

Impact



MissionSAFE Newsletter “Where Hope Thrives”

In this issue:

- Letter from Founder Nikki Flionis
- MissionSAFE’s Covid-19 Response
- Staff Highlight: Jumaane Kendrick
- Winter Programming (EA &YLSC)

Letter From Nikki

Dear Friends—We hope you are all staying safe and well in these frightening and uncertain times. As MissionSAFE deals with the impacts of coronavirus, we faced two immediate challenges—1) the need to design a way to work remotely to protect staff and youth; 2) the need to raise funds to make sure staff can continue their work with our youth. With this pandemic, holding fundraising events is impossible so we have been reaching out to all of you, to our foundation supporters, and to every emergency fund we can find. To date

we have raised \$24,000 from two major individual donors and over 20 other friends and supporters. We have received grants from special emergency funds: \$10,000 from Liberty Mutual Foundation, \$10,000 from Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation, and \$25,000 from The Boston Foundation. We are waiting to hear from additional funds and foundations to which we’ve applied. We have also applied to the SBA’s Payroll Protection Program for a forgivable loan to keep staff on payroll for two months. With your support, MissionSAFE’s staff is passionately aiding our high risk young people and their families in every way we can and, although we cannot see the future, we are confident that with the support of our friends, board, advisory board and the many foundations to which we have reached out, **we will continue to support our youth and their families through this crisis and beyond.**

This emergency funding has also allowed us to begin to make regular deliveries to our families of bags of food and supplies, and occasional deliveries of games, books, snacks, and art supplies. Staff immediately began regular contact with youth the first week. They have now designed several curricula around art, poetry, rap, job readiness, topics for discussion groups, and are preparing book club activities, video and other games, and offering homework assistance to keep youth connected, engaged, and to lessen their learning loss and boredom. Our youth and their families need our (and your) **support more than ever during this critical time.** They are already vulnerable because of high rents and low paying jobs. They now face the added economic devastation that comes with the loss of those jobs or the need to do the jobs that, while not paying well, also put them in danger of contracting the virus. Additionally, youth are now home full-time from school and the lack of childcare and the need for youth to have activities to occupy them add another level of stress. Coronavirus has stolen what security these families have had in their hard-working lives and has left them with a great fear for their unknown future.

Our staff will continue to reach out virtually to our young people over the next weeks, checking in and engaging with them one-on-one and in virtual group activities. The staff of our Futures program, which works with **over 70 of our gang-involved young men, will regularly check in with them to continue the essential psychological supports** that calm their fears, prevent potential violence and strengthen their skill-building activities.

When our community stands together, we are all uplifted.



Nikki Flionis
Executive Director, Founder
MissionSAFE

Our Board of Directors

Ronald Koning Jr.

Anne Carrabino

Maria Marzill

Nancy Galloway-Jones

Florence Koplou

Judy Leff

Solange Blanchard

Carlos Gomes

DONATE

Please join us in support to provide critical programs and services to youth in great need.

MissionSAFE is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization (federal tax identification number 04-3457195), gifts are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.



P.O. Box 201060
Roxbury, MA 02120
Phone: 617-427-0377

[Donate Today](#) [MissionSAFE](#) [Contact Us](#)



Impact



MissionSAFE Newsletter “Where Hope Thrives”

MissionSAFE's Covid-19 Response



In response to the coronavirus, MissionSAFE has suspended its regular onsite programming and staff are now working remotely. We continue to connect with our young people and their families by telephone and Internet, offering them positive support, activities to engage in with us, hearing their concerns, and continuing to provide the life-affirming connection and support that we provide during our regular on-site programming but which is needed now more than ever.

MissionSAFE is **supplying bi-weekly bags of food and supplies to our families** and also providing materials or equipment that will enable our youth to continue to participate virtually with staff in positive group discussions, online art and poetry classes, rap/hip-hop training and competitions, and to continue their work together around job readiness, budgeting resume writing, civic discussions, and educational support. We're also adding Book Club, group video game competitions, and board game competitions and quizzes to engage youth. All of these will help youth fight learning loss and lessen the boredom and restlessness that their being out of school and constantly at home creates for them. **Please consider making, if you are able, a generous donation to support staff as they offer connection and activities, and to support families by helping us continue to supply art materials, games, books and bags of food and essential supplies to our families.**

Staff is working diligently to partner with our high-risk families during this crisis. Making a donation to MissionSAFE will enable you to join us as another valued partner in our fight against food insecurity and fear, which are now daily realities for our young people. We are also constantly researching and sharing resources that may be able to help our families around other issues that arise. Our packages of food and games are packages of caring and hope that we hope will help lessen the many insecurities and anxieties that are youth's daily companions during this enforced isolation.

TAX DEDUCTIBILITY: Please note that due to the COVID 19 crisis, the federal government has allowed for “over the line” 2020 charitable tax deductions of up to \$300 for those who do not itemize their taxes, and has lifted the income limit for charitable tax deductions for those who do itemize.

Contact Joseph.Richardson@missionsafe.org for any questions. You can make a donation by clicking the link below. Acknowledgement letters will be sent out to all donors.

DONATE

Become a monthly sustainer by clicking the box “Make this a monthly donation”

MissionSAFE is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization (federal tax identification number 04-3457195), gifts are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.



P.O. Box 201060
Roxbury, MA 02120
Phone: 617-427-0377

[Donate Today](#) [MissionSAFE](#) [Contact Us](#)



Staff Highlight: Jumaane Kendrick



Jumaane Kendrick joins MissionSAFE as our Director of Program & Partnerships. Speaking about his experience working at MissionSAFE with young adults, Jumaane says: “I’ve had the pleasure of working at several reputable organizations that serve the community through youth development, violence intervention, juvenile justice diversion programs, and education but my experience at MissionSAFE has been most rewarding.

For years I’ve strived to create the balance of helping young people navigate and connect to resources while helping them be children and have fun, but with the bureaucracies and status quo approach to change there isn’t flexibility to be creative.

At MissionSAFE I found that sweet spot where we are flexible, creative, and innovative with youth engagement. Youth service providers often say, ‘Youth led’ or ask what the youth want, but rarely translate youth needs into programming activities. Adults tend to believe their way is best, so the voices of youth are usually not heard, and when you aren’t heard, you don’t feel safe.

At MissionSAFE, I have been able to hold youth dialogues on what our youth truly need and want, which has allowed us to create programming around their perspectives, thoughts, and feelings to create a place that all youth would want to come to.

This has only been possible through MissionSAFE’s vision and trust in the young people. Our youth have deemed MissionSAFE to be their “Safe House,” giving me the pride and motivation to walk into MissionSAFE everyday knowing that we believe that as much as our children need us, we too need them, in order to work together to help youth reach their full potential”.

MissionSAFE is thankful for the leadership of Jumaane and for all our incredible staff who continue to support our highly at-risk youth and their families during these tough times.

**In these troubling and uncertain times, we would like to thank all of the first responders and health care professionals on the front line putting their safety in jeopardy for our wellbeing.
Thank you, stay safe and healthy.**

DONATE

Donate today to be a part of the solution by clicking the box “Make this a monthly donation”

MissionSAFE is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization (federal tax identification number 04-3457195), gifts are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.



P.O. Box 201060
Roxbury, MA 02120
Phone: 617-427-0377

[Donate Today](#) [MissionSAFE](#) [Contact Us](#)



Winter Programming



MissionSAFE’s Explorers Academy

Our Explorers Academy (EA) comprises youth ages 11-13. Through teamwork and improving academic skills, we inspire this group's personal growth while having fun, building healthy mentor relationships, improving nutrition and focusing on fitness, and enjoying an exploration of the world around them.

Our Winter programming had many exciting memories for our youth and many first experiences. We worked on teamwork through a trip to the bowling alleys and our cross country ski trip's with YES throughout January and February. We discovered new worlds at the Museum of Science and explored wildlife at the New England Aquarium. We explored the new technologies at the Mass Art Art Museum *Game Changer exhibit*. With every new adventure, we created a new happy memory with our youth while broadening their horizons for a brighter future.



MissionSAFE’s YLSC

Our Youth Leadership Service Corps (YLSC) is comprised of young people ages 14-18 who work to develop job readiness skills, financial literacy skills, youth leadership, and community service through a holistic approach.

Our Winter programming created exceptional leadership opportunities for our future leaders starting with the Youth Rally For Jobs & Environmental Justice. Our YLSC youth were featured in the [Telegram](#) by reporter Chris Van Buskirk, giving our youth a voice to promote justice and jobs for all. We explored the Museum of Fine Arts’ *Black Histories, Black Futures exhibit* curated by Boston youth and giving our youth them inspiration to overcome their own limitations. We also continued our college visit tours to institutions including Framingham State University, Lasell College, Northeastern University, Simmons University, and UMASS Boston. We were delighted to introduce these students to outstanding opportunities for higher education and to give them an exciting view of their future.

“I am writing to ask for your support for MissionSAFE, a wonderful organization I care deeply about and on whose Advisory Board I sit. MissionSAFE works with high-risk young people, the bulk of whom are from economically poor families, often with a single head of household. Please consider helping MissionSAFE continue its mission during this uniquely challenging time with as generous a gift as you can afford. We are so grateful for your support.”

-Geoff Lamont, MissionSAFE Advisory Board

DONATE

Your support makes a bright future for these rising leaders a reality “Make this a monthly donation”



P.O. Box 201060
Roxbury, MA 02120
Phone: 617-427-0377

[Donate Today](#) [MissionSAFE](#) [Contact Us](#)

