

MISSION

The mission of Sons of Thunder Coalition (SONS) is to server as a catalyst and a collaborator with other service providers to reach-out to, recognize engage and provide services to the urban youth and their families in the Greater Hartford area.

PROGRAMS

a. Literacy Remediation Initiative (LRI)

In the 2020-2021 school year, Sons of Thunder Coalition (in collaboration with Kennelly Elementary in Hartford) developed and managed a year-long after-school Literacy Remediation Initiative that met two times a week for two hours per session for fifteen 2nd or 3rd grade students – totaling 120 hours. The LRI program utilized three different teachers - each with a five-student group. All students received pre- and post- program testing. SONS provided on-site program coordination / supervision, healthy snacks for all involved, a written program evaluation, Insurance, and payments made to the teachers.

b. Young Women Civic-Engagement

SONS worked collaboratively with Pathway Academy helping its enterprising students utilize their mastery of social media to foster civic-engagement. Pathways selected the students (working as “interns”), provided a coordinator, schedules, and curriculum. SONS, in addition to management, absorbed all costs including “intern” stipends, and served as a model “client” bringing real-world technical / social media “problems” to the “interns” (in a supervised after-school setting at Pathways) to think-through and resolve for the collective benefit of the students, the community, and Sons of Thunder Coalition.

c) Community Information Conferences (CIC)

Adjusting to COVID-related constraints on large public meeting, Sons of Thunder shifted to “virtual” (ZOOM) meeting and presented a number of well-attended conferences in 2020-2021 focusing on the education and emotional development of maturing young men. Numerous experts on youth development and higher education opportunities made presentations attended by young men and women, parents and guardians, teachers, guidance councilors, philanthropists, coaches, and media.



COLLABORATORS

In developing and implementing its programs, projects and services 2019-2021, Sons of Thunder Coalition collaborated with:

Hartford Board of Education*

The Legacy Foundation

Upper Albany Neighborhood Collaborative

Northwest Catholic High School

CREC Aerospace & Engineering Magnet School

Capital Preparatory Magnet School

Kennelly Elementary School

WISH Elementary School

Pathways Academy of Technology and Design

Center for Higher Education Retention Excellence (CHERE)

A.I. Prince Tech Magnet School

Central CT State University

Trinity College

Hartford Public Access Television

Wampanoag Country Club

The Tavern at Keney Park

*In general, the schools involved select the certified teachers, the students, the curriculum, the timing / schedule, the site, the pre- and post- program testing, and provide written technical evaluations and administrative oversight.. SONS provides a paid professional program educator / coordinator, healthy food for all participants, insurance rider, and compensation for the teachers and “interns” all codified by a signed Memorandum of Understanding with the Hartford Board of Education.

**SONS OF THUNDER COALITION INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Kevin Budds: kevin.budds@rbc.com

Destiny Davis: destiny.davis@leadershigh.org

Leon Elmore: elmo219@sbcglobal.net

Aristede Hill:
aristede.hill@preventionworksct.org

Willie Nunez: wnunez23@yahoo.com

Charlene Spencer: char823@comcast.net

Charisse Jornegan: jern-
c003@hartfordschools.org

Randy LaVigne, Treasurer: bahold@comcast.net

Richard Quinn, President: rjpq@me.com

c/o Michael J. Copeland, Executive Director

P.O. Box 2571

Hartford, Ct 06147-2571

860-719-2939

mikecopesot@comcast.net

Michael Copeland: mikecopesot@comcast.net

Deon Elmore: deonjames11@gmail.com

Chris Fulton: cf26@comcast.net

Lou Lapenna: lapennafamily@yahoo.com

Gerald Martin: gerTika@aol.com

FUNDERS / SUPPORTERS

CT DOC YVIP Grant via Legacy Foundation:

(2019-2020) \$25,000

Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Small Grants
Program: (2019/2020/2021) \$20,000

Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Donor-Advised
Fund: \$10,000

Ensworth Charitable Foundation: \$6,000

CT DOC YVIP Grant via Upper Albany
Neighborhood Collaborative: \$5,000

Mohegan Sun Foundation: \$1,500

The Werth Family Foundation: \$1,500