration. So where do we go from here? Let's build the Beloved Community, together.