



FREEDOM HOOPS

DEVELOPING LEADERS. IMPACTING COMMUNITIES. FOR HIS GLORY.

Friday, December 14, 2018

Dear Friend,

I'm writing today to invite you to become a partner for our fifth year of Freedom Hoops as we share Christ with young men in Kansas City's urban core. By February 1, we want to expand our mentoring program to include two teams, a total of 24 young men.

The more we spend time with our young men, the more we realize they enjoy being around us not because of an orange basketball, but because of the family atmosphere we have created. Our urban young men daily face hunger, violence, and family instability. At Freedom Hoops we provide a safe place to belong, compete, and be known by a mentor and coaches.

I am writing today because we need your help on a special project that will impact young men in Kansas City's urban core and, God-willing, future families and communities in Kansas City. We provide all costs for the program: food, gym rental, jerseys, transportation, coaching fees, tournament fees, and other experiences. Without a major investment, our young men wouldn't get what they experience through Freedom Hoops.

Here is a success story about our 17-under team's mentoring program this fall.

"BE SERIOUS – WILL THEY RESPECT ME?"

Freedom Hoops mentor Vickie asked me these words 10 minutes before our young men walked into the door. That September night marked the beginning of our 17-year-old team's mentoring program.

That night, many of our mentors felt like Vickie, but with four months of our inaugural mentoring program in the books, we are grateful to see what God has been doing with our mentors and young men.



Lance, Z, and Vickie Before Practice

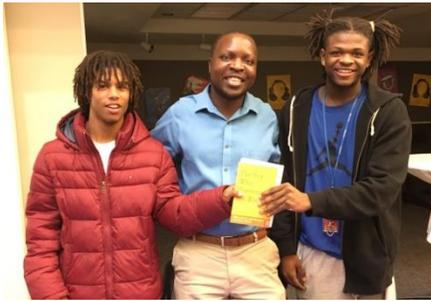
Below is a letter written by Vickie and her husband Lance.

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My wife Vickie says that **all are born with equal talent, but not all are born with equal opportunity**. Two of Freedom Hoops' players, Jordan and Z, are great examples of that comment. These two have more energy than most boys, and each have contagious smiles and potential to be great leaders.

In October we took Jordan and Z to meet William Kamkwamba. He is a real-life example of someone born with amazing talent but limited resources in Malawi, Africa. He taught himself how to build a windmill to generate electricity for his house and another for a well for his village. His story encouraged Jordan and Z.

Jordan and Z have also been to our house to mow, rake leaves, have Thanksgiving dinner, and get tips on preparing for the ACT.



Z and Jordan with William Kamkwamba, author of "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind" at Avila University.

Despite our initial uneasiness, Freedom Hoops has given us a tremendous opportunity to mentor Jordan and Z, and we cannot wait for more stories in 2019 to unfold!

– Lance & Vickie

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We are trying to raise \$36,000 which is the total cost for the team of 12 young men to participate in Freedom Hoops.

We need this by December 31st so we can effectively care for our young men and plan for the year.

Here are some ways you can help us transform our urban youth to impact their communities for Christ:

- \$3,000 covers the cost of one young man
- \$1,000 covers two months of practice
- \$500 covers 1-2 basketball tournaments
- \$100 covers one meal for 20-30 young men at one of our weekly gatherings

Would you consider a year-end tax-deductible gift to help 12 more young men to be paired with mentors like Lance and Vickie in 2019?

Michael Loney
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P.S. You can make your check payable to Freedom Hoops by December 31, 2018 in the provided envelope. To give online, visit: www.freedomhoops.org/give.