

What MyCom Means to Me

By Totiana Hairston

Slavic Village MyCom Youth Leadership Council Member

As part of the MyCom Initiative a youth leadership team has been created for the neighborhood. The Slavic Village MyCom Youth Leadership team is made up of high school juniors and seniors who live in Broadway Slavic Village and who are committed to building positive change within the community. The team is learning leadership and speaking skills so they can advocate on behalf of all neighborhood youth. The youth have been involved in community MyCom meetings and will take a role in evaluating current neighborhood youth programming.

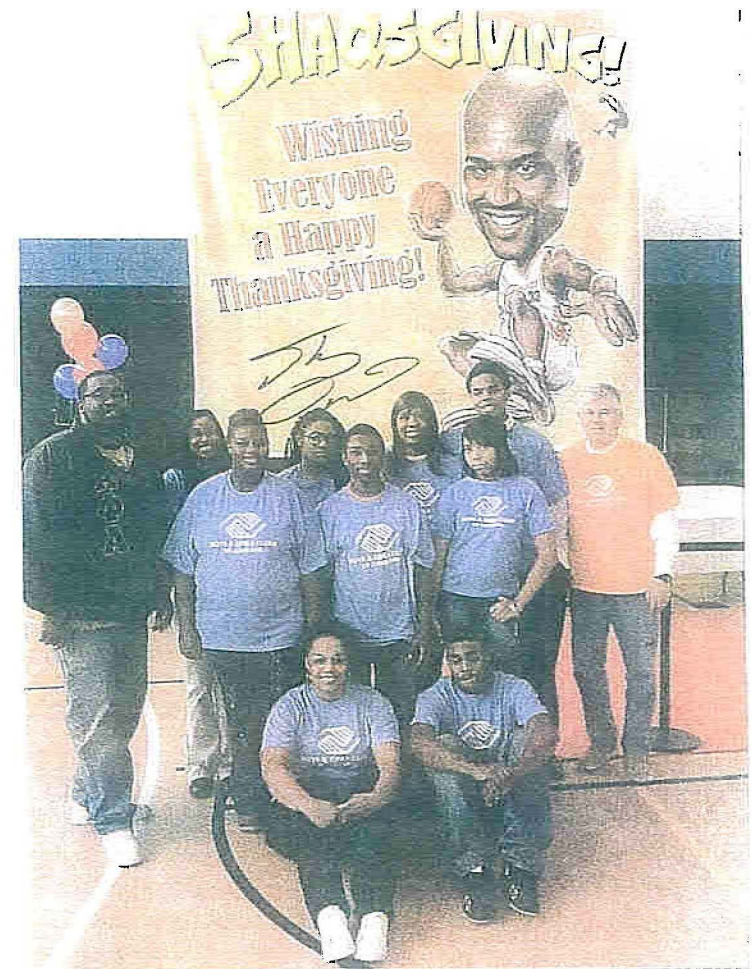
MyCom is an organization created to help the community get back to its original state of unity, hard work and dedication. MyCom, for us, stands for my commitment to my community and what we can do today. Our future plans are to create opportunities for the people in Slavic Village.

When I first started out in MyCom like the other youth in my community I did not feel involved. I felt as if my voice was not being heard, until I joined MyCom—a program that connects youth with caring adults that inspire positive activities. The program has created the opportunity for youth to meet wonderful and caring adults who support us.

MyCom has given the youth the opportunity to be involved. So now we're trying to get more people involved in the community. As a young adult I know how it feels to be ignored and to be neglected by the people in my community. I feel alive again, and I feel like I have a purpose in my community. The youth in my community feel the same and they feel the need to help others as much as they have been helped by MyCom and their community.

With the support of our community the youth feel invincible. We feel there is nothing we cannot accomplish that we put our minds to. We put our greatest efforts forward to make the community a better place. Now that the youth are involved with the community we can really put our plans into action instead of just talking about making a change.

This Thanksgiving, MyCom teamed up with Feed the Children and Shaquille O'Neal from the Cleveland Cavaliers to give out food and necessities to 400 families in the community. It was a privilege to work with Feed the Children; not only do they help feed the children in Slavic Village, they feed children around the world. Once we reach out to one person we want that person to reach out to other people and we want



MyCom teamed up with Feed the Children and Shaquille O'Neal to deliver food to the needy on Thanksgiving.

the cycle to continue. The volunteers that showed up did an amazing job setting things up and getting things organized.

Our community trusts us and has faith in us. Now that we have the trust of our community and the support we can come together to make a difference and touch the lives of our residents.

Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future." He could not have been more accurate. The MyCom program is building the youth to take care of our community and the youth could not be happier to be involved.