

# Platinum Minds *Update*

Issue 4

Summer 2010

## Future Graduates

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### Student Graduation List

Let's take a minute to recognize the scholastic achievement of our boys, with an eye toward what's in store for the future.

## Featured Student

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### Clay Austin

A track and field champion attending Seton Hall Preparatory School needs your help.



Platinum Minds students with Frederick Douglass Reading Program students.

## Recent & Upcoming Events

### August 26

*Mentor Training Session*

6:30PM – 8:30PM

*Mendham Hills Community Church*

### September 12

*"Education for All" Fundraiser Kick Off*

Meeting – 1:00-2:30PM

*Bedminster Library*

### September 14

*Advisory Board Meeting – 6:30-8:30PM*

*Bedminster Library*

### September 21

*Far Hills Country Day School Fair*

## Frederick Douglass Reading Program

The Frederick Douglass Reading Program held at Neighborhood House in Morristown was a great success this Spring meeting the needs of many young boys. Nine of our scholars acted as role models to help elementary students embrace the love of reading. This program not only helped these youngsters learn to read, but it also positively impacted their lives as learners and the lives of the PM students as leaders and mentors.

Special thanks go to Ivette Gonzalez, a reading specialist at Far Hills Country Day School, for designing and implementing the program and to Chi Rockoff the Program Director. Thanks also to Jennifer Fournier whose donation funded the program this Spring.

We are all looking forward to providing the program again this coming spring.

Platinum Minds

*Soar to Your Highest Potential!*



# Future Graduates

Below is a list of all our hard working students arranged by graduation year.

Congratulations on all your accomplishments this year!

## 2010

Chris Adams

## 2012

Christian Brown-Singleton  
Russell Galiber  
Bentley Awobue  
Aquil Malik  
Chima Asikaburu  
Ar-Rasheed Briscoe

## 2013

Clay Austin  
Jonathan Adewumi  
Marcelus Joyner  
Robert Adams  
Rudy Christian  
Quashae Hendryx  
Isiah Roberts  
Tashad Jordan  
Qamar Simmons

## 2014

Dimitri Adams  
Oladotun Ebunlomo  
Daquane' Bland  
John Paul Martinez  
Anthony Rios  
Mario Williams  
Nasir Woodson

## School Connections

We are working hard to establish relationships with independent, parochial, and public schools. This will ensure that Platinum Minds students have the best options when it comes to applying to and choosing a school.

Platinum Minds currently has students attending the following schools:

*Columbia HS, Darrow School, Rahway HS, Roselle Catholic HS, Solebury School, Morristown HS, Trenton Catholic Academy, St Benedicts Prep School, Seton Hall Prep School, Trinity Temple Academy, Levitt MS, Hun Boarding School, Marist HS, Christ the King Prep School, Hudson Catholic Regional HS, Christian Brothers Academy, St Mary's School, Hackensack MS, Sacred Heart HS, Dr Albert Einstein Academy*

If you have a connection that you would like to utilize to assist in building our school options, please let us know.

## PM Mentor Program

We are currently looking for men interested in working with a student as a mentor. The responsibility includes calling the mentee at least one time per month and helping them keep educational excellence as their top priority. If you are interested or if you know someone we could contact about mentorship please let us know.

For more information, contact Angie Robinson at [Arobinson@platinumminds.org](mailto:Arobinson@platinumminds.org)

### The Platinum Minds Mission and Vision

Platinum Minds a 501(c)(3) organization assists young environmentally disadvantaged males from 11 to 17 years of age who seek to further their education in a safe, high achieving school environment. Platinum Minds accepts and reviews applications for potential students referred by schools, mentors, churches, respected individuals and non-profit organizations. Platinum Minds also accepts and reviews applications from qualified host families. After reviewing all applications, Platinum Minds then places qualified students in selected charter schools, parochial schools, boarding schools, or with qualified host families. Each student is paired with a mentor, attends leadership training workshops, essay and college prep courses, and is involved in summer camp. Platinum Minds monitors the academic and social progress of its student to ensure that program goals are being met.

The Vision is to have more young men from urban areas pursuing their academic potential, graduating college and returning to their communities as leaders. Through our various programs, our students develop their scholastic ability, gain confidence, and become empowered to make a positive difference in their communities as role models and future leaders. Our belief is that well educated communities make for a better social environment and enhanced productivity. Let's strive to be the great society in the world.

## Thank You!

All of us at Platinum Minds would like to thank the donors and advocates who made possible "Education for All," our major fundraiser which took place in April.

Mr. & Mrs. Baker	Mr. & Mrs. Gonzalez
Mr. & Mrs. Barfuss	Mr. & Mrs. Iati
Mr. & Mrs. Braniff	Mr. & Mrs. Lou Iozzi
Mr. Cameron	Mr. & Mrs. McGinn
Mr. & Mrs. Cataldo	Mr. & Mrs. Rockoff
Mr. & Mrs. Chamber	Ms. Kate Walsh
Mr. & Mrs. Cole	Mr. & Mrs. Pizzo
Mr. & Mrs. Collins	Mr. & Mrs. Ramseur
Mrs. Brenda Curnin	Mr. & Mrs. Reed
Mr. & Mrs. Diaz	Mr. Segale
Mr. & Mrs. Fox	Mr. & Mrs. Sotolongo
Mr. & Mrs. Fournier	Mr. & Mrs. Villa
Ms. Geiger	Mr. & Mrs. Wager

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Merrill Lynch-Chester	Skyland Bank

Thanks also to the speakers and volunteers who made possible the College Essay Workshop, the Leadership Symposium, and the Frederick Douglass Reading Program.

### We can't do it without you! Below:

Yvette Long and Platinum Minds students express gratitude to Mr. & Mrs. Fournier for their donation which funded summer camp and the Frederick Douglass Reading Program. We are blessed to have such caring individuals supporting this work.

## Summer Plans

Our students had some very exciting summer plans this year ranging from local outlets to far away opportunities. Our very first graduate, Chris Adams, is preparing to begin his freshman year at Drexel University in Philadelphia. We are extremely proud of his hard work and motivation to succeed and wish him the very best as he steps out on this new phase of his journey.

Nine boys went to Camp Watonka in Pennsylvania and Incarnation Camp in Connecticut for several weeks to grow in their physical skills, hone their leadership qualities, and fulfill their desire to learn more about science and nature. These boys learned how to better work in teams, trust their own abilities, and become personally responsible young men. Two Platinum Minds students were invited to work part time this summer based on their prior leadership as campers and two more were offered part time jobs for next summer.

Aquil Malik has been busy raising funds for his trip to San Francisco with People to People. We look forward to hearing about his exciting adventure and seeing how he can apply his broadened leadership skills to his school and community.

We wish our boys a great start to the new school year!



## Featured Student

Clay Austin lives in East Orange, NJ and just completed his freshman year at Seton Hall Preparatory School in West Orange, NJ. Despite facing difficult personal circumstances he continued working very hard in school to keep his grades up. He aspires to become a pediatrician and is planning to “shadow” a physician in the coming weeks.

Clay plays basketball, track, and field. In USA’s Track & Field Junior Olympics for NJ, Clay won 1<sup>st</sup> Place both for the Long Jump Intermediate Boys event (jumping 6.14M) and the Triple Jump Intermediate Boys (jumping an astounding 13.69M). He attended the regional Junior Olympics (pre-trials) from July 19<sup>th</sup> -August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at Richard Stockton College.

Clay comes from a single-parent family, which has recently fallen on difficult financial times due to increasing medical expenses. His mother was diagnosed with cancer and is struggling with day to day expenses on top of mounting medical bills. As such, his mother is unable to pay his secondary school tuition. An additional \$3,4000 is needed to help Clay receive his final grades and get approval for this school year.

Please consider making an extra donation to Platinum Minds so that we can help Clay and other students struggling with tuition difficulty. We are proud of the achievements our students are making and are excited to help them reach their full potential, but it is only possible with your help.



Clay Austin



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