



# Raising Him Alone Results (2009-2010)

*A snap shot of the Raising Him Alone (RHA) Campaign's  
ability to mobilize parents*

## RHA Impacts the lives of single mothers raising boys

RHA campaign has employed seven single mothers over the past two years.

RHA campaign has conducted more than 60 community-based workshops and presentations providing resource information and advocacy.

RHA has created one of the largest parenting-based Web sites in the country.

RHA eblasts are sent out bi-weekly to more than 9,000 mothers/grandmothers across the U.S.

## Parental Voice

RHA created a Face Book Group (Single Mothers Raising Boys) as a vehicle for mothers/grandmothers to begin interactive discussions on best practices for raising a male child. The campaign has more than 1,100 participants.

Dr. Alan Green, Professor of Counseling at the University of Southern California, created a National Survey for Single Mothers Raising Boys. The survey results will be published in February 2011. The survey link is [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=XnxeBJgegJVikIU6Sx\\_2bBlg\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=XnxeBJgegJVikIU6Sx_2bBlg_3d_3d)

In 2009 RHA hosted two major kickoffs launching the campaign. More than 600 mothers and grandmothers attended a full day of workshops, met with advocates and received referrals. These kickoff events occurred in Baltimore and Newark, NJ.

In 2010 we hosted a special RHA event with more than 500 mothers at New Life Covenant Baptist Church in Chicago, IL. (February 2011)

RHA partnered with two women's correctional facilities to provide workshops for incarcerated mothers who will be returning to the community. The campaign donated 300 signed copies of the campaign's signature book, *Raising Him Alone: Things Black Women Can Do to Raise Boys to Become Men* (2009).

RHA partnered with Newark West Ward Collective Parent Conference - a series of workshops were conducted with the focus of helping parents increase parental involvement in school. (March 2010)

Irvington New Jersey Public Schools Parent Academy conducted a quarterly workshop focusing on improving student achievement. The first workshop concentrated on helping single mothers improve reading scores for black boys. February 2010-June 2010.

RHA created a mini documentary featuring interviews with community mothers in Baltimore and Newark, NJ, interviews with community experts and interviews with several celebrity moms to produce a seven-minute video clip featured on Youtube.com. Visit (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmnlLvdz2Yg>) (2009).

RHA's annual Exceptional Mothers Award to highlight mothers who are doing a great job raising boys. RHA staff received more than 350 nominations in 2010. Five mothers (2010) received a certificate and copies of *Raising Him Alone*, as well as several other empowerment books written for mothers. (2009 & 2010).

RHA hosted four teleconferencing calls on various topics: Grandparents raising children, When dad comes back home (incarcerated fathers), Summer programs for your son and Keeping him out of gangs. The teleconference calls served 300 mothers. (2009)

## Directly Impacting the Lives of Young Black Males

RHA, the Antonio Freeman Foundation and Dale Talley Foundation provided free haircuts, book bags and school supplies for more than 200 African-American males in Baltimore. (August 2010)

RHA partnered with the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc (Baltimore) to host “Encouraging Our Sons to Read.” More than 55 African-American males and their families received signed children’s books. (March 2010)

RHA launched an Invitation to Manhood at Dr. Bernard Harris Elementary School in Baltimore. The model serves 25 African-American male 4th graders who are being raised by single mothers.

RHA hosted a summer resource fair for 100 families in Baltimore. The event provided information about summer camps that offer services for African-American males. The campaign partnered with Sojourner Douglass College (Baltimore). (June 2009)

Presentation, panel discussion and book signing focused on Mothers/Grandmothers Raising Sons. Congressional Black Caucus Weekend (September 2009 and September 2010).

RHA partnered with the Young Male Employment Conference (RASP) on Rutgers’ Newark Campus. More than 1,400 males in grades 7-12 participated (April 2009 and 2010). The workshops focused on life after high school and featured a career fair with college admissions recruiters. More than 40 school districts attended from three states (New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania).

## Campaign on a National Level

The campaign has developed an impressive host of partners and opportunities to present the RHA model on a national level:

RHA has partnered with several key organizations in Philadelphia, Newark & Baltimore to increase outreach to mothers raising sons: Black Alliance for Educational Options, Black Male Development Symposium, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc, Heart & Soul Magazine & So Article written by John Blake, CNN, Is Obama inspiring black men to step up? (<http://www.cnn.com/2009/LIVING/11/04/obama.effect/index.html>)

Article written by Monica Utsey in Crisis Magazine September 2010. *From Boys to Men: A Black Mothers Guide — A New Campaign Focuses on Giving Support to Single Mothers Raising Boys*

Article written by Donna Owens in the The Grio ([www.thegrio.com](http://www.thegrio.com)) *Raising successful black boys alone, but not without help* <http://www.thegrio.com/opinion/raising-successful-black-boys-alone.php>

Article written by Cheryl Willis in the Huffington Post *Raising the Bar for Single Parents* [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/cheryl-wills/raising-the-bar-for-singl\\_b\\_781964.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/cheryl-wills/raising-the-bar-for-singl_b_781964.html)

Presented at the 2010 AAHMI 5th Annual Connecting Marriage Research to Practice Conference: *Preparing Resilient Families for the New Decade* held June 22-24, 2010, at Hampton University (Hampton, VA). *Single Mothers Raising Young Men: Attitudes and Strategies*--Ron Clark and David Miller.

Presentation on *Educating Young Education* at the National Black Family Reunion (National Council of Negro Women) (September 2009 and 2010). For a complete list of RHA partners please visit: <http://www.raisinghimalone.com/partners.htm>

## Impact Case Studies

The following is a brief snapshot of families that the RHA campaign has impacted through our “Learning Community”:

### JOYCE

Joyce, an exceptionally resilient single mother with two sons, lives in Philadelphia. She stays connected to the Campaign as a way to provide ongoing resources to support her family. Joyce’s sons were raped by their father several years ago, and he’s serving prison time for the crime. Joyce’s sons struggle with the effects of the abuse as well as growing up with a father in prison. The Campaign has been able to connect the family with a mental health provider.

### YVONNE

Yvonne, a single mother from Oakland, CA, got connected to the Campaign via the Face Book Group (single mothers raising boys). Yvonne’s oldest youngest son was arrested for not having a photo ID. Yvonne was able to benefit from the Campaign’s vast information on the Web site regarding the law and encounters with the police. The Campaign was able to connect Yvonne to grassroots groups in Oakland that address issues related to community policing.

### MILDRED

Imagine living 74 years, working all of your life and raising three generations of children? Ms. Mildred, a feisty great-grandmother, now struggles to raise five boys ages 15, 13, 9 (twins) and 5. Living in public housing in the West Ward in Newark, NJ, Mildred manages her own medical problems (diabetes and hypertension) while creating a loving home for her great-grandsons. Ms. Mildred has attended several quarterly RHA seminars.

### COREY

A long-distance dad living in Benton Harbor, MI, Corey represents the Campaign’s ability to reach dads. Although his son lives

hundreds of miles away, the Campaign was able to provide several key strategies to help maintain their relationship. Through periodic Face Book contact and via email blasts (Dad's Corner column) Corey has been able to implement our recommendations. The first step was beginning the healing process with the mother of Corey's son. Step two was purchasing a cell phone with a pay-by-the-minute plan that allows Corey to talk to his son more frequently.

### **MISS. A**

A 35 year old single mother of three children (ages 6, 12, and 16), called the RHA New Jersey office after reviewing an RHA newsletter that was forwarded to her by a friend. Her concern was for her 12year old son who had been arrested for stealing from a grocery store. The boy had been in trouble with the law before so when arrested the judge sentenced him to a three month term in the correctional youth facility. Campaign referred her to the University of Medicine and Dentistry of NJ Division of Adolescent Medicine counseling center where they family has been receiving individual and family counseling for the past eleven months.

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