

# “Think B4 You Move”

In 2007, young people used their creativity to produce “Think B4 You Move” a short film that documents the trials of choosing a path in life. The main character is faced with deciding how his peers, tragedy and societal pressures will influence his next move. This film speaks to the ongoing battle that goes on within an individual and deals with the ability to stand firm in one’s decisions.

The production staff, cast, and extras was composed of 98 percent of Curries Wood residents. The participants attended a four week workshop and shot the entire film in one day. Each of the youths held a position in the production of the film from casting director to video editor; all were paid a stipend for their participation.

The film displays life living in a housing project, demonstrating the every day struggles faced; gangs, drug abuse and the importance of critical thinking, patience and planning. Youth learn to focus their

attention and energy, think critically, plan and recover.

This workshop gave youths with idle time which would be labeled as gang members an outlet for their creativity. The creativity of these youth resulted in several scripts and suggestions for future films.

The film workshop did not only attract the attention of the youth in addition the seniors express interest in doing movies about their life experiences.

In addition to The Kings Knight Chess Club’s outstanding work in schools and correctional facilities The Kings Knight Filmworks Production Company produced a short film titled “Think B4 You Move” that has furthered the mission and goals of The Kings Knight Chess Club.

Our goal is to continue transforming young lives through film and someday produce a full featured film for communities throughout the state of New Jersey.



## Kings Knight Re-Entry Program

We are proud to announce the **Kings Knight Re-Entry Program (KKREP)**. Together with a variety of community supporters, we are developing a re-entry program that begins inside the prison.

The Kings Knight Re-Entry Program’s goal is develop a multi-model re-entry program that offers interventions that will bridge the gaps that are barriers to successful reintegration to their community, family, and they themselves. Our mission is to provide a source of hope to men and women who are returning to the community from incarceration. They will receive

individual interventions without discrimination based on race, ethnicity, drug use, mental health status, sexuality or criminal justice history. Additionally, our goal is to reduce the rate of recidivism for men and women who do not receive adequate support upon their home coming. Our services will include: mentorship, job training, social service referrals and group and individual counseling. We will utilize the cognitive and behavioral techniques as well as those based in social theory. These services will also include a trauma sensitive curriculum, a strong relapse prevention curriculum and parenting programs.



## Kings Knight Prison Rehabilitation Program

Kings Knight Prison Rehabilitation Program is our latest endeavor. Chess is being offered by Kings Knight Chess Club inside correctional facilities in New Jersey as a rehabilitation tool. The benefit of chess to prison inmates was best described as: “an alternative means to resolve conflict peacefully without resorting to aggression. It fosters an acceptance of the importance of rules and structured behavior to rule breakers whose histories and past lifestyles have been reckless and undisciplined. It teaches those who are impulsive to be patient and deliberative. It shows individuals who lack the ability to reflect on past experiences or contemplate future consequences the value of hindsight and

forethought. Just as importantly, it serves to instruct those who tend to violently react to frustration and the non-fulfillment of their immediate desires that there is an honorable way to accept defeat and that often times in the greater game of life one has to lose in order to develop the skills necessary to win! Yet another exceedingly important but often overlooked and seldom appreciated therapeutic value of teaching offenders the art and science of chess lies in the capacity to engender increased respect for the strength and dignity of womanhood. The tendency for male inmates to perceive hyper-masculinity and virility as virtues is well documented as is their history of domestic violence and the

devaluation of females. However, in learning chess, prisoners come to realize that while every figure in this “game of war” is male, one piece alone is a female – the queen. She constitutes the most powerful and strategically significant presence on the board. Thus, as in life, she is to be cherished and protected for without here the likelihood of success is enormously diminished. In a very real sense, this “game of war” is in reality a game about life.”