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*Empowering College Students to Ignite Change for the Next Generation*

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## **Congratulations to C4C's Graduating Seniors!**



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## **From The Desk of the CEO**

### **Reflecting on Graduation - A Celebration of Hope and Legacy**

As spring ushers in the season of caps and gowns, it is timely to reflect on what graduation truly represents. My mom, a first-generation college graduate whose father had picked cotton in Tennessee, did not finish college until she was twenty-eight. During the '80s and '90s, where I was from, college was a gateway accessible to the fortunate few. My graduation was not just about me; it celebrated my mom's and our family's triumph over adversity. It was about pride, breaking the cycle of poverty, and rewriting the narrative for Black men in America - a true testament to the power of education and perseverance.

For the 1.3 million first-generation graduates, their commencement should symbolize a monumental victory, not just for them but for their families too. Yet, beneath these graduation caps lies a layer of concern. Students graduate burdened with debt, holding down multiple jobs, and feeling unprepared for what is next. As we consider these changing perceptions and realities, it is crucial to remember the core of what graduation should be: a time of hope, readiness, and

joy. We must strive to preserve these values and ensure that graduations remain a profound commemoration of personal and familial achievements and aspirations.

In this season of new beginnings, let us reclaim the spirit of graduation. Let it be a time when we not only celebrate academic achievements but also renew our commitment to supporting each other through the challenges ahead. In doing so, we honor every graduate's journey and the collective journey of our communities toward a brighter future.

Best,  
Marquis

**Together, we change lives. Together, we are Coaching4Change.**

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## C4C College Mentors Embark on Careers



*Please click on the videos below to experience the excitement of C4C's graduating College Mentors*

"Prior to my introduction to C4C last fall, the idea of teaching seemed incongruent with my aspirations to pursue a career in social work focused on nurturing the social and emotional growth of young individuals. However, my assumptions were swiftly overturned as I delved into the classroom environment. Through my internship with C4C, I've gained profound insights into the tireless efforts of educators, experiencing firsthand the impactful work they do on a daily basis. I worked with my coaches to explore diverse teaching methodologies, disciplinary strategies, and avenues for social and mental health intervention, thus deepening my understanding of the multifaceted needs of our youth. The focus of C4C on partnering with low-income school districts resonates deeply with me, as I hail from the same area as my students. This fuels my dedication to promoting educational equity and advocating for at-risk youth. Now, after eight months, I am thrilled to share that I have been offered a full-time position and eagerly anticipate the opportunity to continue fostering the growth of my cherished 4th graders beyond graduation." - College Mentor Ava Satterwhite

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## What are you doing this Summer?

For many, summertime means relaxation and enjoyment. For a student who has fallen behind at school or needs additional assistance, it can be a time of anxiety. Coaching4Change College Mentors encourage and engage young learners during the summer to improve their academic standing, learn new skills, make new friends, and return to school in the fall ready for a new year with confidence.

## Will you consider a gift to support these K-12 students?

Your gift of \$250 or more will sponsor a K-12 student to attend a summer program that will change their life.

"My kid looks forward to the C4C program because they get to interact with their college mentor. My kid thinks the college mentor is the coolest guy in the world and it has improved his school experience. He now wants to go to school everyday." - Anonymous Parent

[Donate](#)

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## Coaching4Change Receives \$50,000 from Hale Family as Part of \$26.2 Million Giving Effort

Coaching4Change is delighted to share that we are one of 72 organizations who received a donation from Rob Hale and his wife, Karen, as part of a \$26.2 million giving effort tied to the Boston Marathon. Hale, co-founder and President of Granite Telecommunications LLC, ran the marathon for the first time on April 15.

This donation will enable C4C to further its mission to empower college students to ignite change for the next generation.

"Recognizing the immense impact the fabled Marathon has had on our proud city, we are humbled to be able to make these gifts to wonderful organizations throughout our region that support our community," Hale wrote to us and the other recipients in an email letter sent moments after he crossed the finish line at Copley Square. "Please take and use this gift to further your vital mission. Together we make Boston Strong."



### 2024 Aim High Grant Program

Coaching4Change is the grateful recipient of a two-year New York Life Aim High Grant that supports and bolsters after-school and summer learning programs to help prepare middle school students for success in high school, college, and life. Enriching out-of-school time is an effective means of helping middle school students successfully transition from 8th to 9th grade, and a large body of evidence indicates the critical role of middle school in determining a young person's long-term academic trajectory.





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