

# Gentlemen By Choice

*Developing Tomorrow's Leaders Today*

## Meeting a Community Need

The mission of GBC is summed up by the Frederick Douglass quote: "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men." The GBC leaders, along with parents in the communities served by GBC, identified several critical needs that affect their elementary school-aged children:

- High proportion of single-parent households, mostly headed by women.
- Lack of strong male role-models at home and at schools.
- Large percentage of low-income households whose children receive free and reduced lunches at their elementary schools.
- Far below state and national average performance on standardized math and reading tests.
- Higher suspension rates and behavioral problems, especially among black students.

### In the parents' words

"Before the program my son would barely smile... From different things that happened in our life he put himself into a thick shell."

"Our young boys need mentorship and guidance because they don't get it in school. There are a lot of single-parent households, and the boys need this kind of program to guide them through life."

## How GBC Rewrites the Story

### LIFE Skills

- Leadership
- Image
- Financial Literacy
- Etiquette

Gentlemen By Choice was founded in 2013 with the goal of transforming students attending school in underserved communities by teaching them L.I.F.E skills. Their strategy is to invest in boys starting at age 10 or 11 to give right instruction and direction before negative habits become entrenched. GBC gives and commands respect from their gents by teaching them to dress and groom professionally, and to hold themselves at a higher standard in all areas of life.

At the end of the day, GBC leaves their mark on local families, schools, and communities by investing time with children. Change doesn't happen overnight; it can take weeks, months, even years, but it begins by planting a seed. In the words of GBC co-founder Antanus Pullum, he wants the young gents to know "that we invested time in them, that they meant something to us, that we believed in them, and at the end that we loved them"

## GBC Impact in Las Vegas 2019

54%

Boys mentored at three Las Vegas elementary schools

82%

Of Gents said they are "Always more respectful towards their parents"

67%

Of Gents said they are "Always happier at home"

63%

Of Gents said they "Always care More about the way they look"

### Words from the Gents themselves

"My communication and vocabulary have improved a lot. I can elaborate my feelings to show exactly how I feel."

"I treat adults, like my teachers, with more respect... I've learned to be respectful to my teachers, to not give them a hard time and to do the work I'm supposed to do."

"(GBC) Gives people who don't have a father in their life, like me, the chance to have amazing father figures to look up to."