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M OFF THE STREET CLUB

2022





Off The Street Club has been an institution of hope for 122 years and counting.

Against the backdrop of a neighborhood where poverty, crime, gangs, and drugs are a daily threat to our youth—we provide sanctuary and opportunity.

In my many decades with this organization, I have seen the ways that the remarkable kids who come through our doors embody the spirit of the club. As they grow up here, they begin to represent the best that we have to offer and live our positive values.

This year, the staff and I worked with our fine partners at FCB to create an opportunity for some of the kids to tell their own stories in their own words. We created the **18 Under 18**—eighteen kids who most personify all that **Off The Street Club** tries to be.

These rising stars are honest. Hardworking. Kind. Helpful. Resilient. Confident. Humble. Intellectual. I could go on for days about these kids. But you probably already knew that.

In the pages of this magazine, you'll see brief profiles of these standout young men and women. Just know that despite months of work by dozens of people, we were barely able to scratch the surface on just how amazing they all are. And this is only a small sampling of the depth of moving stories and inspiring children that come through the doors of our hope-filled house in Garfield Park each and every day.

We are eternally grateful to all our supporters, including the Chicago advertising, marketing, and media community. On behalf of the entire neighborhood, we thank you for all you do to keep our doors open, our lights on, and our kids off the street.

Sincerely,

Arnett Morris
Executive Director of
Off The Street Club



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THE ALL-STAR

Jayden Pinkston

10 YEARS OLD

If you're looking for Jayden at **Off The Street Club**, chances are you'll find him on the basketball court with the boys he calls brothers, the staff-ordained **Fab Five**. He'll be the one setting up the shot—manifesting his dream of playing point guard in the NBA. But Jayden's not just a star on the court.

He's got an all-pro attitude and talents to make it big as a singer, a dancer, an academic, or maybe even as a Roblox player (do they go pro yet?).

While he's confident, he maintains a humble mantra, "You gotta stay grateful." A sentiment learned from club role models that he repeats often.

Growing up on the West Side, he has a lot weighing him down, but you'd never know it by his posture. He keeps his chest proud, and his head held high.

As for whether he'll be on the silver screen, at center court, or discovering another way to shine... we'll have to wait and see.

You're a big basketball player.
What do you love about playing here?
My favorite part about playing basketball
here is it's always open to everyone.

What is your favorite part about Off The Street Club? The staff and the kids. They always have your back.

What is the best advice you've received from the staff at Off The Street Club?
To be genuine and humble.

If you ruled the world, what's the first thing you'd do? I'd donate money to cancer charities.

"If you have something, don't show it off. You have to be humble for what you've got."





THE MAVERICK

Mariah Alston

15 YEARS OLD

With a dry sense of humor and a knowing smirk, Mariah Alston floats into the club every day and summarily starts messing with some of her favorite staffers. Don't worry, she only roasts the ones she loves. She brings that same sense of humor to her friends who count on her to lighten the mood and bring them up when they're feeling down.

At school she's a science wiz, enjoying the hands-on experiments she gets to do in Honors Chemistry. She has strong bonds with many of her teachers who she says are just like her—mostly goofy but very smart when they need to be.

After school, she's the girl who never thinks twice about playing with the boys, often getting picked before many of them in flag football. And she's a big fan of CREW—a women's leadership group where she hears from some of Chicago's most successful businesswomen.

She wants to start a business of her own one day—a daycare. Once that's successful, she hopes to use the money to become a serial entrepreneur. With the leadership skills she's learned at the club, the sky's the limit.

How would you describe yourself in three words?

Sweet. Respectful. Inquisitive.

Who's your role model?

My mom. She's independent and courageous. She taught me how to be the bigger person and take care of myself.

What are you most looking forward to in school this year?

When it ends, so I can go back to Camp Mathieu.

What would you do without Off The Street Club?

I can't even imagine that. And I don't want to. I would probably not even stay in Chicago.

"You can't change what's happening. Your actions are what really matter, not what's going on but how you react to it." THE CAPTAIN

Anthony Williams

13 YEARS OLD

At 13 years old, Anthony has never been on the streets. **Off The Street Club** fulfills its mission to ensure he never is.

This was the first of many unforgettable sentiments the Chicago native spoke when asked about the building behind him. No matter how bad his day starts, the staff make his afternoons happier—with hours of pick-up games, choir, and tutoring.

As for the kids, he just loves being around them. His group of friends waiting a few feet away proved the feeling is mutual. It's hard to put into words the amount of pride that beamed from his face when asked about his term as **2022 Boy of the Year**. It's clear he takes his role as leader seriously to both younger and older members. He has no other choice but to be great.

Anthony has an admirable way with words and a keen moral compass. A sign we're in good hands when the next generation steps up to the plate.

What have you learned at Off The Street Club?

That you don't have to wait until you're a grown-up to be great.

What can you tell us about the staff?

They help me achieve my goals. They teach me stuff. I'm still young, so there's a lot of stuff I have to learn.

What did being Boy of the Year mean to you?

It's very important and a job you have to take seriously. There's a lot of younger kids looking up to you and even older kids looking up to you.

Any advice for future leaders of the club?

To be a leader here, you've got to be an outstanding person. You've got to know what's right. If someone else tries to encourage you to do something you know is wrong, you've got to be a leader and tell them you can't participate in that kind of stuff.

"To be a leader, you got to know what's right, when it's right."







THE SHOWSTOPPER

Brandon Standberry

12 YEARS OLD

To all the scouts out there ready to sign Brandon, get in line. This kid is a capital A Athlete. But he's not only a first-round draft pick in just about any sport the club has to offer. He's also the kid the entire choir eagerly volunteers to do the solo. And while he may blush a bit at first, once the music builds and he starts belting out those lyrics, he's all swag and sophistication beyond his years.

Whether on the field and stage, or spending a quiet afternoon building Legos and playing computer games, you can find him with his crew—**The Fab Five**—backing him up. Sure, Brandon can take you one-on-one. He can handle the solo all by himself. But he's truly himself when immersed with these best friends, debating who the current NBA G.O.A.T. is and just being a kid.

But he won't be a kid for long, and his talents are sure to keep shining. So, keep an eye out for him. Maybe you can get an autograph now, before it's too late. What's your favorite part about coming to Off The Street Club?

It teaches me how to be a great kid and how to be a better athlete and how to stay out of trouble.

Who do you look up to?

My friend Kanye, Reggie, and Ron. Reggie's like my personal football trainer. He taught me how to run routes and not catch with my body and a lot about the sport.

How would you describe yourself in 3 words? Athletic. Friendly. Momma's boy.

What especially do you love about your mom?

She just does everything for me. I could never curse her or do anything bad to her. When I get successful, she's the first person I'm going to do a lot for. And she came to Off The Street Club too.

"My mom does everything for me. When I get successful, I'm gonna give a lot of stuff to her."

THE POLITICIAN

Marcoby Dalton

15 YEARS OLD

From his knowing smirk to his magnetic authenticity, Marcoby has got that uncanny ability to demand your attention without ever seeking it.

His words are sharp, genuine, and insightful. It's as if he's been getting prepped for the campaign trail. But then you remember—he's 15. This is all him. And his actions speak even louder. Watching him jump in to help a younger club member with her homework unprovoked was a real "a-ha" moment.

No wonder this kid was selected to represent the club. No wonder his peers look up to him. And the staff of the club is as thankful to have him as he is to have them.

Marcoby knows he's a rare breed, made exponentially rarer by the hurdles he's had to overcome to get where he is today. That's why he shows his gratitude by paying it forward to other kids and making the most of his future. A future that is sure to be very bright indeed.

What's your favorite part about coming to Off The Street Club?

I guess that I can just come here and be myself and have fun.

What's the most important thing you've learned at Off The Street Club?
To treat everyone equally.

What's the community like here?

Everyone here, they're nice, they're caring. They always try to give you good advice. They always try to support you in anything that you're doing. So, say for instance, you come here, you're sad one day and you talk to Arnett about it, or you talk to Cash, Fred, Reggie. They'll always try their best to cheer you up in some kind of way, to bring you up. So, the community here is great. It's amazing to me.

Have you thought about what's next for you?

I want to get as many degrees as I possibly can in college.

"If you have your mind focused on something, reach for it, and go for it."





THE **VALEDICTORIAN**

Khalia Hall

13 YEARS OLD

Just try to keep up with Khalia. This 13-yearold is on the fast track to success, involved in more extracurriculars than most people can name. Studypoint, the real estate program, CREW, Time to Excel tutoring programs, and she must be hiding a few more because this girl is smart.

The only thing she loves more than learning is reading, evident from the fact that she's read over 20 books since the school year started—three months ago.

She loves the club because it's a safe place for girls like her, although maybe not for her competitors on the court. If you think this schoolgirl can't school you at volleyball, you can look up "wrong" in the dictionary. If you need to borrow one, just ask Khalia. She probably has one on her.

What's your favorite thing about Off The Street Club?

Being free to be a kid.

What kinds of books do you like reading? Action books. I like "The Hate U Give." Also, drama.

You want to be a travel nurse? What do you like about travel nursing? The fact that I get to care for people.

Is there anything you'd want the world to know about you? Tell people I'm nice and caring.

If you could have a superpower, what would it be? Invisibility. I would literally do anything and everything.

"Be yourself. People always want to be somebody else, so I always say be yourself no matter what."

THE EMPATH

Jermaine James

12 YEARS OLD

Jermaine James (or JJ as his friends call him) has a thousand-watt smile and million-dollar dimples. He's kind, caring, smart, hard-working—and best of all, he knows it. With a confidence instilled by his parents and the staff at the club, he's got a lot to offer the world and he's not shy about sharing.

You might find him enthusiastically debating his best friends, **The Fab Five**. He often flexes his impressive intellect to mentally outmaneuver even his smartest peers, and sometimes the staff too.

He's a sensitive young man with a tendency to check in on others to make sure they're OK. And when he does see another kid who's feeling down or left out, he uses his beloved sense of humor to bring them back up. Which is the kind of empathy that's rare in anyone—let alone a 12-year-old.

Though he has sad days of his own, he looks forward to coming to the club, receiving a warm welcome, and being lifted by the staff and his friends.

What's your favorite subject in school right now?

I like math, social studies, and history.

What's your favorite historical period in history to study?

I like back when humans were first discovered. Like Homo sapiens.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

I want to be a professional basketball player and if sports don't work out, I want to be a musician. I love singing and hip-hop.

What's the best thing you've learned at the club?

The best thing I've learned is to always care for people and be kind. I would rather put other people first before myself.

"Being at Off The Street Club is like being at an amusement park with all your friends, on a big ride all going the same way."







THE DREAMER

Aniyah Jackson

8 YEARS OLD

If you catch a blur of neon colors, flowing braids and smiling, white teeth whizzing through the roller rink at **Off The Street Club**, chances are that blur is Aniyah.

When she's not zipping about, she's probably got her nose in a book. This diehard reader is a huge fan of diving into new worlds by cracking the spine of a new novel and loves nothing more than to attend tutoring (yes, you read that right).

She is extremely appreciative of the club and all the role models it has given her. Aniyah especially loves **Camp Mathieu**, a summer retreat that allows her to get away from the aspects of her neighborhood that she finds scary. There, she enjoys carefree bike rides and long days spent splashing in the pool.

No matter what happens, this plucky optimist is there to lift the spirits of her fellow club members. And she's happy to do it because to her, the club's community is like family.

Describe yourself in three words. Funny. Smart. Nice.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

I want to be a teacher so I can help students learn new things.

What's your favorite subject in school? My favorite subject is reading. When I read I can learn new words.

Do you have a favorite book?

I love to read the series "Diary of a Wimpy Kid."

What has the staff at Off The Street Club taught you?

The staff has taught me to be a good girl and follow the rules.

"Always believe in yourself. Have hope."

THE FUTURE

Mariyah Morgan

13 YEARS OLD

Downhill derby speedster. Choir singer. Artist. Math wiz. **2021 Off The Street Club Girl of the Year**. Academically gifted and brimming with personality. At just 13, Mariyah Morgan is *that girl*.

First on her list of accomplishments is protective big sister. She dutifully watches over her little sister, Melayha. And the club gives her a place to know her siblings are safe and following the path she's carved for them. It also frees her up from big sister duties so she can just be a kid.

Mariyah has big aspirations. Like saving humanity by discovering new worlds big. And stamping out hatred and racism big. She cherishes laughing with her friends and exploring her many talents throughout the club and all summer long at camp. And she carries her title with dignity and pride.

No wonder her sister—and many other kids at the club—look up to her.

How would you describe yourself in three words?

Trustworthy. Kind. Creative.

How does Off The Street Club empower you?

It makes me feel stronger because they're teaching me a lot of new things and helping me out with a lot of old things that I wasn't able to get correctly.

What does it mean for you to be able to bring your little siblings here? It means that they're safe also. Make sur

It means that they're safe also. Make sure they don't get in danger. Because I would love to keep them safe.

If you could rule the world, what would be the first thing you'd do?

Change all the negative things. Get rid of hatred and racism.

What do you want to be when you grow up? I want to be an astronaut and—can you go to Saturn? 'Cuz I know it's a gas giant. Hmm.

"My motto is, 'Leave your fear at the door.' So, when I come inside the club, I'm not scared. I know a lot of kind people there that are very friendly and make me feel special."





THE FIRECRACKER

Melayha Morgan

8 YEARS OLD

Growing up as a little kid on Chicago's West Side, it helps to have a big sister watching out for you. And it REALLY helps when that big sister is a superstar in her community. If you're as studious as the Morgan Sisters, you've already read all about the Mighty Mariyah. Well, meet her ingenue—the adorable yet feisty Melayha.

This peppy little go-getter is a positivity magnet, a social butterfly, and a beloved member of the club. When she's not flying across the roller-skating arena or buzzing away in the computer lab, she's probably making her friends laugh over an arts and crafts project or studiously getting her homework done with help from older kids from the club.

Her goal? To be **Girl of the Year** one day, just like big sister.

Where many kids may feel strained by the pressure of living up to an over-achieving sibling, Melayha is all confidence and swagger. Though perhaps she learned that from Mariyah as well.

Can you tell me about your sister?She is amazing! She's fun, funny, and smart.

What's your favorite thing about your sister?

She's a really good singer.

What does the club do to help you? They help me to learn and to do things on my own.

What's your favorite thing about the club?

My favorite thing about Off The Street Club is making new friends and learning how to be nicer and to be kind, smart, and to work hard.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

I want to be a businesswoman. I want to be your boss.

"I want to become Girl of the Year like Mariyah. If I did that, I'd be nice to everyone and ask if they need help with their homework."

THE HEAD COACH

Demarlon Wilson

13 YEARS OLD

Demarlon is that classic gentle giant with a big heart. He's a proud and protective big brother, safely escorting his younger siblings to the club every day. He loves to tear it up on the basketball court and while playing flag football. But he just can't shake those big brother instincts.

When he's not playing—and sometimes when he is—he loves to play coach. He keeps a keen eye out for the younger players and helps them to learn the ropes and take their game to the next level. He loves to volunteer around the clubhouse and is always eager to lend a helping hand.

Being so helpful around the club is his way of showing gratitude for all the club has done to help him and his younger siblings to grow up safely. With such a larger-than-life personality, Demarlon is surely bound for even bigger things.

What's your favorite part about Off The Street Club?

Camp Mathieu. We do crew challenges, ghost hikes, fun activities, and stuff in the pool.

What's a ghost hike?

Every Wednesday night, Arnett tells a ghost story and then we go out around the woods and walk around.

I hear you volunteer. What do you do?

Mmmhmm. I help the kids with their work.

What do you want to be when you grow up? I want to go to college for football and go to the NFL and play nose tackle—I'm a lineman.

"It's a lot of fun here. I like to play basketball and flag football."





THE PARTY STARTER

Akiyha Jones

14 YEARS OLD

If you first meet Akiyha Jones in a floor hockey match, you may get the wrong idea about the one they call **The Beast**. Don't get it twisted. She's a beast on the rink, but her power extends far beyond that in far more important ways.

Helpful and kind, she was a natural choice to be a **Junior Leader** at camp. There she brought her electric sense of humor and fun-loving attitude to every activity. Of course, just because Camp ends doesn't mean the fun has to. Not when Akiyha is around. Inside the walls of the club, Akiyha is a wildfire. She brings infectious energy to every note she sings in choir practice. Busts out show-stopping moves on **Off The Street Club's Dance Crew**. But she's more than just a performer.

She's one of the club's brightest lights. She uplifts her peers and inspires all who enter her atmosphere to have as much fun as she's having. She dreams of one day becoming **Girl of the Year**. And with her natural leadership and can-do attitude, she has the potential to do just that and so much more.

Why do you like coming to Off The Street Club?

When you come here you can just be a kid, be yourself and have fun. You get a lot of freedom here.

What are your favorite things to do at Off The Street Club?

Play volleyball, play with my friends, do dances.

I hear you like to challenge the boys at sports.

Yeah sometimes.

What's it like to be a role model for your sisters?

It feels like the things you do, they think they can do, too. When they look up to you, you feel like an inspiration.

What do you see for yourself after the club, when you're grown up?

I want to do hair, nails, and makeup. The beauty stuff.

"When people say something about you that's not nice, don't take it personal. Because you shouldn't have to care about what they think about you."

THE INFLUENCER

Ayonna Pitchford

16 YEARS OLD

Was Ayonna one of the most excited kids to get her picture taken? Yes. Did she famously start a TikTok dance night at the club? Yeah, that's true too. And she's undoubtedly popular—I mean that joyous smile is infectious. But that's not why she's been dubbed **The Influencer**.

It has much more to do with her being a proud role model. As a former **Girl of the Year**, she knows how important it is to set a good example. So, she does everything she can to help out at the club, like donating old clothes or volunteering wherever and whenever she is needed.

Ayonna just wants to help others and looks forward to following some of her role models from the club by going to college and achieving her goals. And we know that many of the younger members of the club today will, in turn, follow her influence and be better off for it.

What are three words you'd use to describe yourself?

Caring. Loving. Kind.

How did the Friday Night TikTok Dance-Off start?

I just remember kids kept coming up to me, asking me to do TikToks and stuff like that and so I asked, and they agreed that we could have a TikTok night.

What are your plans after you graduate? I want to go straight to college. I like a couple HBCUs. And I want to be a therapist.

What did it mean to be Girl of the Year?
It meant a lot because I wanted to give bar

It meant a lot because I wanted to give back and it gave me the chance to give back and help out a lot.

If you could rule the world, what's the first thing you'd do?

Stop the violence. There are too many innocent kids getting hurt out here.

"I really look up to the staff here a lot. They are just so helpful and encouraging too. They help me get to another level."





THE TEAM PLAYER

Kanye Conley

13 YEARS OLD

Calm, cool, collected. Kanye didn't leave his perch at the top of the jungle gym as he took in the courtyard around him.

It was rare to catch him without his friends—**The Fab Five**—a crew that rolls deep throughout the club, especially on the basketball court. You can tell how strong their bond is by how often Kanye spoke their names. And they aren't the only people he mentioned.

Kanye wants everyone to know how nice, caring, and responsible the staff at **Off The Street Club** are. He looks up to them, especially Arnett, the club's Executive Director he calls a role model.

Kanye's humble nature and loyalty to those he cares for became more apparent the longer he spoke. You can tell he's a kid with character—a trait he attributes to teamwork.

From the choir to the computer room, Kanye takes advantage of everything the club has to offer, but it's the people who keep him coming back.

What have you learned at Off The Street Club?

Leadership skills and how to be a good teammate.

What is your favorite space at Off The Street Club?

The gym. Me and my friends play sports there all the time.

What do you want to be when you grow up? A professional athlete, but if that doesn't work out, I'll join the Army.

What's the Off The Street Club community like?

The people here are nice, caring, and responsible.

Do you have any role models at the club you'd like to shout out? Hmm, well, Arnett. Definitely Arnett.

Hmm, well, Arnett. Definitely Arnett He's pretty cool. Yeah.

"I like playing on a team. It builds my character."

THE LUMINARY

Kiara Mayes

14 YEARS OLD

There's more to Kiara Mayes than meets the eye. She comes off as reserved at first, but she brings an electrifying passion to all that she does.

An incredibly talented singer, she is a crucial member of **Off The Street Club's** choir program and a veteran performer. She loves dancing with her friends and serving as the club choreographer as they come up with new TikTok dances. When you get her on the field of play, she's a fierce competitor in sports like volleyball and basketball as well as all summer long at **Camp Mathieu**. And if all that wasn't enough, she also has an intellect that will blow you away.

Whether she's soaking up books, tackling equations, or writing poetry, she's as smart as they come. With all these many talents, it's no wonder she's another former **Off The Street Club Girl of the Year**.

How does it feel to be selected for the 18 Under 18?

To be chosen as one of the eighteen kids to represent the club makes me feel proud and special.

What does it mean to be a role model?

A role model is someone who serves as a positive example to others, like my Aunt Patrice who works at the club. She's my role model.

What has the staff at Off The Street Club taught you?

The staff, collectively, has taught me to be myself and stand up for myself and others.

What else do you want the world to know about the club?

The club and camp provide me with many programs and opportunities to help prepare me for adulthood.

"Never let anyone steer you in the wrong direction.

No drugs, no gangs, and no violence."



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THE PROTECTOR

Harlem Davis

10 YEARS OLD

If the club ever needed to hire a 10-year-old bouncer, they wouldn't have to look far.

Stoic, sure of himself, supportive and niceas-can-be, Harlem is the type of guy you want watching over you. And that's exactly what he does for his friends.

He's got no tolerance for bullying. He's an ardent rule follower and always encourages others to do the same in the interest of fairness and keeping everyone safe. And he's an athlete through and through—competing hard, playing to win, but appreciating that sometimes you learn even more from a loss.

If you get the chance to meet Harlem, you'll notice that he's not a big talker. But that's OK. Because he lets his big heart do the talking for him—and it has a lot to say.

You're in fifth grade, right?
How are you liking fifth grade?
I like it because I'm getting smarter and I'm getting good grades.

What is your favorite thing to do at the club? My favorite thing is everything. But my most favorite things are football and basketball because I like playing sports and I'm an athlete.

What's your favorite position to play?
For basketball—point guard.
For football—running back.

What would your walk-up song be? Lil Durk, "AHHH HA."

"It feels good to have friends here because we get to play together and teach each other stuff."

Ranayah Williamson

17 YEARS OLD

Self-described as helpful, responsible, and kind, Ranayah embodies the true spirit of **Off The Street Club**. When she's not at home helping her little brothers, she's aiding in the club's Jack and Jill Room—a space for younger children to play and learn.

It's no surprise she was named as an **Off The Street Club Junior Leader**. But that's not the only title she claims. After achieving 2022's **Girl of The Year** title, Ranayah was proud to take on bigger roles and push past her comfort zone. In the 6 years she has been at the club, Ranayah has learned that if you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything. When asked what she stands for, there was no hesitation.

Ranayah stands for being a strong, black, young lady. With an approachable demeanor that says, "talk to me, I'll listen," Ranayah has grown into a vital leader at the club.

There is no doubt she will be deeply missed as she graduates from high school and leaves the West Side to pursue her dreams. Until she comes back to visit, of course.

How would you describe yourself in three words?

Helpful. Responsible. Kind.

What do you want to be when you grow up? I want to go to college as a medical student and become a pediatric nurse.

What is your favorite thing to do at the club? Helping the staff and arts & crafts. Expressing myself is satisfying.

What has it meant for you to be Girl of the Year?

For me it was a good thing. I wanted to see what the experience was like, and I wanted to get better at giving speeches. I didn't like speaking in front of people before, but when I became Girl of the Year, I got used to it and now I like doing it.

How does Off The Street Club empower you? The staff helps me explore my passions and discover the person I want to become.

"Off The Street Club is a safe place where you can be yourself. You don't have to worry about anybody judging you."







THE ENTREPRENEUR

Levar Hall

16 YEARS OLD

The phrase "winning smile" has been around for a long time. And yet, Levar Hall seems to almost redefine it. With a glance and a curve of his lips, his eyes light up and he's got you. But don't worry, his head remains solidly on his shoulders.

Undeniably popular and yet, as generous, and down-to-earth as they come—which only amplifies that super-powered charm. With so much joy emanating from him, it's easy to forget that he walks the streets of his neighborhood on high alert, watching out for gunshots and drive-bys.

Thankfully he mostly walks to the club, where he feels safest both from physical harm and from pressure to be anyone other than himself. There he plays football and basketball, enjoys the perks of the computer lab, sings in the choir, and takes pride in his status as reigning **Boy of the Year**.

He looks forward to going to college after high school and hopes to one day be either a basketball player or a CEO—or hey, why not both?

How would you describe yourself in 3 words? Caring. Funny. Joyful.

What brings you joy?

People. I love seeing the smile on their faces.

What do you want to be when you grow up? It would be really cool to run my own business, maybe making hoodies. I'd love to do well enough that I could give back to the club.

What did it mean to you to become Boy of the Year?

It meant a lot of things. I had to step up to be that role model for the little kids. Show them you can depend on me to be Boy of the Year, because I hear your problems and we're going to get through this situation together.

"Control what you can control. Don't go overboard and try to control other people.

Just control what you can control."

BRANDON STANDBERRY, ANTHONY WILLIAMS, JERMAINE JAMES, JAYDEN PINKSTON, & HARLEM DAVIS

The Fab Five

The best thing you can have in life is some support. While everyone in these pages has the support of **Off The Street Club**, its staff, and their fellow club members—these five young leaders have built a foundation for each other through friendship. Whether they're setting picks for each other on the basketball court, helping each other with homework, or singing backup for one another

on stage in front of captivated audiences, they're always there for each other. Now, don't get it twisted. There's a good chance that you happen upon them fiercely competing in the game room or getting into a heated debate over who is and isn't "overrated" in the NBA. But nothing can break the bonds these five best friends have formed in the walls of that hope-filled house on Karlov.





J'NIYAH TURNER, ANTHONY WILLIAMS, KATHY MCDONALD, & MARIYAH MORGAN

The Soap Box Kids

These young motorists (minus the motors) are more than just thrillseekers. They're junior engineers. **The Soap Box Derby** program at the club teaches these kids all about the mechanics and physics behind their craft. The kids build their racers at the club. Learn how to perfect them aerodynamically. Learn how to drive them

fast enough to impress Vin Diesel. And then take them to an annual downhill derby in Naperville where they invariably make the club proud. Will you see one of them at the Indianapolis Speedway or the Italian Grand Prix one day? Who can say? For now, they're just having fun going fast with their friends.

THE REIGNING

Boys & Girls of the Year

LEVAR HALL, ANTHONY WILLIAMS, MARIYAH MORGAN, AYONNA PITCHFORD, & RANAYAH WILLIAMSON





This distinguished honor is bestowed on one boy and one girl each year. Voted on by all the kids of the club, this title is taken with great pride and responsibility. A role model for the people, voted on by the people. Active across a wide variety of activities and events within the club. Quick to volunteer and help others. A kid who tries their best, seeks out the help they need, and always looks to do what's right. These are some of the fine qualities of the **Boy and Girl of the Year**.

Once selected they will have to prepare and give a speech at the **Annual Holiday Luncheon** where they will officially receive their title. And while they only serve for one year, they are looked on as leaders and role models for the remainder of their time at the club and beyond. So, whether you're a kid at the club who needs help, or a supporter who wants to know more about all that **Off The Street Club** offers—seek out these young vanguards.

The Honores

Jayden Pinkston03	Aniyah Jackson18	Kiara Mayes3
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YOUR DONATIONS, TIME, AND PASSION GIVE OUR KIDS A CHANCE TO BE KIDS.

Beginning with a safe place to play and grow up, our kids depend on the programs we offer and the support they receive from our staff. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for supporting our mission.

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OFF THE STREET CLUB

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