



OPTIONS PRODUCE THE BEST SUCCESS STORIES

MY FOUNDATION: STREET SMARTS TO GREAT STARTS CORP.



**"OPTIONS PRODUCE
THE BEST SUCCESS STORIES"**



WHO WE ARE

OUR MISSION

To educate, train, and employ high school teens ages 14 to 18, with life skills to achieve the success needed to become self-sufficient.

VISION

With hard work and determination, teenagers will receive a quality education to create the career paths they desire.

CORE VALUES

- Integrity
- Empowerment
- Community
- Social Justice
- Education
- Excellence

MY Foundation: Street Smarts to Great Starts Corp., is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that was established in May 2017. The organization was established to provide today's and future minority high school students the "option" to attend college or to prepare for a career in the construction trades. The first program: My College Going Self, began as a "pilot" project for an all African American male group of high school students at Kelly Branch Library in the Englewood Community of Chicago Illinois on March 16th 2017.

OUR TEAM



Jvonne Foster, President/Executive Director brings over 15 years of experience in Carpentry. Jvonne specializes in concrete form, general carpentry, fire proofing, winterization and decking, with many years of experience in layout and assembly. Jvonne's earlier educational pursuits have included Kennedy-King College in Chicago, and certificates earned in the field of carpentry through other Chicago community organizations. Jvonne established her own construction company Milady Construction in 2015.



Dr. Shenika Jackson, Chief Operating Officer has over 16 years of experience in the Nonprofit Sector. Shenika's background includes working with homeless veterans, Chicago Public School youth and teens, minorities affected by HIV/AIDS, Bi-polar disorder, PTSD, and employment training. Shenika completed a Doctorate Degree in Community Psychology from National-Louis University in June 2018. Shenika's dissertation focused on black male high school students, and the challenges they faced entering higher education after highschool. In 2017, Shenika's project: My College Going Self was funded by The Polination Project, a nonprofit organization located in Berkeley California.

WHO WE SERVE



Shenika Jackson is a compassionate visionary working towards equalizing the voices and experiences of low-income African American youth. In 2017, we made a grant to Shenika for her project, My College Going Self. As a result of her work, which supports youth of color with college enrollment, financial assistance, and the overall college experience through workshops and field trips, we saw how much Shenika had to say. Shenika's voice is one that holds a lot of value, and her willingness to step up and engage in these conversations means that our youth are in great hands.

Tara Matthews
Pollination Project

MY Foundation: Street Smarts to Great Starts Corp., serves minority high school teens ages 14 to 18 years old from communities in Chicago Illinois, to include Englewood, Auburn Gresham, Roseland, Bronzeville, Woodlawn, and Evergreen Park.

MY Foundation: Street Smarts to Great Starts Corp., is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that was founded in May 2017, by two African American women Jvonne Foster and Dr. Shenika Jackson. Both women were born and raised in the Englewood Community of Chicago, graduating in the top ten percent of their class from Tilden Community Career Academy in Chicago's Canaryville community in 1996.

Through Ms. Foster and Dr. Jackson's educational and occupational lens for today's generation of high school students, the organization was established to provide teenagers the "option" to attend college or to prepare for a career in the construction trades, to someday serve the communities they live in. The first project: My College Going Self, began as a "pilot" program in May 2017, in the Englewood Community at Kelly Branch Library. Since then, MY Foundation: Street Smarts to Great Starts Corp., has continued to evolve, bringing in the next program: Rehab 360 in March 2018.

OUR APPROACH



When I look over my life, where I came from, and what I have achieved as a person, and as an African American woman, I am truly proud. But, nothing is more rewarding than having the opportunity to lend a hand to another young person, who seeks the same knowledge and opportunities that I have attained. Growing up in Chicago IL, in the Englewood Community, was met with many challenges including being raised by a single parent, financial struggles, and not knowing if you would overcome those obstacles. But, when I completed the highest degree that anyone could earn at under 40 years old, I learned that my life has no limits, and no matter the circumstances, I want teens all over the world to know that they too, can be anything they desire to be, if they put forth their best effort.

DR. SHENIKA JACKSON
Chief Operating Officer

We Facilitate Safe Learning Spaces

MY Foundation: Street Smarts to Great Starts Corp., serves minority high school teens ages 14 to 18 years old from communities in Chicago Illinois, to include Englewood, Auburn Gresham, Roseland, Bronzeville, Woodlawn, and Evergreen Park.

Statistics have shown that African American male high school students have a higher drop-out rate and a high school graduation rate of just 37%, compared to other ethnic groups that graduate from high school. In addition, 50 Chicago Public Schools were closed in 2013, mostly in poverty-stricken communities on the south, southwest, and west sides of Chicago, with the remaining schools not providing the skills and training needed to enter the construction field.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU



The Pollination Project

Our first grant received in May 2017



Mr. Jordan King

Created the logos: My College Going Self & MY Foundation



The Chicago Public Libraries

Kelly Branch (Englewood) & Bessie Coleman (Woodland)

WHAT WE DO



Joining MY Foundation was the best decision I've made. In the last two years, they have helped me build socially and mentally. I was always shy around new people, but when I'm around the group, I'm open and I talk a lot. Being in the group has helped with my decisions and enrollment in college, applying for scholarships, and starting my summer job in June 2020. I recommend this organization to every teen, because you will get the help you need.

M'KHYLA' WILLIAMS
Teen Participant

MY Foundation: Street Smarts to Great Starts Corp., currently offers (2) programs:

My College Going Self

- College Readiness Support
- College Applications & Scholarship Assistance
- Resume Writing
- In-Class & Field Instruction
- Letters of Recommendation
- College Fairs
- Mentoring Assistance
- African American History Lessons

Rehab 360

- In-class/Hands on instruction
- Introduction to: Tools of Trade
- Referrals to enroll in vocational education classes
- Completion of apprenticeship applications
- Letters of recommendation
- Employment Assistance

Resources for Teens

- BLM Squared Foundation Scholarship
- HBCU Listing
- Construction and Vocational Resources
- BAM African American Heritage Scholarship
- College Process
- Scholarship Websites
- NAACP Scholarship Application
- NAACP Membership

HOW TO APPLY

Become A Volunteer For MY Foundation

Volunteering for MY Foundation allows you the opportunity to help teens achieve their goals and dreams. Not only will you be giving back to the community, you will become a leader with the ability to grow professionally and personally with the organization.

As a volunteer you will be able to:

- Share your expertise
- Present a workshop
- Be a community ambassador
- Assist with recruitment and marketing
- Tutor teens in various subject matter (math, English, writing etc.)
- Help with field trips
- Participate in Events (school supply drives, college fairs, etc..)

If you have some spare time to give a teenager, **visit www.mygreatstarts.org** and complete our volunteer application today!!!



OPTIONS PRODUCE THE BEST SUCCESS STORIES

High School students interested in enrolling in programs at MY Foundation: Street Smarts to Great Starts Corp., must:

- Be a high school student in 9th thru 12 grade (proof of enrollment required)
- Be between the ages of 14 to 18 years old
- Participate in all MY Foundation activities to include workshops, education sessions and field trips
- Complete a high school education by the end of the program
- Demonstrate the desire to enroll in higher education or enter the construction industry
- Complete an educational or career plan before high school graduation
- Complete a summer community service project (paid or unpaid) by the end of the program
- Maintain a 2.5 Grade Point Average while in the program

Please go to <https://mygreatstarts.org/forms/>. Download and fill out the form. The completed application form should be emailed to: ATTN: Shenika Jackson-Chief Operation Officer at: sj@mygreatstarts.org. A copy of recent grades and a copy of a valid high school ID, must be included with the application.

CONTACT US

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