

# The Royal Star Newsletter - 2023 Year In Review (Dec.2023)



# Title: Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders: A Summer of Innovation at Royalty Institute

This summer, the Royalty Institute Innovation Nation Summer Camp 2023 was a nine-week journey for nearly two dozen students, focusing on leadership development, innovative skills training, career exploration, and pure fun. Workshops honed their leadership, communication, and teamwork skills, while hands-on sessions in robotics, coding, and design thinking sparked creativity and problem-solving abilities. An immersive career exploration program broadened their horizons, leaving them with ambitious dreams. Beyond education, the camp fostered camaraderie through field trips, team-building, and themed events. The impact was seen in acquired skills, formed friendships, and newfound confidence, contributing to a community of empowered leaders. Thanks to our dedicated team, we're excited about continuing to empower the next generation at Royalty Institute.



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# Title: Blessed and Highly Favored

The Royalty Institute Blessed Conference, held in spring 2023, was a transformative event, leaving an indelible mark on 50 young participants. Hosted by the dynamic Jay301flow, the conference provided a platform for students to delve into innovative skills and gather



inspiration. The agenda spanned entrepreneurship, financial literacy, social media etiquette, and insightful conversations with reformed individuals from our community. It was a holistic experience that not only equipped these young minds with practical skills but also ignited a passion for positive change and community engagement. The Royalty Institute Blessed Conference exemplified our commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals ready to make a meaningful impact in the world.



## Mikal Harris - 7th Grade - Innovation Nation Summer Camp

Mikal was a member of the initial innovation nation summer camp class. He is a current 7th grader, playing basketball for his middle school team. Mikal can command a room, with his humor and quick wit, but make no mistake about it, he is one of the hardest workers we have come across. Mikal is also a part of the Oxon Hill Boxing Club, among various other programs throughout the county. He is surely a young man to keep an eye on.



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## Title: Sneaker Ball 2023 - A night to support better education for black students globally:



The Sneaker Ball, a dazzling winter fundraiser hosted by The Royalty Institute, was a night of celebration and support. Attended by distinguished guests including Delegate Diana Fennell representing our partners at the Good Intentions Foundation,

Pamela Morris, Executive Director of Making Life Matter, Vickie Aultmon from our partner at The VR School, and Academics Committee Member Enjoli Gonzales, the event brought together a community of advocates. Amidst laughter and camaraderie, the highlight of the evening was the photobooth, capturing moments of joy and unity. We extend heartfelt gratitude to everyone who attended and supported this event, contributing to the remarkable sum of over \$700 raised. These funds will be instrumental in supporting our Fall programming and kickstarting the Eyes to the Sky Mentoring Program. The Sneaker Ball not only showcased the generosity of our community but also marked the beginning of initiatives that will continue to uplift and empower those we serve.

## Title: Getting the Community geared up for Back to School

The Back to School Drive hosted at The Campus in collaboration with Shaping Futures, Empowering with Community, Ms. Christina Carter, Ms. Billie Jean with Momentum Title & Escrow, and our dedicated hairdressers and barbers Sierra Holmes, Dinah Price, and Amber was a tremendous success. Together, we serviced over 400 young people, ensuring they were well-equipped for the school year with essential supplies. Beyond the distribution of school necessities, the event was a



celebration of community spirit and unity. The atmosphere buzzed with excitement as participants engaged in the 3 on 3 tournament and various other activities. The Back to School Drive not only provided tangible support but also created lasting memories for all involved. It was a great time filled with laughter, camaraderie, and a shared commitment to shaping a brighter future for the students we serve.

# Student Spotlight Chandler Dew - Innovation Nation Summer Camp

Chandler is an exceptional young man who was a part of our Innovation Nation Summer Camp program. Chandler is going to be the president of the United States of America one day. One of the most well-spoken young men I have ever met, He loves Science and football among other things. He is an older brother and a phenomenal example to his younger sister. When asked about the Innovation Nation summer camp, he responded it was one of the best programs he has ever attended. Thanks for attending Innovation Nation Chandler.

## Title: The Feel Good Halloween Party



The Halloween Party, hosted in collaboration with Empowering with Community, Ms. Billie Jean with Momentum Title & Escrow, and Shaping Futures, was a resounding success, drawing over 50 youth from across the DC Metropolitan area. It was an evening filled with joy, laughter, and, most importantly, a safe environment for Halloween celebrations. From creative costumes to spooky decorations, the party provided a festive space for the young attendees to enjoy the Halloween spirit. The collaborative effort of Empowering with

Community, Shaping Futures, and the support from Ms. Billie Jean with Momentum Title & Escrow underscored the community's commitment to creating inclusive and enjoyable experiences for the youth, fostering a sense of togetherness during this special night.



## Title: The Turkey Bowl Give Back - Turkey Drive



On November 21st, the Royalty Institute, in collaboration with Shaping Futures and the DMVAC, is taking a meaningful step to address the hunger crisis in our community this holiday season. We are proud to announce the distribution of 100 turkey dinner sets with sides, providing essential meals to those in need. This initiative comes at a critical time, considering that in the state of Maryland,

approximately one in eight individuals faces food insecurity, with children and vulnerable populations being particularly affected. By joining forces with Shaping Futures and the DMVAC, we aim to make a positive impact and contribute to alleviating hunger in our community during this holiday season. Together, we can make a difference and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to enjoy a nourishing meal during this festive time.

## Student Spotlight - Christian Smith - Quarterback Royalty Prep 14u Football Team

Christian came to us as the son of ministers Calvin and Camila Smith of Judah Family faith center. He played for the Glenarden Boys and Girls club, where he was a standout player. Christian is now the Starting Quarterback of the Duval high school football program... as a freshman, an accomplishment that should truly be celebrated.

## Title: Year One of the Collaboration with the Forestville Boys & Girls Club was a huge success

The collaboration with the Forestville Boys and Girls Club marked a significant milestone as we introduced a middle school-aged team for the first time in over five years. Serving 17 young men in the community, our joint effort not only fostered football skills but also imparted invaluable life lessons. The season was filled with numerous highlights, including the team's participation in the West Virginia showdown, attendance at the University of Maryland Stem Conference, and an exciting University of Maryland football game. It was truly a pleasure working with these young athletes, witnessing their growth both on and off the field. As we reflect on the season, we are enthusiastic about the prospect of continuing to work with these remarkable individuals, nurturing their talents and contributing to their personal development in the future.





## Title: Mentoring in the community. Keeping Our Eyes to The Sky and on the Prize



The Eyes to the Sky Mentoring Program, a collaborative effort with Making Life Matter, The Fathership Connection, and Saving our Sons, is making a significant impact on the lives of young people this fall. Our program goes beyond traditional mentoring, incorporating elements of innovation, academic support, and personalized guidance to help young individuals identify and achieve their goals. Currently serving 10 young people, the

program has already shown promise in providing valuable mentorship. With aspirations to expand, our aim is to reach and positively influence the lives of over 100 young men and women on Thursday nights. We believe that by focusing on individual goals and formulating roadmaps for success, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of these young participants, empowering them to reach their full potential.

## Elias Cortez - Blessed Conference & Royalty Prep Youth Middle School Football Program

Elias isn't just your go-to running back; he's the guy with a perpetual smile and a bubbly personality that can light up any room. His positive energy is infectious, and it radiates both on and off the field. Elias is the embodiment of sportsmanship, always quick with an encouraging word for his teammates and opponents alike. On the gridiron, Elias showcases his prowess as a running back with remarkable agility and a keen sense of strategy. His sweet demeanor transforms into a fierce determination when he's carrying that ball, making him a force to be reckoned with on the field. Elias doesn't just score touchdowns; he brings a sense of camaraderie that elevates the entire team. Off the

field, Elias continues to be an asset. His friendly nature fosters a supportive team environment, and he's the first to offer a helping hand to a teammate in need. Whether it's cheering someone up after a tough game or organizing team-building activities, Elias is the glue that binds our squad together. We're fortunate to have Elias not only as a skilled running back but also as a fantastic teammate and friend. Let's all take a moment to appreciate the positive impact he brings to our team, making our football family stronger and more fun to be a part of. Keep up the excellent work, Elias! We're proud to have you on our team.

## Thank You to All of Our Partners this year:



- Good Intentions Foundation
- Stellas Girls
- Hope Empowerment Abundant Life Church
- The Campus
- Forestville Boys & Girls Club
- Bladensburg Community Center
- Grind Hard Dream Big
- Making Life Matters
- Shaping Futures
- Empowering With Community
- Momentum Title & Escrow

- STAT DC
- DMVAC
- Spark LLC
- The Fathership Connection
- Go Get Our SOs
- The Nyumburu Culture Center - University of Maryland College Park
- Judah Family Faith Center
- More Than Enough

Together we have been able to serve over 600 families in the community this year You all are truly doing Gods work... and we appreciate having you as partners

## Title: A Parents Perspective

My son was a latecomer to all sports, not just football. After our family made it through a few tough years my son decided to give football a try at the age of 14. He played a few months of flag football, then a local sports team, it was there we came in contact with Coach Wade and the Royalty program. My son immediately had a great connection with Coach and being part of Royalty gave him a confidence I had never seen before. Football became more than a sport to play, it became a way of life, a way to be part of a team, and provided the focus and discipline he had been missing in his life. Coach Wade would talk to my son like a man, and my son respects him so much. My son respects Coach Wade and the Royalty program so much, and after his first high school season he immediately asked if he could start working out with Royalty again. He has stepped up as a leader amongst his teammates and shows much respects to all in his life- that's something Coach Wade helped him find in life.





I am immensely thankful for Coach Wade, he helped my son find himself in a period in his life where he desperately needed to find his way.

I would recommend Royalty to anyone who has a son like mine, who needs a place to belong, with coaches and teammates that have a shared mindset and lift one another up, especially in a world that is determined to drag our young men down.

## Student Spotlight - Jordan Hunt - Athletic Training and Tutoring

Jordan is a jack of all trades on and off the football field. He joined our program in the Winter of his 8th grade school year. He is another Freshman from the Royalty Prep program to become a varsity football player in his freshman year. Jordan is Mr. Royalty has been a part of multiple programs with Royalty Including

- Athletic Training and Tutoring
- Royalty Prep 14u Football
- The Blessed Conference
- The University of Maryland AI and E Sports Conference

He is a true leader and always lights up a room. We truly love having Jordan as a part of our program

# Moving Forward - Royalty 2024 and Beyond

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. As the Executive Director of The Royalty Institute of Leadership and Innovation, I am reaching out to you today with a sense of urgency and determination to address a critical issue that demands our collective attention: the alarming state of education for Black students in our public schools.



Recent statistics reveal a sobering truth – our public education system is failing Black students across the nation. Despite strides in some areas, a persistent achievement gap continues to undermine the potential of countless bright minds. According to [relevant statistic or source], [specific percentage or number] of Black students are facing [educational challenges or disparities], and the consequences of this failure are far-reaching.

It is imperative that we stand together to break this cycle of inequity and chart a new course for the future of education. Our commitment to change begins with acknowledging the urgency of the situation and recognizing the profound impact quality education has on the trajectory of young lives.

This brings me to The Royalty Institute of Leadership and Innovation, a beacon of hope in our mission to provide better education for Black students. Our programs are designed not only to address the academic needs of these students but also to cultivate leadership skills, innovation, and a mindset of limitless possibilities. Through a holistic approach, we aim to uplift, inspire, and empower the next generation.

Here's where you come in – your support is crucial in fueling this movement for change. By joining hands with The Royalty Institute, you become an integral part of a community



dedicated to transforming the educational landscape for Black students. Your contribution will directly impact the lives of these young minds, providing them with the tools and opportunities they need to thrive.

As we look to the future, I invite you to consider becoming a champion for change. Your financial support, mentorship, or volunteer efforts can make a tangible difference in the lives of Black students who deserve a chance at a brighter tomorrow.

Let us not be passive observers but active participants in reshaping the narrative of education for Black students. Together, we can empower them to reach new heights and break barriers that have persisted for far too long.

We look forward to opening our doors as a fully accredited private school in the Capitol Heights Maryland Community in 2024

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to a future where every student has the chance to excel.

Live Royal,

Cornell Wade



# Contribute to The Royalty Education Fund or Volunteer with us.

The Royalty Institute of Leadership and Innovation is on a mission to transform lives and reshape the future of education for young minds.

We believe in unlocking the limitless potential within each student, fostering leadership, innovation, and academic excellence. But we can't do it alone. We need YOUR support!

Whether you donate or volunteer, YOU become a catalyst for change, empowering the next generation. Every contribution, big or small, makes a difference.

Join us in creating a brighter tomorrow! Let's build a community where every student has the opportunity to thrive. Together, we can make a lasting impact.

For more info, please visit:

<https://www.royaltyinstitute.org/royalty-education-fund-2022>

Thank you for being a part of the journey!

 **The Royalty Institute of  
Leadership & Innovation**

# #MAKEADIFFERENCE MONDAYS

Join the fight to provide Black children across our country the best educational experience possible.

**Live Royal**

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