We honor Sydney "Syd" Steele’s significant legacy and will make sure his contributions to our mission, youth and community are forever retained in our memory.

Thank you, Syd. Peace and love.
African American Youth Need Our Help to Rise

At the Center for Leadership Development (CLD), our vision is to empower Central Indiana African American students to achieve the highest personal, postsecondary, and professional success through comprehensive character, academic, and career development. Additionally, we aspire to help Indianapolis lead the nation in Black youth academic achievement.

CLD’s overarching aspiration is to amplify the value of education and expand the circle of Indianapolis African American youth who flourish in the classroom and their higher learning pursuits.

CLD’s many enriching programs combat the massive educational and achievement gaps that hinder far too many African American students. As a result, CLD Alumni graduate high school and pursue postsecondary education at higher rates than their peers in central Indiana and statewide. Unfortunately, however, thousands of youth in our community are performing far beneath their great potential. According to the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE):

1. Only 51% of African American males graduate high school in four years;
2. 78% of African American 4th-grade students lack proficiency in reading;
3. 33% of 4th grade African American males scored below grade level in reading;
4. 25% of African American students in Indiana received graduation waivers;
5. 23% of African American college students require remediation.

If education is the gateway to personal success, career opportunities, higher incomes, better health, and improved quality of life, then, without intervention, our Black youth and families face bleak prospects. Therefore, for the sake of our youth and our community, we must confront these disparities.

CLD helps students RISE. Collaborating with our K-12, higher education, and corporate/community partners, we will help Indianapolis outspread academic engagement and commitment with Black students throughout Marion County. Additionally, we seek to help grow the number of students achieving honor roll status. CLD has worked for over four decades to equip African American students and parents with the support and educational resources they need to overcome obstacles, flourish, and enrich their communities. CLD programs have proven highly effective, and our ability to reach and impact many more students is limited only by our lack of capacity and resources.

CLD’s $33 million Rise Campaign is a bold step to expand our reach to serve lower-income and highest-crime, lowest-income neighborhoods. By leveraging these new locations and our expanded capacity, we plan to increase program participation to 6,500 and render services to 15,000 annually.

Target zip codes for CLD satellite locations and in-school programming: 46222, 46208, 46226, 46218, 46235, 46201, 46219 and 46205.

TOGETHER, WE RISE.

$33M RISE CAMPAIGN
Capacity Building & Program Expansion: $4.6M
Building Expansion, Maintenance & Infrastructure: $3.6M
Annual Operating, 5 Years: $13.5M
Marketing & Campaign Awareness: $600K
Endowment for Sustainability: $60M

THE PATH SCHOOL
in-school
W. North St. & N. Somerset Ave.
46222

“Through our partnership with CLD, we are excited about the impactful change that it truly makes in the quality of life for our youth. The Path, The School, and CLD have a shared mission to help them RISE and actualize their immense potential. Together we will achieve our powerful shared vision of many more bright African American students in Central Indiana thriving and succeeding.”

– The Path School Founder and Head of School Alicia Heny

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
OF THE FAR EASTSIDE
satellite
38th & Post Rd.
46226

ENDOWMENT FOR SUSTAINABILITY:
$500K

EASTERN STAR CHURCH
satellite
30th & N. Arlington Ave.
46218

$4.5M Capacity Building & Program Expansion
CLD seeks to widen the circle and get more students and families engaged in the value proposition of education and scholarship by proactively connecting them to CLD programming both at our primary campus and through satellite and in-school locations in our highest-crime, lowest-income neighborhoods. By leveraging these new locations and our expanded capacity, we plan to increase program participation to 6,500 and render services to 15,000 annually.

MISSION
The mission of the Center for Leadership Development is to foster the advancement of minority youth in Central Indiana as future professional, business and community leaders by providing experiences that encourage personal development and educational attainment.

$33M RISE CAMPAIGN
Capacity Building & Program Expansion: $4.6M
Building Expansion, Maintenance & Infrastructure: $3.6M
Annual Operating, 5 Years: $13.5M
Marketing & Campaign Awareness: $600K
Endowment for Sustainability: $60M

THE PATH SCHOOL
in-school
W. North St. & N. Somerset Ave.
46222

“At The Path School, we are excited and committed to walking alongside the Center for Leadership Development in this work that we believe, can shift a child’s life trajectory. CLD’s commitment to scholarship and character are in direct alignment with The Path School.”

– The Path School Founder and Head of School Alicia Heny

CHRISTAMORE HOUSE
satellite
Belmont & Michigan
46222

“Christamore House could not have come at a better time for the youth of Haughville and the Near Westside. Their development of young people for academic excellence while developing character and instilling a sense of civic responsibility.”

– Mt. Carmel Church Chief of Staff Tonya Johnson

Mt. Carmel Church
satellite
42nd & Mithoeffer Rd.
46235

“Outstanding" – Christamore House Chief of Staff Tanya Johnson

$500K Endowment for Sustainability
Motivated by mounting academic and social challenges and inspired by a belief that CLD has real answers to overcome these challenges, CLD aspires to establish an exemplary youth development center of unparalleled distinction. Indeed, CLD envisions making Indianapolis home to one of the most transformative, state of the art, models in the nation dedicated to effecting the highest academic, college and career achievement in African American youth. To increase our overall capacity that will allow CLD to serve thousands more students annually, and engage more youth to widen the circle of academic achievement, CLD is doubling the size of its headquarters from 20k sq. ft. to 40k sq. ft. Students engaged at various satellite locations and within our in-school programs will be invited to our expanded building where they will receive personalized education enrichment services such as free guidance counseling, tutoring and reading support.

Demonstrating CLD’s broader commitment to assume a greater leadership role in helping uncover the depths of youth potential, the College Prep Institute learning lab will be expanded to include private space for tutoring and guidance counseling (above and below) which will equip more students for postsecondary admissions, persistence and graduation. The lab will also feature new technology and study spaces to enhance student learning objectives.

The building will feature CLD’s first auditorium-style space where we are able to accommodate approximately 375 people at one time. Five classrooms will open up to one larger space. These additional rooms, and the opportunity to host large groups, increases CLD capacity to hold more programs concurrently, serve more youth and families, and lessens the need for offsite space rental.
$33M RISE Campaign

$4.5M Capacity Building & Program Expansion
Establish satellite locations in high crime, low income areas across central Indiana
Increase annual program participation to 6,500, and services provided to 15,000, annually
Hire new staff, provide professional development opportunities and offer competitive salaries and benefits
Scale CLD programs and services to meet the need of communities near and far

$13.5M Annual Operating, 5 Years
Follow students starting in 4th grade through college to ensure better preparation and postsecondary completion
Establish on-campus groups, services and mentoring support for CLD students attending college
Support increased operating expenses

$500K Marketing & Campaign Awareness
Implement a robust communications plan to raise awareness of CLD and its impact
Enroll more students and parents in programs and services
Increase corporate and community involvement
Conduct outreach to engage students in high crime, low income areas

$8.5M Building Expansion, Maintenance & Infrastructure
Expand CLD headquarters by 20,000 sq. ft. to accommodate increased programs and services provided
Expand College Prep Institute with updated technology and additional space to enhance youth learning objectives

$6M Endowment for Sustainability
Develop a fund to sustain CLD mission during future, unforeseen or disruptive societal events that can disrupt and dismantle non-profit organizations and their important mission work

What role can you play to help transform our community and the lives of deserving youth?
Consider leaving a legacy gift to CLD through an estate gift or by designating CLD as an insurance beneficiary or by other means. You can make a meaningful impact on the future of young people through a gift that costs nothing in your lifetime.

For more information, contact:

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CLD PRINCIPLES FOR SUCCESS

Character Development
CLD empowers youth by instilling valuable lessons that promote respect for self and others, self-worth, integrity, discipline, purpose and other character traits vital to success.

Educational Excellence
CLD inspires, develops and challenges its youth participants to pursue the highest levels of academic and educational achievement.

Leadership Effectiveness
CLD provides youth with the training and practical experiences required to positively lead and serve their peers in schools, churches, organizations, businesses and corporations, neighborhoods and communities.

Community Service
CLD believes that one critical component in becoming a truly effective leader is learning to serve and help the people you lead. CLD demonstrates this commitment to community service and philanthropy by teaching African American and minority youth, the purpose, method and process for rendering service to those in need.

Career Achievement
CLD exposes its youth to the myriad of career opportunities available to them. In addition, CLD facilitates this career achievement by educating young people in the knowledge, skills and educational requirements necessary to realize their career aspirations.

If the young are not initiated into the village, they will burn it down just to feel its warmth.
– African proverb