



community success initiative

HELPING INDIVIDUALS & COMMUNITIES MOVE FROM WHERE THEY ARE TO WHERE THEY WANT TO BE

## Charles Link

Charles was born and raised in St. Petersburg, Florida. Surrounded by drugs and drug dealers, he found himself going back and forth between different things. He had a passion for music and football, but the drugs seemed to always be in the middle; playing football...selling drugs, making music...selling drugs, going to college...selling drugs. It became a cycle until he started seeing more and more of his “boys” going to prison, being shot and even killed. He finally decided that it was enough after burying one of his closest friends and watching two others go to prison for life.



In 2000 Charles decided to relocate to Durham, North Carolina and pursue his interest in computers. He began doing self study and now holds several Cisco certifications, specializing in computer security.

A husband and father, Charles has always held a special passion for helping young people. He spent many years coaching football and helping neighborhood youth, however in 2007 his son, Ty died in a car accident at the age of 17 and it was at that time he realized his need to put more time into helping youth. Along with his wife, he developed C.O.R.E. (Children of Reentry) a youth program, through Community Success Initiative, that focuses on youth age 14-24 that are considered at high risk of delinquent behavior, gang involved, teen parents, or are just in need of additional adult guidance.

Charles believes that “the children ARE our future” and it’s up to all of us to make sure that we guide them and help them become strong, positive young adults.

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