



Equipping Young Men for Life's 'Starting Lineup'

Contact: Marva Goldsmith
(301) 474-8808
marva@marvagoldsmith.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Newly Formed Nonprofit Sponsors First Annual Summer Classic

An Empowerment Event will be held July 23rd - 25th at the Greenbelt Marriott for Young Men Ages 12-17

Landover, MD (July 20, 2015) – Entrepreneur, E. Davon Kelly Kicks Off New Nonprofit, the 13th Man, by Sponsoring 40 Young Men at the 1st Annual Summer Classic from July 23rd – July 25th at the Greenbelt, Marriott.

In recent months, television and newspapers have been consumed by stories of crime, riots, and despair in urban cities all across America. However, in Greenbelt, MD a special program will engage forty young men, ages 12-17, in a series of fun activities and empowerment workshops led by Davon Kelly and a dozen prominent men and women from local businesses. The 13th Man will host its First Annual Summer Classic on July 23 – 25 at the Marriott Hotel. The fun will begin on July 22nd with a trip to the Nationals Baseball Game in Washington, D.C. where they will watch the Nationals take on the Mets. The following three days will provide an opportunity for the group to experience mentoring and leadership development through empowerment workshops at the hotel.

The goal of the 13th Man is to provide the exposure and tools needed to shape a young man's identity by providing him access to productive activities that add value and provide memorable experiences. "I have never been one to sit back and watch," said Davon Kelly, founder of the 13th Man. "I decided to assemble other men and women who can make an impact. Those of us who have achieved success should mentor the next generation by providing exposure to new ideas and experiences."

Davon Kelly has taught the value of team and sportsmanship as an assistant varsity basketball coach at Episcopal High School since 2003. A high school and college sportsman, Mr. Kelly is also the author of **From Courtside to the Boardroom: A Legacy in the Making**, where he shares his wisdom and experience both on and off the court. Inspired by the book, Davon Kelly founded **The 13th Man**. His nonprofit organization looks to provide training, mentoring, and leadership development and enrichment activities that will equip young men with the necessary tools to move from feelings of inadequacy to being in the 'starting lineup'. Proceeds from book sales are donated to the 13th Man.

“For a young man, being a part of the team is bigger than the sport. The team provides a support system that includes teammates, coaches, and fans, all of whom encourage and cheer for the player’s success,” says Kelly. “As you know, a basketball team is comprised of twelve players: five starters and seven other players. Then, there’s the 13th man. Our organization, The 13th Man, will fill in the gap for these young men by providing enrichment activities throughout the year to catapult potential sideliners into superstars!”

The following are the speakers and their respective topics (biographies are attached):

Thursday

- E. Davon Kelly, Founder and Board Chair, The 13th Man and President/CEO NOVAD Management Consulting: **‘Now is the Time’**
- Wanda Alexander, President/CEO of Horizon Consulting Inc.: **‘It’s Already In There’**
- Delonte “Duck” Lassiter: **‘Navigating Life’s Crossroads, Decisions, and Impact’**

Friday

- Marva Goldsmith, Chief Image Officer of Marva Goldsmith & Associates, Inc.: **‘Your Personal Brand: Offline and Online!’ ‘Social Graces and Professional Conversations’**
- Marlon Moore, Founder and Executive Director of One Step At A Time Education & Professional Training: **‘Conflict Management’, ‘Presentation/ Elevator Pitch’ and ‘Financial Management’**
- Jeff L. Robertson, Founder/Executive Director of the TWA Middle School Male Mentoring Program: **‘Conflict Management’, ‘Public Speaking I’ and ‘Public Speaking II’**
- Mike Powell, Vice President of Organizational Development and Training for the Powell Consulting Group: **‘A Vision for My Future’**

Roundtable Panelists:

- Steven E. LaBroi, Managing Director of The LaBroi Insurance Group, LLC and Executive Producer of *‘Things Never Said’*
- Robert Summers, President and CEO of Pantera Management Group LLC
- Tony Jones, Management Consultant, Stinger-Ghaffarian Technologies
- Troy Carpenter, IT Project Manager, Hewlett Packard
- Joseph Simmons, Sales Excellence Coach, Inventive Health/GSK

Saturday

- Dr. Granville M. Sawyer, Jr., tenured professor of finance and director of the MBA Program at Bowie State University: **‘Developing your L-E-G-A-C-Y’**

The 13th Man will host empowerment and growth opportunities throughout the year. An Interest Form is available on The 13th Man’s website where students ages 12 – 17 can submit an application. For more information about The 13th Man please visit www.the13thman.com or call (301) 429-8807.