

Annie E. Casey Foundation

Schools that Work: Adult Role Models Inspire Students

September 2008

- Narrator: Welcome to “Schools that Work: Voices from the Inside”, a podcast of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Parks Middle School in Atlanta went from failing school to best in the district. This is third of six episodes about people in partnerships that have improved results for kids and families at Parks.
- MacArthur Randolph: Basically what we do here, we are more like social workers in the school system. We provide throughout the whole school whether it be help with attendance, help with behavior problems, help with academically, and so we form like small groups here at the school whether it be for the boys or whether it be for the girls. Just basically to try and prepare these kids for the real world.
- [Unidentified teacher]: I really want you guys to really just start thinking about your future. I want you to start to think about yourselves because all you guys are very, very special and you can make it in this world.
- MacArthur Randolph: We have so many kids here who are in need of, just in need of maybe school supplies, in need of just a one-on-one caring adult just to be able to sit down and talk to them about their problems. My main focus is to just build relationships with the kids and build relationships with their families.
- [Unidentified teacher]: *(speaking from behind the camera)* You got two more months before you move to another part, to another chapter in life which is high school. No more middle school for you. High school is a totally different ball game.

MacArthur Randolph:

I see myself in a lot of kids that I work with. That's why I work so hard and I really have a passion for this.
(transitions to talking to a student) Good luck today. You're looking real good. You're looking like a little Mr. Randolph. Have a good one. Tell me how the interview went later on.
(transitions to talking to the camera) So as a black man, I feel like I should be more than just a Senior Program Coordinator. That's why I go out of my way and try to do stuff with the boys outside of school whether it be community service projects, taking them to the Atlanta Hawks game, taking one of my boys if they need a pair of eyeglasses. A lot of our kids, I don't want them to feel like things always have to be given to you. I want them to know that sometimes it's good to give back to society.

[Unidentified teacher]:

(speaking from behind the camera) Now of course you guys may have some little issues where you got in trouble and stuff like that, but that's ok. That's ok. You can change all that. It starts with who?

Students:

(in unison) Yourself.

[Unidentified teacher]:

(speaking from behind the camera) It starts with yourself.

MacArthur Randolph:

Community service is a big part of building leadership skills within our boys and just showing them how to be positive, black, young males who can really make it in this world.

- End of video -

Video participant:

MacArthur Randolph – Program Coordinator, Communities in Schools