

Out-of-School Time Stories

BOOST Grantee Spotlight: Men About Change

Men About Change has become a cornerstone of youth development in Macon-Bibb County, offering youth a safe, nurturing afterschool and summer learning environment grounded in mentorship, academics, and enrichment. Serving students ages 5 – 18 years old from 17 schools across Bibb County, the program’s mission is deeply tied to the personal histories of its founders, career educators who have spent decades shaping the lives of local youth. Their work has created a multi-layered support system that reaches far beyond the classroom, reflecting a commitment that is as heartfelt as it is effective.



“This is something I do as a ministry – giving back to the community by trying to make a difference with the kids.”



— Dr. Glover, Founder

Men About Change is committed to serving at-risk youth, including those in foster care. By providing a safe, nurturing environment and targeted mentorship, the organization ensures that youth receive the support and opportunities they need to thrive. Through personalized guidance and enrichment activities, the program empowers these young people to overcome unique challenges, explore new possibilities, and build meaningful relationships with caring adults and peers.



2025-2026 Youth Served:

*322 Afterschool



Ages Served:

K-12th Grade




Counties Served:

Bibb

Programming Offered:

Afterschool and Summer

BOOST Grant Purpose:

-  Expand access
-  Reduce barriers
-  Increase quality

OST Government Funding Sources:

BOOST Grant

Website:

<https://www.menaboutchange.com/>



*Served as of date of publication

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Mentorship & Well-Being

One of the most distinctive elements of the program is its gender-based instructional model. While early elementary groups remain co-ed, students in grades three through twelve participate in classes separated by gender and led by same-gender teachers. This structure, refined over many years, has dramatically reduced classroom distractions and created safe, comfortable spaces for students to address sensitive issues. Young men receive mentorship from male educators who often serve as father figures or big brothers, while young women are supported by female educators who provide guidance, encouragement, and emotional safety.



“We’re able to be their dad, big brother, even grandfather at times.”

— Dr. Clowers

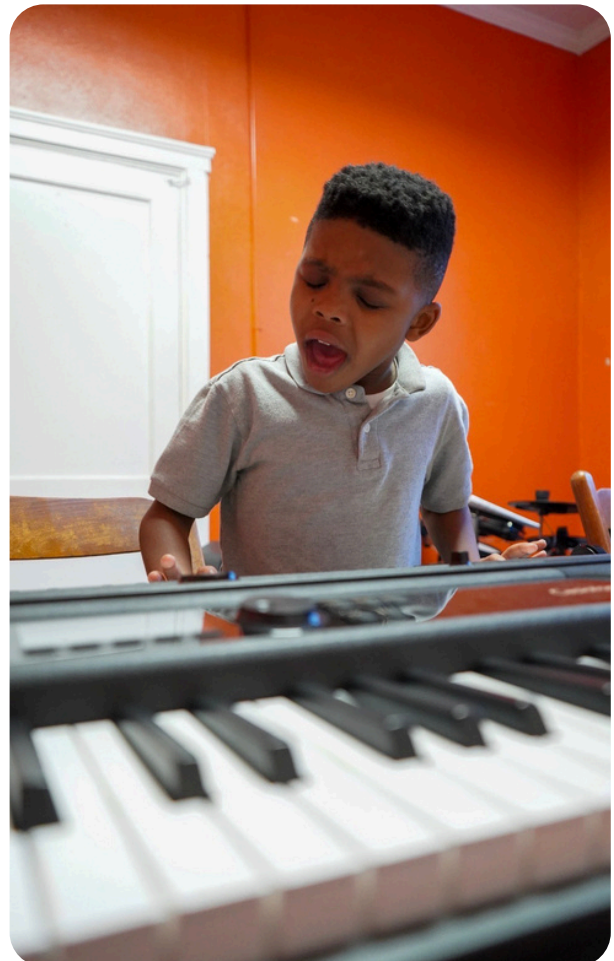


Additionally, two certified counselors—one male and one female—provide small-group and individual support, helping students navigate anger management, communication challenges, and personal struggles. This consistent support has contributed to exceptionally low behavioral incidents across the program and cultivated an environment where students feel safe, heard, and supported.

Academic Acceleration

Men About Change and its staff maintain a close partnership with the Bibb County School District to ensure alignment between school-day learning and afterschool support. Nearly all staff members work in local schools, bringing daily classroom experience directly into the afterschool setting. This strong connection allows teachers to share academic updates in real time and ensures that program staff can immediately address missing assignments, academic concerns, or behavioral needs.

Academic acceleration is at the heart of the program’s daily routine. With more than 65 percent of local students reading below grade level, literacy and numeracy are essential areas of focus. Students begin each afternoon with a full, nutritious CACFP-approved meal before transitioning into structured academic time. **Homework help is followed by targeted reading instruction on Mondays and Wednesdays and math instruction on Tuesdays and Thursdays.** Thanks to BOOST funding, Men About Change has reinstated iStation, an educational tool that assesses students monthly, identifies their skill gaps, and generates personalized activities and progress reports. This data-driven approach along with a curriculum aligned directly with The Georgia Milestones Assessment System allows staff to tailor instruction with precision.





“Some students discovered they wanted to become teachers because of their apprenticeship experiences.”



— Dr. Glover

Expanding Horizons

While academics anchor the program’s structure, Men About Change is committed to a holistic youth development approach. Enrichment opportunities are plentiful and thoughtfully designed to help students explore creativity and build confidence while developing new skills. A certified music teacher provides weekly private lessons in keyboard and drums, a unique offering that many families could not otherwise access. STEM and robotics labs encourage innovation and hands-on learning, while arts and crafts, drama, athletics, and cultural experiences round out a rich array of offerings. High school students can participate in an apprenticeship program, gaining work skills, leadership experience, and stipends for their contributions in classrooms and program operations.

Experiential learning is another hallmark of Men About Change. Field trips bring classroom instruction to life, whether through zoo visits tied to science units, library trips that spark a love of reading, bookstore adventures, or excursions to museums and aquariums. Older students participate in multi-day college tours, visiting institutions like Howard University, Virginia Tech, and Georgetown, while younger children enjoy immersive experiences such as LEGO Land. With the support of BOOST funds, the program plans to introduce virtual field trips through VR and interactive view boards, opening new horizons for students who may have limited opportunities to travel.

Creative Solutions

Often a major barrier for families, transportation is addressed through a creative network of donated vans, a purchased 15-passenger vehicle, and support from community members. Parents typically pick students up at the end of the day, though the program provides exceptions when needed to ensure no child is left without access.

The impact of Men About Change has not gone unnoticed. The program recently received the Whitney M. Young Service Award from the Boy Scouts of America, a national honor recognizing outstanding service to youth. For the founders and staff, however, the greatest rewards come from former students who return as young adults to express gratitude or even work alongside the next generation of participants.

Dr. Glover states, **‘As long as I have life in me, I’m always going to be instrumental in doing something for children... Making a difference in children’s lives – that’s my driving force.’** This heartfelt commitment echoes throughout the program and has shaped a decade of transformative impact on youth, families, and the wider Macon community.

