BOSTON UNCORNER

A SOLUTION BY
COLLEGE BOUND DORCHESTER

2017-18 IMPACT REPORT
DEAR FRIENDS,

It is because of you that we are uncornering Boston. While many of you have been with us for years, some have only recently joined and yet, together you make our work possible.

The work to get young people, Core Influencers, off the corner and into college. The work to hire formerly gang-involved individuals as College Readiness Advisors to mentor our students on their uncornered journey. The work to shift mindsets from the belief that disruptive young men and women are only problems and begin to see them as the solution.

Boston Uncornered is a culmination of more than 10 years of trial and learning that started when we established College Bound Dorchester in 2009 in recognition of the transformational power of a college education.

In the two years since launching uncornered, we have seen 80% of Core Influencers not recidivating and 67% persisting in college annually.

We’ve grown to engage Core Influencers from 58 of Boston’s 98 crews in 10 of the City’s 14 crime “hotspots.” Imagine how many more individuals, corners and neighborhoods we can uncorner together in the years to come.

It’s these outcomes that keep us hopeful and committed. We ask you to stick with us—on this journey, in this movement.

With gratitude for your continued support,

Mark Culliton
Founder & CEO

Michelle Caldeira
Senior Vice President
Paul Burns
Uncornered Student

FROM THE CORNER, TO A CELL, TO COLLEGE. NEXT STOP, A CAREER.

Paul was first arrested at 11 years old after stabbing a kid on the school bus—ending up in the juvenile justice system, again and again. “Young Paul was all for the problem. I thought a gang was more like a family—but it wasn’t.”

In 2013, after spending 5 years in state prison, only a stark reality welcomed him home while his “brothers” from the street were absent. “After that, I knew I had to move different. I wanted to be a part of the solution.” So he joined Boston Uncornered. Paul has earned his GED and is now enrolled at the Benjamin Franklin Institute.

Through hard work and the support of his College Readiness Advisor, Luis Rodrigues, he stayed focused and motivated through the ups and downs of becoming a father and the loss of his oldest brother.

“I want to show young people that you don’t have to throw your life away. Since I have been a part of College Bound, I have elevated mentally. I have to keep going.”

Less than 1% of gang-involved youth who have dropped out of high school matriculate to college. Uncornered participants matriculate at a rate of 43%.
THE CHALLENGE
A SMALL POPULATION WITH AN OUTSIZED IMPACT

1% OF BOSTON’S YOUTH ARE GANG-INVOLVED (3,800 INDIVIDUALS)

1,300 ARE THE CORE INFLUENCERS RESPONSIBLE FOR 74% OF SHOOTINGS ON ONLY 5% OF THE CITY’S STREET CORNERS

WHO ARE CORE INFLUENCERS?

GANG-INVOLVED
YOUNG PEOPLE (AGES 17-30) MOST LIKELY TO BE VICTIMS AND/OR PERPETRATORS OF VIOLENT CRIMES

100% LOW-INCOME
90% YOUNG MEN OF COLOR
88% FORMERLY INCARCERATED AND/OR COURT-INVOLVED

35% PARENTING
30% HOMELESS/HOUSING INSECURE

Alex spent the first eight years of his daughter’s life in prison. Five years later, he has earned his HiSet and graduated from the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology with an HVAC certificate.
THE BOSTON UNCORNERED SOLUTION

Boston Uncornered redirects the entrepreneurial, networking and leadership skills of gang members from violence and incarceration to drive positive change in our neighborhoods. We empower Core Influencers to obtain a college credential and family-sustaining wage through:

1. **Setting high expectations** for their academic and social-emotional development

2. **Matching them with highly trained, neighborhood-based mentors** who are former Core Influencers

3. **Providing education stipends** to enable them to focus on their progress and earning a credential full-time

CORE INFLUENCER PROGRESSION

157

CORE INFLUENCERS ENGAGED ANNUALLY
(From 58 of Boston’s 98 crews/gangs)

10

Of Boston’s 14 crime “hotspots” reached

80%

**Do not recidivate**

67%

**Persist in college annually**

*Kismauri has been in and out of the system since she was 13. Now, inspired by her daughter and through her determination, she began taking nursing classes at Bunker Hill Community College.*
FROM DRIVING CHAOS TO EMPOWERING THE SOLUTION.

Luis was born and raised in Dorchester. At a young age he engaged in gang activity and went to jail for several years (where he met one of his current mentees, Paul Burns).

It took seeing the pain that getting shot 10 times caused his mother, to recognize: 1) how much chaos he had caused in his community, and 2) how influential he was to so many young men. “My being locked up in prison is like getting a degree from Harvard on the streets. Everything is upside-down.”

When he was released, he decided to change and give back to the community he had taken so much from in his youth—using his leadership abilities and influence for good.

Paul puts it best. “Lu and I were locked up together. So for me to be a college student and him to be my advisor is wild. Two men from upstate who have completely turned their lives around. I wouldn’t believe it if I wasn’t living it. Lu is an everyday inspiration for me.”

In addition to the significant social cost, a 10-year criminal offender costs taxpayers $1M.
Each Core Influencer we serve saves the Commonwealth $70,000 annually (in incarceration, court costs, probation, and other subsidies)

**INCOME**

- 14% Individual Contributions
- 34% Public Funding
- 45% Foundation & Corporate Gifts
- 7% United Way

**EXPENSES**

- 11% Indirect Cost
- 54% College Readiness Advisors & Instructors
- 31% Education Stipends
- 1% Program Supplies
- 3% Evaluation

As a College Readiness Advisor, Will spent many years on the streets. After facing a life sentence in prison he vowed to take advantage of his second chance and embark on a new path. He now mentors formerly gang-involved youth as they take the journey from the corner to college.
OUR UNCORNERED SUPPORTERS

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