

Young Men Take Center Stage at My Brother's Keeper Celebration



Members of the Vulcan Society accept the MBK Defenders of the Dream Award.



YPS Superintendent Dr. Edwin Quezada with De'Andre Brown.

Photos by Shane Samuels

Fresh off the Obama Foundation Summit stage in Chicago, De'Andre Brown took the microphone as the guest Master of Ceremonies at Yonkers' My Brother's Keeper's third anniversary celebration, "For Us, By Us," on Nov. 15 in the Riverfront Library auditorium.

A 2019 graduate of Yonkers Middle-High School, Brown returned home to support the movement that helped him develop into a leader, he told the hundreds of attendees at the celebration, which was a student performing and visual arts talent showcase.

On Oct. 29, Brown – now a freshman at New York University – shared his story on stage at the Obama Foundation's 2019 Sum-

mit.

"When I was in high school, I struggled with emotional challenges, but the My Brother's Keeper initiative supported me and believed in me," he said.

Brown was selected to serve as one of two New York State My Brother's Keeper fellows from Yonkers in 2018 and won a highly competitive scholarship from the NYS Department of Education in 2019, just after being elected president of the Yonkers MBK Youth Advisory Council by his peers.

"De'Andre embodies the promise of this movement," said Superintendent of Schools

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Mayor Spano Welcomes Residents At The Villas at the Ridgeway



From left are Jesse Batus, senior project manager at The Community Builders; Lauren Hauck, development project manager at The Community Builders; residents Amma Mintah, Lord Mintah and Nana Mintah; Mayor Mike Spano; MHACY Deputy Executive Director Carlos Laboy; and City Council member Shanae Williams.

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano recently joined with representatives from the Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers and The Community Builders in welcoming the first new residents at The Villas at the Ridgeway.

The project includes 70 units of new modular housing built across four buildings at two sites, and rehabilitation of an existing day care center. Units range from two to four bedrooms

each with two bathrooms, dishwashers, central air conditioning, and washer/dryer hookup. All new units are designed to achieve significant energy efficiency targets with LEED Silver certification.

The Villas at the Ridgeway is the third phase of redevelopment by The Community Builders and the Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers at the former Cottage Place Gardens site.

Grants Funds Available for Programs Benefiting Seniors

The Field Hall Foundation is now accepting letters of inquiry for programs and projects that will improve the lives of older adults and their caregivers in Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess counties. The foundation will award full grants up to \$50,000 each and mini-grants up to \$15,000 to not-for-profits and local government agencies.

The deadline to submit a letter of inquiry is Jan. 20.

The foundation is especially interested in collaborative projects and programs that address seniors' basic needs in social service programs, such as home-based care services, social work, food insecurity of older adults, transportation

options for older adults and caregivers or home health aides, elder abuse intervention, Alzheimer's/dementia, and alcohol and other substance abuse prevention and intervention; caregiver support such as respite services for spouses or relatives caring for older adults at home; and geriatric care centers such as handicap accessibility and safety, quality of life, and program delivery.

The foundation has awarded 16 grants in 2019 totaling \$529,000. The next cycle of grant awards will be announced in January.

For more information, visit www.fieldhall-foundation.org or contact Program Officer Pattie Lavan Horvath at 914-813-9103 or phorvath@fieldhallfdn.org.

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