

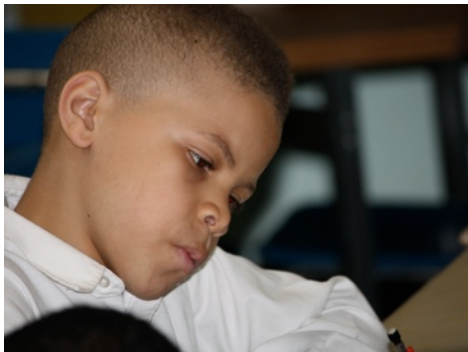
Baltimore
BORN

BOYS OPPORTUNITY
AND RESOURCE
NETWORK

BORN Newsletter Issue I

We are pleased to introduce the Baltimore BORN newsletter. We will be sending it out quarterly to update BORN families, partners, supporters and friends on all of the great things being accomplished!

“**Baltimore BORN was created** in response to the huge number of young men who have the talent and potential to succeed, but lack the opportunities, resources, and networks to sustain



them as they struggle through the problems of overburdened families, failing schools, and the illusory appeal of the street.

Admitting boys in their fifth grade year and following them until their expected matriculation to college, BORN works to improve reading comprehension, critical writing and thinking skills while also helping the boys navigate inevitable social obstacles. Our aim is to build their capacities for conflict resolution, public service, and moral reasoning, while encouraging them to achieve a healthy critical relationship to received ideas of manhood and masculinity. Our belief is that with the right long-term support, the boys of Baltimore BORN will grow into young men whose commitment to rigorous thought, active

citizenship, and considerate manhood will serve them well on their respective paths to truly successful and meaningful lives.

Everyone associated with BORN is proud of the results of the pilot program. Our boys are now enrolled in some great middle schools, and we are thrilled that seven will be attending the very selective, B.E.S.T. summer program for the month of July. We are also looking forward to having our own space this upcoming year, so that the boys can stop by every day, making BORN an integral part of their lives and the community. We can't wait to meet the new incoming class of fifth graders as BORN continues to grow!

We are always looking to introduce new people to the program, so please share this information with others and visit our website at www.baltimoreborn.org.”

Domonique Foxworth
Founder and President
Baltimore BORN



BORN Representatives, (left to right) Matt Thorton, Brandon Terry, Domonique Foxworth, Jenny Goldstock Wright, Ray Reyes, Jonas Fester (not pictured), with students Tyler Harris, Devante Davis, and Tyriek Knight.

Baltimore BORN enjoyed tremendous success in two pilot programs that ran from January-May of 2010. To celebrate the success of the pilot and formally introduce itself to the Baltimore community, Baltimore BORN board member Josh Slater and his wife Erika opened up their home to BORN staff, several BORN students and a wonderful group of people from the greater Baltimore Community to help spread the word and garner support for Baltimore BORN. It was a terrific evening and we are grateful to the Slaters for their support.



Dr. Bernard Harris elementary school was the Wednesday night home for the BORN pilot program. After a lengthy application process, ten boys from the school

were chosen to participate in the pilot program. The boys chosen were those who we deemed as having the potential to achieve great success, but were currently lacking the opportunity, resources,

and networks necessary. Since all ten of the boys attended the elementary school as 5th graders, the atmosphere for learning was naturally comfortable. Principal Loren McCaskill and her staff were great ambassadors for BORN. If it were not for the administration’s support and passion for the development of these young men, BORN would not be possible. As we continue to grow and expand, our experience at Dr. Bernard Harris will remain as a benchmark for success.



Baltimore School for the Arts was the Tuesday night home for the BORN pilot program. The 7 boys were selected from the TWIGs outreach program, therefore, each student was from a different elementary school throughout Baltimore City. The energy and creativity of this group, mixed with the beautiful facilities made the BSA a great place to launch the pilot program. The administration led by Leslie Shepard, John Nichols and Georgia King made our experience at the BSA as smooth and enjoyable as possible. Their school has done wonders for Baltimore, and it has been an honor to be affiliated with their

great institution and we look forward to finding ways to work with the BSA in the future.



B.E.S.T. is a program that helps economically challenged African American students from the Baltimore area gain acceptance into independent schools in the area. Their work has changed the lives of thousands of students since 1987. Our partnership with B.E.S.T. seemed obvious due to the similar goals of both of our programs. The B.E.S.T. team tested the BORN boys, and as a result, some of them will be in the advanced summer program to prepare them for potential acceptance into an independent school. Not enough can be said about the generosity and diligence of Amy John, Toni Stokes, Alecia Pridjen, and the rest of the B.E.S.T. staff.

Classes and Field Trips

The BORN curriculum was divided into four sections, and a field trip corresponding with each. Reading, writing, critical thinking, public speaking and creative thought were used and developed in each unit.



The first unit, **Facing the Lion**, explored the process of transitioning to manhood, facing fears, and undergoing rites of passages that young men all over the world experience. The boys read the book, "Facing the Lion," which chronicled the life of Joseph Luketon. The story starts with Joseph's childhood as a part of a Nomadic Maasai family in the African Savannah and follows his life to St. Lawrence and Harvard Universities in the United States, and his educational and cultural success in both the United States and Kenya that followed. This unit nicely set the tone for the critical thinking and social brainstorming that the boys would experience in each subsequent unit.



The **Self Image** unit focused on how the boys see themselves, their classmates, their specific neighborhood, Baltimore, and the world in general. The book, *Jackie and Me*, was an exploration into race relations and societal interactions that challenged the boys to think about their identity in the communities to which they belong. The unit featured a field trip to the Legends Sports Museum, an experience that brought to life some of the challenges that African American athletes endured in sports.

News and Media play an integral part of how the world is perceived. The question posed to the students was, "who are you listening to?" There are so many mixed messages being sent, so it is important to be an educated consumer. Through many different mediums, the boys learned that it is important to challenge what you hear, discuss it, and come to independent conclusions. Over the summer, BORN will take a trip to the Newseum in Washington D.C., one of the most critically acclaimed museums in the country.



The final unit focused on **Nutrition**. Unfortunately, in the neighborhoods in which the boys live, the food options are usually inexpensive and unhealthy. The boys analyzed food labels, and began to understand what they are putting into their bodies. The unit and year concluded with a visit to the Genessee Valley Outdoor Learning center, where the boys were challenged physically and mentally in a fun filled day.



Baltimore BORN with the three living members of the Greensboro four at the Smithsonian in Washington D.C.

Baltimore BORNs first field trip was an amazing day, which will undoubtedly have a lasting impression on all who attended. The trip was made possible by the wonderful staff at The Smithsonian National Museum of American History who invited our students to an exclusive opportunity for local students to meet and experience living history. The three surviving members of the Greensboro Four, Jibreel Khazan (formerly Ezell Blair, Jr.), Franklin McCain, and Joseph McNeil participated in an oral history about their bold action that ignited student involvement in the Civil Rights Movement when they staged a sit-in at the Woolworth lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina on February 1, 1960. The four men were only freshman at North Carolina A&T University when they began the movement that would lead to the desegregation of that particular lunch counter and sparked a student movement that spread across the nation.

The program also featured an oral history by Christopher W. Wilson, Director of the Museum's Program in African American Culture, excerpts from the Museum's Historic Theatre programs, Sing for Freedom, and the award winning Join the Student Sit Ins, and an opportunity for students to engage in conversation with the Greensboro activists.

In addition to the main portion of the program the boys also had the opportunity to partake in a mock sit-in and learn what it was like for the brave men and women who tolerated seemingly unbearable conditions to help grant all people of color their basic civil rights.



Domonique Foxworth with Caleb Brown and Devante Davis

Spotlight on the Founder

Domonique Foxworth is a cornerback with the Baltimore Ravens and an Executive Committee member of the NFL Players Association, the union for professional football players in the National Football League. His interests outside of football are vast, ranging from politics to photography to the collection of civil rights memorabilia to helping ensure a quality education for all. While playing football at the University of Maryland, Domonique created a program for high school students who had no interest in a formal education and only wanted to be athletes. Through this program, high school students shadowed college football players to learn that getting a good education was an integral part of becoming a professional athlete. After college, the Denver Broncos drafted Domonique. In Denver, he started and facilitated a writing workshop for students attending the Denver Boys and Girls Club and helped raise the funds necessary to complete the building of a new teen center. Now, playing for the Ravens back in his hometown of Baltimore he has created Baltimore BORN (Boys Opportunity and Resource Network), Inc. a program that will work with middle and high school aged low-income boys who have the drive and ability to succeed but may lack the resources, support and network to do so.