



2019 Overview and Impact Assessment for Child Advocacy and Mentoring Program

A Better Day Than Yesterday Initiative Program

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The Impact of Incarceration has on families in the Commonwealth of Virginia

The National Reentry Resource Center reports:

Parents with minor children make up 54 percent of people incarcerated in prisons and jails, or 1.2 million people. More than 120,000 mothers and 1.1 million fathers.

An estimated 2.7 million children in the U.S. have a parent in prison or jail.

Between 1991 and 2007, the number of children with a parent in state or federal prison grew 80 percent.

Today, an estimated 2.7 million children in the U.S. have a parent in prison or jail - that is 1 in every 28 children (3.6 percent of all children). ~ *The Pew Charitable Trusts, Collateral Costs: Incarceration's Effects on Economics Mobility.*

The Cost of Incarceration:

"Virginia spends \$171,588 to incarcerate a youth per year. Black youth make up only 20 percent of Virginia's youth population but account for 43 percent of juvenile intakes, 56 percent of detainments, and 71 percent of admissions to direct care. If life skills development and training is added in the schools the dropout rate and juvenile detention rate can decrease, According to the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice."

Virginia's public school systems had the highest number of student referrals to the juvenile justice system in the country in 2016.

"Too many students are out of the classroom."

~ The Education Trust Equity

"The report showed that nearly one in six students was suspended out of school at least once in 2017, including more than 400 students suspended for 10 to 45 days. Black students and students with disabilities are disproportionately suspended, the audit found, with black students making up 71 percent of the student population but more than 90 percent of students suspended or expelled."

~ Richmond Times Dispatch

Children impacted by the traumas associated with family separation see a significant reduction in their own self confidence, affecting their ability to develop appropriate social interactions- as a consequence, their opportunities to learn and grow as healthy individuals is deeply diminished.

~ LeTeisha Gordon, Founder of ABDTY



Founder LeTeisha Gordon and the ABDTY Creation Story

As a young person LeTeisha Gordon was tremendously impacted by the absence of family members due to incarceration, divorce and deployment. The absence of her caretakers affected her socially, physically, and mentally. She was very introverted in her youth and felt abandoned and incapable, a result she attributes to her lack of parental and adult guidance. Problems with communication, self-control, decision making, goal setting, gaining and giving respect began to compound in ways that only complicated her ability to recover.

As an adult, LeTeisha realized that other kids were affected by the same issues she endured as a child. After much research, she failed to find programs that focused on these issues and decided to address the issue herself. In 2017, she developed The Child Advocacy Mentoring Program (CAMP) to help kids and families better cope with the loneliness, confusion, and the unintentional effects of shame and failure that victim syndrome conveys.



Who are We:

A Better Day than Yesterday Initiative Program is a 501c3 organization that delivers the Child Advocacy Mentoring Program (CAMP), a community centered program that provides mentoring, life skills training and development to at-risk youth ages 5 to 15 years old.

Our Mission:

To educate, empower, and equip at-risk families on how to overcome adversities caused by incarceration, divorce, military deployments and extended separation.

Our Goal:

The goal of CAMP is to uplift the voices of youth participants. We empower children to 'speak out' on their own behalf.

The exercise of using their voice assists the children in finding their internal power and teaches them how to use that power effectively. At A Better Day, we promote and influence change and self determination.

Participants Develop these 5 Fundamental Skills

1. Communication
2. Decision making
3. Goal setting
4. Conflict Resolution
5. Developing Empathy

Program Development Goals

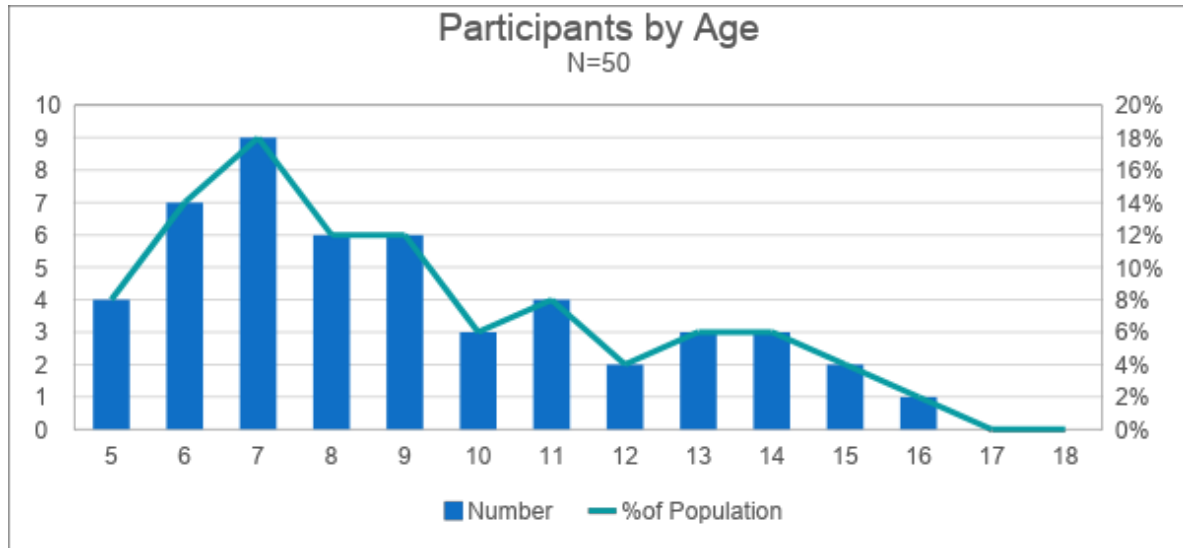
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| 1. Listening | 6. Respect |
| 2. Fairness | 7. Integrity |
| 3. Coping Skills | 8. Having a Positive Attitude |
| 4. Self-Control | 9. Being Responsible |
| 5. Cooperation | 10. Becoming a good friend |



A Better Day Than Yesterday Initiative
Child Advocacy and Mentoring Program

2019 Family Impact Assessment

ABDTY Participant Data:



Household/Parent Data	Number
Parents with a Significant other with substance abuse in the home	17
Parents unemployed	23
Single Parent home	44
Parents reported kids with ADHD	8
Parent Incarcerated	18
Don't know there dad	2
Deceased Parent	1
No relationship with the father	2

ABDTY Participation Outcomes :

- Ages 6-9 represent 56% of the population.
- Ages 10-16 represent 36% of the population
- Age 5 represents 8% of the population
- Ages 17-18 represent 0% of the population.

The data from ABDTY Programs demonstrate improvements across all 5 of its strategic communication goals:

ABDTY Measures and Outcome

The graphs below comprise the outcome measures of the ABTY CAMP Program. These measures assist the program with identifying its effectiveness in 5 key drivers that ultimately affect the participant's ability to find their voice, embrace their personal power and use it positively. *The rating scale for the data below are as follows:*

- The data is comprised of pre and post assessments completed by the parents which measure the participant's ability to communicate, make good decisions, set goals, resolve conflict, and have empathy for others.
- The results of the assessments are quantified by a numeric evaluation scale 1-5, with one being the lowest and five being the highest and three being average.
- Scores from the pre and post assessments are stated in the charts below. The data are contrasted to determine participants benefit from the program by the percentages of change in each category.

