Be brave. Take risks. Nothing can substitute for experience.

Pablo Neruda
BAM QUALITATIVE STUDY

REPORT FROM CHAPIN HALL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

This past spring, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, released a qualitative report detailing the core components that account for BAM’s substantial impact on young men from Chicago’s most at-risk communities. These results were presented in a special stakeholder event and youth panel discussion hosted by our partners at Bank of America in early May.

The report concluded that the key factors behind BAM’s effectiveness are: the creation of safe spaces for youth to express emotions, activities that allow youth to build communication and problem-solving skills, and the creation of trusting, authentic relationships.

Previous BAM studies from our partners at University of Chicago's Crime Lab have revealed a:

- 50% reduction in violent crime arrests
- 19% increase in on-time graduation rates and
- $30 return on every $1 invested in the program

"We get to talk about what we really feel. We get to talk about what’s bothering us... In BAM, you get to talk about it and not get in trouble. You get to talk about it and actually get help, you know?"

-Youth Interview from Chapin Hall Study

YOuTH SERVED IN THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

Community & Afterschool: 2,252
Tuition-Based Afterschool: 664
Project Prepare: 207
STRIVE: 184
School-Based Counseling: 512

Becoming A Man (BAM): 4,113
Working on Womanhood (WOW): 1,081

"Before I joined the group, I was the type of person to react quickly. I had anger and jumped into situations before thinking it through, which got me into more trouble. I didn’t like school. I didn’t like being around people I didn’t know. It was easy to turn situations into fights or worse. Now I react calmly. Positively. I think about my future now, where when I was younger I didn’t even think of what I could do! I didn’t have a future because I didn’t think I could dream bigger. But now...BAM made me a man of my word. I’m taking that to college where I’m going to study to be an entrepreneur and a dance choreographer." - Ethan, 18

VOICES FROM OUR WOW & BAM PROGRAMS

Chanel, 15, has only just started WOW, but already notices in herself a profound change. Before finding the group, Chanel was withdrawn, depressed, and isolated, as she had suffered through a traumatic accident and lacked a stable support system. When faced with troubling situations, she would shut down and retreat. Overwhelmed by stress and lacking consistent support, she was doing poorly personally, socially, and academically. Her WOW counselor was able to help her develop healthy coping mechanisms and provide her the support structure she needed. "My WOW counselor says we don’t let stress and anger overwhelm us," Chanel said.
BAM EXPANDS TO BOSTON!
For the first time in our nearly 100-year history, we have expanded our programs to a new city! Under the leadership of BAM-Boston Executive Director Shawn Brown, the program will support youth at the English High School, the Jeremiah Burke High School & Dearborn STEM Academy shared campus, and the John O’Bryan School of Mathematics. Future plans include expansion to nine Boston schools by the 2019-20 academic year to support more than 450 young men. Stay tuned!

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS
Sprint, Ford, mHub, Hilco Global, and Bartlit Beck Herman Palenchar & Scott partnered with our Youth Workforce Development program to host 10 interns this summer! These businesses represent a broad range of fields including manufacturing, retail, legal, and business incubator.

Internships like this provide our students with great exposure to the professional world, which allows them to discover new possibilities, create new relationship networks, apply their talents in the real world, understand their strengths, and develop clearer goals for their future.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT
Youth Guidance is profoundly grateful for the generous support of Jimmy John Liautaud, founder of Jimmy John’s. His generous gift played a central role in our ability to expand BAM from serving 4,113 young men to 6,000 young men this school year.

Leslie and Jimmy John Liautaud’s philanthropic support extends beyond the work to mentor and empower youth in the BAM program to also include dental care, health and wellness research, support of our armed forces, educational institutions, and the arts.

“I credit much of my success to my mentor, Jim Lyons, he was the disciplinary dean at my high school. Jim believed in me when I didn’t believe in myself. He stood by me when my high school was ready to expel me. Jim listened to me and we grew to trust each other. He encouraged me and I started to believe that I could do whatever I wanted which helped me graduate from my high school. That allowed me to move on to become his good friend, a father, and husband, as well as a successful entrepreneur. That’s why I am supporting Youth Guidance’s ‘Becoming a Man’ program to reach young individuals who need someone to believe in and trust, so they can have a Jim Lyons and become the best version of themselves.”

– Jimmy John Liautaud, Owner & Founder of Jimmy John’s Sandwiches
Too many young people in Chicago don’t have the tools or support they need to thrive. The struggles they face outside of the classroom directly impact their ability to focus and learn in school. They are more likely to fall behind, act out in class or even worse, drop out. It can be difficult, if not impossible, for them to see a path to success.

Youth Guidance’s programs help youth traverse difficult terrain. We give youth the tools to succeed through life-enhancing, trauma-informed programs and character-development experiences. Our staff work within schools to identify youth in need and work closely with students, teachers, principals and parents to create actionable plans that result in a brighter and more certain future.

We are proud that with each passing year, we have been able to extend our reach deeper into more communities that need us most. This is possible because of caring donors like you. Every gift helps to put our most vulnerable youth within reach of their dreams and the future that they deserve.

Please use the enclosed self-addressed envelope to make a gift to Youth Guidance, or visit us online at www.youth-guidance.org/donate. Every gift has the power to change a life!

With hope for all of our children,

Michelle Adler Morrison, Chief Executive Officer