

# SOUL



## December Newsletter

### SOUL Basketball: 14u



Thanks to the support of Malcolm Battle, Head Basketball coach at Cesar Chavez Public Charter School, SOUL now has a space to conduct basketball practices for our youth between 11-14 years old. We will use the Richard English Boys & Girls Clubhouse #14 in Ward 7.

We will develop two teams that will compete in the Greater Washington Boys & Girls Club winter basketball league. The season starts this January.

### SOUL: City Gate



Each Saturday roughly 15 American University students come to Richardson Dwellings via the DC Reads program to provide our youth with supplemental academic support. The youth engaged in this weekly program range from 5-14 years old.

These tutors provide homework support, mentorship, and expose our youth to new communities. These individuals truly help us push our youth toward educational excellence.

### SOUL: HD Woodson



At the high school level there are two American University tutors who commute to *Ward 7* every Tuesday evening to support the HD Woodson Warriors varsity boys basketball team. The volunteers provide homework support and offer a platform for our youth to discuss the college entrance process. The HD coaches are already seeing improvements in student performance during these sessions, when compared to student engagement last year. SOUL currently serves as the student-athlete academic advisor for the boys basketball team.



### **Thank you!**

A special thank you to all our amazing volunteers. They provide us with so much support. We could not have reached as many youth as we did this academic year without you.

To become a SOUL volunteer please contact Donald at [soulprograms@gmail.com](mailto:soulprograms@gmail.com) or 202.803.2083

# #SOULCHALLENGE2015

## Have Fun, Network, and Support Local Youth!

We are still recruiting teams for the SOUL Corporate Basketball Challenge. This is our largest philanthropic event and is critical to the sustainability of our program.



## Saturday, February 28, 2015

5 on 5 Corporate Basketball Challenge

8 players per team

3 games guaranteed

To register your team or donate to the event please contact Donald Curtis, Founder & Executive Director, at [dcurtis@soulprograms.org](mailto:dcurtis@soulprograms.org).

For more information please visit <http://soulprograms.org/support/2015-corporate-challenge/>

## SOUL SUMMER INSTITUTE (8-week program)

This summer SOUL youth will explore the world through "The Art of Science." Our youth will have the opportunity to visit several science and performing arts centers to better understand the physics of motion, music, and fine arts. We need help identifying great exploration sites to visit.

Please forward us your recommendations. Send them to [dcurtis@soulprograms.org](mailto:dcurtis@soulprograms.org).



# Recap: AU Juniors @ American University

On October 18, 22 youth visited American University to participate in a college tour that introduced our youth to various enrollment processes. The tour started with a quick detour through the AU Park community, one of the District's wealthiest communities. Many of the youth were enchanted by the sheer size and landscape of the homes. Yet, the majority of the kids didn't know they were still in DC.

Once on campus the youth were greeted by college students from the Black Student Alliance (BSA), 2014 STEP Cohort, and other AUers who heard about the tour and wanted to lend their support. The youth then picked the AU student, who was most interesting to them, to serve as their Academic Adviser for the day. The pair attended three sessions: Geography, Chemistry, and a gender specific etiquette class. The boys were taught public speaking by a student group called Men of Empowerment and Excellence. While the girls attended a workshop coordinated by the Zeta Kappa chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.

The youth then visited the on campus dining hall, where they commenced to eat everything offered on the buffet. The students then participated in a completion of the programs ceremony. Each youth received a certificate, and AU sweatshirt, which was donated to SOUL by the BSA and Black Student Alumni Association.



## SOUL HAPPY HOUR FUNDRAISER

**Thursday, December 11, 2014**

PURE LOUNGE  
1362 Ust, NW Washington DC

To purchase tickets or make a donation visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/soul-programs-fundraiser-happy-hour-event-tickets-14378375107>

### For more information please contact:

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Students Organized to Understand Leadership (SOUL) is a 501(C)(3) charitable organization. We use a sports based approach to youth development program for at-risk youth residing in vulnerable DC communities. Our programs provide athletic, academic, and professional enrichment opportunities, using basketball as a pedagogical tool for personal development. SOUL leverages the influence of coaches and mentors to support the hard work of parents and traditional educators in developing productive young adults.