

## A Message from the Director:

What would it take to change the direction of an at-risk juvenile, promote positive community development, and establish a pipeline for the next generation of Olympians? As an Olympic Director and Taekwondo Grand Master, I saw the need for growth in our communities and Olympic sports across the country. Your tax deductible sponsorship of the Grassroots Program, a 501(c)(3) program, will give youth access to valuable training in the sport of Taekwondo as well as enrich our communities as they build important life skills and develop positive character traits.

The Grassroots Program offers many advantages to communities where it is instituted and to the supporters that help make it possible. The Grassroots Program not only promotes USA Taekwondo and the Olympics, but it also helps youth become actively engaged in the sport by supplementing the costs related to training, equipment, uniforms, USA Taekwondo membership, and tournament participation. Those who support the Grassroots Program receive advertisement opportunities in Olympic web and print media, advertisement at all USA Taekwondo events, brand building engagement with the US Olympic Committee, exclusive interaction and access to athletes, and VIP access to domestic and international events. While the immediate impact of this program is measurable and easy to see in youth and communities, it is even more exciting to consider the long reaching impact of youth learning and growing in a constructive environment with positive role models.

The following remarks from a longtime friend and supporter of our program captures the essence of our work:

*"I am pleased to endorse to Grand Master Andrew Blocker and his Aiken Martial Arts Academy based on his...successes molding young children into fine adults. Although he teaches Tae Kwon Do he takes the effort far beyond expectations by not only focusing on the sport of Tae Kwon Do but also the qualities that make our young men and women better citizens. Several of his students have become military officers, community leaders, business leaders but most importantly, people of integrity." - Eddie S. Ray, Colonel USMC (Ret)*

I look forward to partnering with you through your financial support of a truly unique program. The Grassroots Program has distinguished itself over more than thirty years through its success in graduating thousands of youth in Taekwondo, producing over four hundred state champions, more than a hundred junior national champions, four adult national champions, three United States national team members, and preparing its participants to be more productive and positive influences in society. The positive results of this program are not only due to the world class instructors we employ but also the synergistic relationship that exists between each component of a program that impacts the lives of our youth on multiple levels. This is the reason for the Grassroots Program's success and why your support is so influential and greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Grand Master Andrew L. Blocker

## Your Support

Your tax deductible sponsorship of this 501(c)(3) program will help eliminate preventable youth fatalities and injuries, increase the number of students completing high school and college, and promote positive character traits leading to greater personal and professional success. Initiatives like the Community Development Program can serve as the starting point for great and lasting growth in communities across our country. If you would like to expand the reach and impact of our program, please contact our program director.

*"In looking for people to hire, you look for three qualities: integrity, intelligence, and energy. And if they don't have the first, the other two will kill you."*

*- Warren Buffet*

*"Mastering others is strength. Mastering yourself is true power."*

*- Lao Tzu*

*"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world"*

*- Harriet Tubman*

## Contact Information:

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# MARTIAL ARTS ACADEMY

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

*"Developing our communities to  
be safer, better educated,  
and more successful!"*

Grand Master Andrew L. Blocker

Community Development Program Director

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Telephone: 803.270.1689

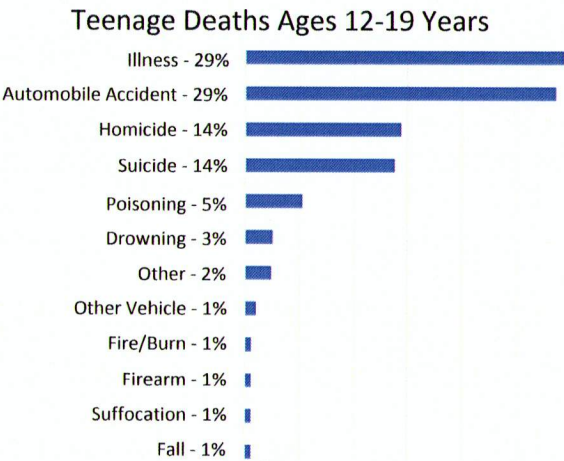
Email: [MAATKD@MartialArtsAcademyTKD.com](mailto:MAATKD@MartialArtsAcademyTKD.com)



## Community Development Program

With your sponsorship of the Community Development Program we can build safer, better educated, and more successful communities. The Community Development Program focuses on three vital categories. Youth safety is the first component of the program that helps our youth identify and avoid a comprehensive range of risks that claim thousands of lives and account for millions of injuries each year. Educating youth and families about the importance and benefits of pursuing academic excellence along with higher education is the second component of the program. Finally, demonstrating the social impact and personal importance of positive character traits rounds out the final piece. This program's comprehensive vision and synergistic combination of youth safety, academic excellence, and character development is what makes it so unique and valuable.

Your support of the Community Development Program will help us build stronger more successful communities both now and for the future.



SOURCE: CDC, US National Vital Statistics System, Mortality, 2004-2014

## Youth Safety

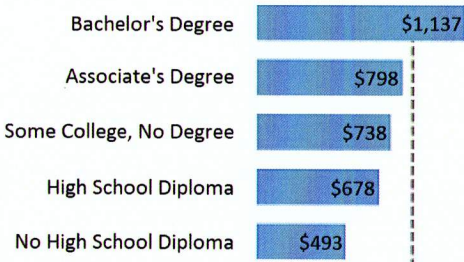
Youth Safety is a critical component that focuses on equipping our youth with the ability to identify, evaluate, and respond appropriately to dangerous situations that could jeopardize an otherwise bright future. Many safety risks are unknown or have a greatly misjudged and misrepresented impact. The youth safety portion of the program presents a comprehensive list of straightforward and factual statistics aimed at developing a balanced perspective of risks. News media and specialized awareness programs often emphasize accidents related to firearms, drugs, and alcohol. However, it is less common to hear about the dangers of falling accidents which claim more lives than firearm accidents, drowning fatalities which nearly equal the number of unintentional drug related deaths, or motor vehicle deaths and injuries from simply not wearing a seat belt even in the absence of alcohol. The program's goal is to cut non-illness related fatalities by over 50% and eliminate injuries that result in over 3 million reported emergency room visits each year. Using national and local data, we are able to empower communities with a more comprehensive understanding of the risks our youth face.

## Academic Excellence

The academic excellence portion of the program seeks to help youth and families understand the importance and benefits of pursuing academic success and higher education. Education can be directly correlated to many positive advantages. One obvious yet powerful example can be seen in wages. Those who graduate from high school earn on average 37% more than those who do not. Furthermore, college

## Earning by Educational Attainment, 2015

### Median Usual Weekly Earnings



Average of All Education Levels: \$860

Note: Data is for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey

graduates earn 67% more than those who did not graduate from high school. In addition to earning potential, there are also strong correlations between completing educational milestones and lowering unemployment, improving health, and reducing crime among other benefits.

## Character Development

Character development is the third component of the program. While less tangible, positive character development is the necessary ingredient to true and lasting success in all stages and facets of life. This part of the program seeks to highlight the personal and social impact specific positive character traits can have on our youth. Among others, the five core character traits emphasized are integrity, self-control, indomitable spirit, perseverance, and courtesy.