To: File

From: Malcolm S. Townes

Date: November 17, 2018

Re: Focus group of Vitendo 4 Africa mentees

* 11 mentees at meeting
* 3 participants relatively new; 8 since the beginning (~1 year)
* Helpful; Getting information; connecting with new people; get different resources; college tours; school counselors come talk to us
* Fill out forms and then assigned to mentor; good match most of the time
* Can be connected to other mentors
* Mostly one on one; but also do small groups
* Most potential mentees that don’t participate is b/c of time
* No transportation; other events
* Transportation is a big issue for a lot of people
* Many participants started in the program because they were forced to by their parents but liked the program once they began attending the meetings.
* Sometimes parents organize the meeting for the participants
* Normally was twice a month but hasn’t been for several months because mentor is busy
* Would like more frequency; every month or every two weeks
* Help with college applications, essays, scholarships
* Only about 3 participants would feel comfortable talking to mentors about personal issues
  + Don’t know them well
  + Think they’re too old and can’t relate
* Would need more frequent contact and “fun” activities
  + Activities not focused on school exclusively
    - Bar-b-que
    - Social dinner
    - Bowling
* Transportation was an issue for some with regard to the attending the baseball game
* Prefer activities that include the group
* Most didn’t know the name of the program director
* Only 4 people completed the survey; rest didn’t remember being given the survey
  + Did get some feedback about the survey
* Leaders do respond to feedback received during open conversations
  + Every third Saturday is an open conversation
* No real training or orientation; just instructed to come to meeting
* Some participants have come and gone
  + School sports
* Sunday is no good because of church—typically doesn’t finish until 1 or 2 in the afternoon
* Weekdays are no good because of school
* Want parents more involved; parents should also receive a lot of the same information provided to the mentees
* Parents encouraged to come to meetings; but sometimes prefer that they are not involved so they can have more open discussions about certain topics.
* Mentor and parents talk frequently in some cases.
  + Generally not concerned about mentor breaking confidences.
* Once every quarter have a combined meeting with parents.
* More people involved in the regular meeting; more regular participation
  + More people arriving on time for the meetings.
  + Having more mentors in the meeting.
* Options to participate with other mentors if primary mentor is not available.
* Seeing the rewards of hard work now; most of what is done is long term.
* More resources outside of the mentors.
* Going to see other professions.
* Specific events that will help more people; mentees have different interests.
* Small bus to provide transportation.