

OPPORTUNITY MATTERS

The Romeoville Initiative

What is the Opportunity Matters Initiative?

- ▶ It was a discussion between Marc Howard our New Business Consultant at the Athletic & Event Center and me. We were discussing everything going on in the world today COVID; Social Justice issues; cultural inequalities; and a myriad of other issues affecting society today. We challenged ourselves to produce programs that would help facilitate change. This is when the idea of Opportunity Matters came to light.

Mission Statement and Vision

- ▶ The *Opportunity Matters* mission is to reform cultural inequalities by engaging our youth multicultural leaders of tomorrow; by breaking down barriers and inequalities that currently exist. Our mission is to set new standards by committing to fundamental norms for future generations



- ▶ The *Opportunity Matters* vision is to create future leaders in Romeoville. While focusing on diversity and equality in the workplace. We will create a programs that encompasses mentorships, academics, health and wellness, career training, and economic development. It is important that today's youth have a renewed focus on unity. It is our goal to "CREATE THE CHANGE"! We will sharpen future leaders and create a world that works together despite our many differences.

CORE VALUES

Diversity
Leadership
Accountability

Unity
Integrity
Confidence



Initiative Goals years 1-2 (ages 10-19)



- ▶ Character Diversity Program
- ▶ After School Program
- ▶ Sports and Recreation Program
- ▶ Youth Obesity and Nutrition
- ▶ Winter and Summer Program
- ▶ Job Training Program

Initiative Goals years 3-5 (ages 10-19)

Junior Entrepreneur

Career Trade Development

Web-based Technical
Training

College Readiness and GED
Partnership Program

Additional Sports
Programming

Additional Service
Partnerships

Potential Partners



- ▶ Valley View School District
- ▶ Plainfield School District
- ▶ White Oak Library District
- ▶ School PTO
- ▶ Food Pantries
- ▶ Active Living Communities
- ▶ Local Universities & HBCU's
- ▶ Union Trade Schools
- ▶ Wilco
- ▶ Business Community
- ▶ Will County
- ▶ CASA of River Valley
- ▶ DCFS of Will County
- ▶ Guardian Angel Home
- ▶ Spanish Center-Joliet
- ▶ Friendship Center YMCA
- ▶ Religious Organizations
- ▶ Private and Corporate Foundations
- ▶ Will County Workforce
- ▶ Will County Community Health