



# IMPACT REPORT

## Powerfully changing the lives of our youth

Seattle CARES Mentoring Movement is a leader in mentor recruitment and training. Through our innovative programs, such as The Rising and Community Wellness Circles, we work to lift up lives and transform the futures for area youth and their families.



"The Rising helped me with school through tutoring, kept me out of trouble, and gave me something to do."

**Joey**  
Meany Middle School



"When grown men are opening up, it makes you want to open up. You feel safe and comfortable."

**August**  
O'Dea High School  
and Rising graduate

**The Rising**, our signature program, is offered at Denny International and Meany middle schools. Held during the school day, students move through the program as a cohort from grades 6 to 8, supported by group mentors who prepare them to succeed in school and in life. Initially boys only, we added The Rising for Girls in 2020 based on overwhelming demand.

**Mentor Recruitment** is the backbone of our organization. We recruit at major community events, through word-of-mouth, and on our website. Each mentor is carefully screened, trained and agrees to serve four hours each month. Our mentors are supported by monthly Community Wellness Circles where they learn to manage stress, share concerns and live more balanced lives.

## AFTER ONE YEAR IN THE RISING



**78%** FELT MORE  
CONFIDENT ABOUT  
SCHOOL WORK



**84%** OF STUDENTS  
BELIEVED THEIR  
GRADES IMPROVED



**95%** HAD  
GREATER HOPES  
FOR THE FUTURE

(Source: Bethune Institute Education Corp 2019-2021 report)

## MEET TWO MENTORS

**Ronnae Redmond** is a co-facilitator in the new Rising for Girls. With a degree in child and family development, she works as an outreach housing specialist at a local nonprofit. She chose mentoring as a way to inspire young girls and be a role model.

**Christian Love** was in the audience when we launched our first mentor campaign in 2018; he signed up that night. With a PhD in education, Christian is driven by his interest to give back. "I wanted to help pave the way for future scholars to serve as community leaders," he said.



## THE RISING AT-A-GLANCE



**78** Rising scholars  
43 boys and 35 girls  
**47** Trained mentors  
offer guidance  
and support  
(2021-2022)

## ROBUST PARTNERSHIPS

InterConnection supplied



**27** laptops and  
**10** hotspots  
to Rising students during  
the Covid-19 pandemic

## ENGAGED IN LEARNING

**71**

middle and high school  
students participate in  
weekly tutoring sessions  
(2021-22)





"I really look forward to the meetings and enjoy the ladies. I love how we are there for each other."

**Rosa Green**



"The meetings help me be more self-aware, enjoy myself and laugh more with my kids. I feel blessed to be part of a strong group of women."

**Tigest Beyene**



## SHARING HOPES AND DREAMS

**Community Wellness Circles** provide a safe space primarily for mothers and female guardians. The virtual sessions focus on imparting the building blocks needed for a healthy quality life: parenting skills, conflict resolution and empowerment. Led by a trained facilitator, the Wellness Circles are a place to share hopes and dreams, offer non-judgmental support, and work through solutions. An average of 20-25 women attend the Wellness Circles each week.



**Voices for Change**, which began in January 2022, complements the Community Wellness Circles. The series invites top speakers to tackle such important topics as mental health and wellness, parenting in the real world, financial planning, history of the Seattle Black Panthers, and voter rights. National experts, nonprofit CEOs, and members from academia lead the virtual discussions, which draw up to 55 people.

## OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS, LASTING CHANGE

### Successful Covid-19 responses

- Quickly transitioned programs online, overcoming financial and programmatic challenges (2020).
- Launched tutoring sessions in core subject areas to keep young scholars engaged in learning during the pandemic (2020).
- Selected as a featured grantee for Elevate Washington, a joint project of School's Out Washington and Washington State Department of Commerce (2021).

### Local and national recognition

- Received multi-year grants from King County's Best Starts for Kids (2019-2022) and City of Seattle (2017-2019).
- Arranged for Rising scholars to brief Seattle and King County council members on issues critical to their future (2021).
- Seattle was one of 3 CARES affiliates (out of 58) spotlighted in a national video by National CARES Mentoring Movement (2022).



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## MARKED IMPROVEMENTS FOR RISING SCHOLARS



In one year, interest in attending college increased from  
**31% to 55%**



Racial pride and identity improved from  
**77% to 97%**



Confidence and self-reliance grew from  
**68% to 87%**