BHSS Overview: Words of Support

“I’ve stood on platforms around the world...many occasions that would be...auspicious, important. I have been anointed, I have been blessed and I have been admired, and I am now at my eighty-third year in life. I can honestly say with total recall, that no other event has ever meant this much to me as this evening, this very moment, in my public life.”

Harry Belafonte, Artist & Humanitarian

“In the middle of the poorest and most drug-infested neighborhoods in New York City, youth that join The Brotherhood/Sister Sol family learn about respect, responsibility, choices, and the importance of community involvement.”

Santiago Taveras, former Deputy Chancellor, NYC Department of Education

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BHSS Overview: Alumni Achievement & Outcomes

The holistic approach of BHSS is working.

**NYC and/or National Statistics**

- In West Harlem, 42% of youth graduate from high school and less than 34% of black males graduating in 4 years.
- In Harlem 15% of youth have children before graduating from high school.
- One out of every three black men in America ages 20-29, are under supervision of the criminal justice system.
- 30% of West Harlem youth ages 18-25 are employed full time or enrolled in college.

**Brotherhood/Sister Sol Statistics**

- 88% of BHSS alumni have graduated from high school.
- Less than 2% of BHSS alumni had a child before graduating from high school.
- No alumni of BHSS are incarcerated and less than 1% are on probation.
- 95% of BHSS Alumni are working full time or enrolled in college.

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BHSS Overview: Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The New York Women’s Foundation</td>
<td>Neighborhood Leadership Award, 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Consulting Group</td>
<td>Finalist, Brooke V. Mahoney Award for Outstanding Board Leadership, 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York State Education Department</td>
<td>Exemplary Advocacy Organization Award, 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union Square Awards</td>
<td>Special Achievement Award, 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ford Foundation &amp; Advocacy Institute</td>
<td>Leadership For a Changing World Award, 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catalog for Giving</td>
<td>Member Organization, 2001-2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown Alumni Association</td>
<td>Young Alumni Public Service Award, 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abyssinian Development Corporation</td>
<td>Renaissance Award, 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oprah’s Angel Network</td>
<td>Use Your Life Award, 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance Theater of Harlem</td>
<td>Youth Council Award, 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Works</td>
<td>Long Walk to Freedom Youth Activism Award, 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Unidad Latina</td>
<td>Commitment to Community Award, 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund for the City of New York</td>
<td>Union Square Award, 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oracle/NYIT</td>
<td>Innovation in Education Award, 1997</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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BHSS Overview: Mission, Philosophy & Focus Issues

Founded in 1995 by two Brown University graduates, BHSS provides award winning and nationally recognized educational services.

- BHSS offers long term, intensive involvement with youth over the course of their secondary school careers, and provide unique culturally sensitive services that support their personal development and academic achievement.
- BHSS is not simply an organization; it’s a way of life. We provide youth with opportunities to explore their ideas, identity and future among peers, with the support and guidance of their immediate elders.
- BHSS programs and activities address these 10 focus areas:
  - Pan-African & Latino History
  - Sexual Education & Responsibility
  - Mind, Body & Spirit
  - Conflict Resolution & Bias Reduction
  - Educational Achievement
  - Sexism & Misogyny
  - Leadership Development
  - Drugs & Substance Abuse
  - Political Education & Social Justice
  - Community Service & Responsibility

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BHSS Overview: Evidence Based Programming

We provide wrap-around programming that includes leadership training, international study, job training & internships, community organizing & outreach, and after school programming.

- **Rites of Passage**: the core program in partnership with secondary schools and the community, to empower youth through discovery and discussion of history, culture, social programs and political forces. We operate a single gendered rites of passage program over 4-6 years during which youth develop into strong, informed and contributing adults.
  - **After School Program**: offers youth ages 7 - 18 with a safe alternative to the streets, and provides structured academic support, healthy meals, and enrichment activities (poetry, media & art, martial arts, mentoring, gardening and computers).
  - **Summer Leadership Program**: offers three educational and cultural summer programs that build on the work we do during the school year: International Study Program (for high school members), Summer Day Camp (for youth ages 7 – 12) and Youth Employment Opportunities Program (for youth ages 14 – 19) including environmental education and community gardening jobs.

- **Liberation Program**: a 4 week program of workshops where youth develop an awareness of socio-economic issues and their effect on self, family and community. Youth then develop and implement strategies and campaigns of social advocacy and organizing.

- **Spread the Word**: Leadership of the organization advises on policy related to our work and presents at conferences across the country; has trained over 600 educators from over 100 schools/organizations throughout NYC, across the country and overseas; and published five volumes of curricula.
BHSS Overview: Alumni Academic Achievement

BHSS alumni members attend or have graduated from some of the country’s top colleges and programs.

[Logos of various universities]
BHSS Overview: Funders & Supporters

Our work has been recognized by local and national corporations, foundations and officials.

Corporate/Family Support
- JP Morgan Chase
- Alcoa
- Paul E. Singer Family
- Omnicom Group
- Marriott Family
- Durst Family
- Deutsche Bank
- CNN
- Paul, Weiss
- Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund

Foundation Support
- Ford Foundation
- Open Society Institute
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation
- Charles Hayden Foundation
- Nathan Cummings Foundation
- Alcoa Foundation
- Tides Foundation
- New York Women’s Foundation
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Community Support
- Honorable David A. Paterson
- Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
- Honorable Charles B. Rangel
- Honorable David N. Dinkins
- Honorable Scott Stringer
- Honorable Ruth Messinger
- Honorable Robert Jackson
- Honorable Inez Dickens
- Honorable Keith Wright

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Our work has been featured in national and local television, print and radio.
BHSS Overview: Publications & Training Materials

We publish assorted curricula and train educators across the nation.

Brother, Sister, Leader: The Official Curriculum of The Brotherhood/Sister Sol

“The Brotherhood/Sister Sol’s curriculum is a gift that is urgently needed by today’s teachers . . . It is not a quick fix, not a simple recipe, but it is a workable investment that will empower teachers to teach and students to learn, all students.”

Ruth Charney, Co-Founder, Northeast Foundation for Children, Responsive Classroom Approach

Why Did This Happen? Content, Perspective, Dialogue: A Workshop Model for Developing Young People’s Reflective Writing

“Any educator invested in creating welcoming and supportive learning environments that honor the lived experiences of young people of color, and provide a space for them to share their stories, build connections, and reveal their gifts, will find not only an instructional roadmap, but a moral compass for working with Black and Latino/a students as if they matter.”

A. Lin Goodwin, Ed.D., Professor of Education & Associate, Dean for Teacher Education, Teachers College/Columbia University

Off the Subject: The Words of Lyrical Circle of The Brotherhood/Sister Sol

“I am struck by the level of empathy and compassion found in these words. Time and again, these poets sing the lyrics of their individual lives in the context of not only their neighborhoods and families, but the larger society as well. . . .”

From the Foreword by Sekou Sundiata, Poet

Voices Of The Brotherhood/Sister Sol

“The Brotherhood has changed my life completely. I have learned to be successful and not to be a failure. I now know to do my best in everything and how I should carry myself and hold myself as a man. As a man I will be respectful, diligent, honest, trustworthy, and always helpful – I will be the best I can be.

From the collection, Bryan Frans – since graduated from New York School of Visual Arts

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BHSS Overview: Effects on Policy and the Field

Our local, community based work and our leadership is informing national and international policy and being modeled

- Advising New York City and Mayor Michael Bloomberg on the Young Men’s Initiative
- Advising Heinz Endowments on their African American Male Initiative in Pittsburgh
- Advising Susan L. Taylor on her National CARES Mentoring Movement
- Selected as one of the professional development trainers for NYC Department of Education’s Expanded Success Initiative
- Presenting at conferences at such institutions as Ford Foundation, Heinz Endowments, Open Society Institute, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Yale Law School, Harvard Graduate School of Education, American Educational Research Association, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, The City College of New York, University of Florida’s Law School, Atlantic Philanthropies, the National Principal Leadership Institute among others
- Training Open Society Institute Campaign for Black Male Achievement grantees in Jackson (MS), Chicago, Milwaukee, and New Orleans – have trained representatives from over 100 institutions throughout the country and also internationally
- Finalist for Ashoka/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s international search for best programs for “young men at risk” – one of only five to receive a grant for this work
- Our model is being formally used in Bermuda and Salvador de Bahia, Brazil
BHSS Overview: Board of Directors, 2012 - 2013

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General Manager, Aspire

Fuquan Collins
Youth Alumnus

Jon Moscow
Managing Partner, Sterner-Moscow Partnership

Catherine Lieber Shimony
Co-Founder & Co-President, Global Goods Partners

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Rabbi Rachel Cowan
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Writer; Professor of Writing and Literature (retired)

Santiago Taveras
Former Deputy Chancellor, New York City Department of Education; Vice President, Cambridge Education

Douglas H. White, Esq.
Former Commissioner for Human Rights, New York State; Former Commissioner of Personnel, City of New York

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