



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Information:

Lesley Simmons, Marketing and Communications Director

Office: (443) 240-7007

Email: lsimmons@acts4youth.org

ACTS4YOUTH TAKES SUCCESSFUL MENTORING PROGRAM TO THIRD

BALTIMORE CITY LOCATION

Baltimore Nonprofit Expands to Garrett Heights Elementary/Middle School

BALTIMORE — May 3, 2016 — Acts4Youth, a nonprofit mentoring program announced today that it has partnered with a third school, effectively expanding its program.

Started in April, Acts4Youth now has a program running at Garrett Heights Elementary/Middle School. It has started with fourth and fifth grade boys, but next school year it will also offer a separate program for fourth and fifth grade girls and a separate program for middle school boys. Each year after, it will advance by one grade until it includes programs for kids in fourth through eighth grade. Once these students are in high school, they can continue with Acts4Youth in its one-on-one mentoring program for ninth through twelfth graders.

“Acts4Youth has been a wonderful support for our school and students that is invaluable and will last a lifetime,” said Omotayo Abiodun, Garrett Heights’ principal. “Students go through many changes in the middle school grades and it is nice to have a constant support in the midst of all of the variables that life brings our children's way.”

At Garrett Heights, Acts4Youth will have weekly after-school sessions that include recreation and group activities to develop character and social skills. The school is providing space to allow Acts4Youth to have breakout sessions during lunchtime with one to three students and a staff or volunteer mentor. The purpose of these sessions is to individually nurture each student's personal and social development, including his/her emotional awareness and how well s/he relates with others. All Acts4Youth's sessions are gender specific, meaning the girls meet with female mentors and have a somewhat different curriculum from the boys program that exclusively involves male mentors.

Following the first half of the after-school session, Acts4Youth students will go to Faith Community Church for evening meetings that incorporate a shared meal, spiritual lessons and small group discussions. As Acts4Youth expands for elementary school girls and middle school boys, it will be looking for two additional churches to partner with to host these groups.

“We are excited that we are able to expand our mission to another school in Baltimore,” said Kevin Good, founder and executive director of Acts4Youth. “It is our hope to provide support and mentorship to as many Baltimore City youth as possible.”

Acts4Youth already partners with two schools, Walter P. Carter and Guilford Elementary/Middle Schools, to bring its vision to life of restoring Baltimore City youth to personal, social and spiritual wholeness and to help these children thrive within their communities. So far, more than 80 percent of the students who were in the elementary school program continued with the program in middle school, and 80 percent of the students who were in the middle school program continued with it in high school. The

organization is rapidly expanding its reach. During the 2014-2015 school year it had 75 participants, this year it increased to 100 with the addition of its new girls' program, and next year it anticipates 150 students will be involved in its programs.

For more information, please visit www.acts4youth.org.

-###-

ABOUT ACTS4YOUTH

Founded in 2008, Acts4Youth is a nonprofit that strives to help boys and girls attending public elementary, middle and high schools located in disadvantaged communities of Baltimore. It provides the necessary support to equip at-risk youth to successfully progress through adolescence to an authentic, successful adulthood. Its mission is to nurture personal, social, and spiritual growth for at-risk youth in Baltimore City schools through comprehensive mentoring programs.