Could Rap Music Be the Cause of Crime and Violence in Our Community Today?

Could rap music be the cause of crime and violence in our community today? If so, it is a shame, causing our families to go through pain.

Could the lyrics in rap music start a gang? Allowing our children to think it’s ok to bang.

Teenagers with guns are not scared of anything anymore. They just want to start a war. A war between other hoods and that’s not good.

Our people are dying and our families are crying and that’s a shame, because it’s another shooting that happened in DC again. Yup.

In the back of our school, detectives and police where are the rules? Nobody cares about the students that go to school there.

The students at Kipp DC want to go to and through college earning a degree.

So please agree to put the guns away, if not they have a place for you to stay.

So the next time you want to shoot, SHOOT WITH CAMERAS NOT GUNS!

M’kya S., Age 10
KIPP DC Quest Academy
Washington D.C.
America SCORES, a national non-profit, serves over 14,000 children at over 190 public and charter schools in 14 major cities. America SCORES’ mission is to inspire urban children to lead healthy lives, be engaged students, and have the confidence and character to make a difference in the world. We achieve this mission through daily after-school programs that combine soccer, poetry and community service. This holistic, team-based approach works. America SCORES students, 85% of whom qualify for free or reduced lunch, improve academically, increase physical fitness, and have a greater sense of confidence and belonging.

americascores.org
Limitless

When I am in SCORES, I feel Limitless
Like nothing can stop me
I come to practice and feel like a whole
different person
Powerful - on the field nothing can come
between me and my team
We show respect and TLC
It feels good to be on the Comet Team
When I am in SCORES I feel
Powerful, happy, determined, energetic,
Relaxed, professional, reliable, impressive,
Special, fearless, full of pride, Limitless

3rd-5th Grade Boys Team
Castellanos Elementary School
Chicago
Report Contents

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14 cities across the United States & Canada

194 schools Public and charter schools

627 coaches Teachers in the schools

14,718 poet-athletes

× 7.5 hours/week × 24 weeks =
2.6 million child-hours of after-school programming in 2016
Since our program’s inception 22 years ago, America SCORES has given tens of thousands of young people the opportunity to make their voices heard. Whether they are on a soccer pitch, in a classroom, on a stage, or in their community, our poet-athletes learn about the power their actions and words can have toward making a positive impact, giving them a platform for success in school and in life.

This year, we have seen this power more than ever. From the America SCORES Boston poet-athlete who joined dozens of college-bound seniors at the White House to the America SCORES Milwaukee alumna who gave back to the program that turned her life around, we have seen stirring stories of success. More than the statistics that show program growth and impact, it is these moving stories that paint a picture of the varied ways that America SCORES can positively influence the communities in which we work.

In the pages ahead, you will read about these stories and more. You will read a sample of the poetry that inspires us and learn about those in the community that support our poet-athletes. You will see the strength of our network through initiatives like SCORESCon and read about the ways we continue to try to innovate our curricula to ensure we remain one of the top after-school programs in the country. Finally, you will read about our landmark 10th anniversary National Poetry SLAM!, an event which saw faces old and new come together to celebrate a unique event that has become a life-changing experience for those that participate.

As always, our work would not be possible without the help of teachers, principals, parents, volunteers, funders, and staff around the country. Thank you for joining us in our commitment to giving every child in America the opportunity to succeed.

Benjamin Chmelnich
Board Chair

Holly O’Donnell
Executive Director
Building on a successful inaugural event last year, America SCORES was once again invited to the First Lady’s Beating the Odds Summit at The White House in July of 2016. Centered around dozens of college-bound high school seniors, many of whom are the first in their families to go to college, the First Lady’s Reach Higher initiative hosted a one-day summit to give these students an opportunity to meet fellow achievers and attend a series of panels and workshops intended to help them better prepare for college.

This year, Lariona of America SCORES Boston got to attend the exclusive summit, joining 130 students from over 70 other partner organizations in attendance. A star poet-athlete, Lariona has been with SCORES since she was in third grade, first in the elementary and middle school programs and then through Boston’s Alumni Leadership Academy, where she played on a soccer team with fellow alumni and volunteered for SCORES games and events. Lariona’s leadership in soccer and hard work in school paid off as she was accepted into Denison University as a Posse Scholar for the fall.

Arriving in Washington, D.C., a day early, Lariona and Boston Program Manager Ethan Goldman visited the major monuments on The National Mall. On the day of the summit, they arrived bright and early to The White House for a quick tour and an opening panel made up of four current college students who “beat the odds” to go to college.

After a short break, it was time for the main event. The keynote panel featured then First Lady Michelle Obama, then Secretary of Education John King, recording artist Jidenna, and Stanford student Rachel McKenzie Scott, who overcame enormous obstacles in her upbringing to achieve college success. Moderated by YouTube star Tyler

“I love meeting new people and the other teens I met were from all over the country. Stemming from different backgrounds and interests, we all had one thing in common: going to college.”

Lariona, America SCORES Boston
Oakley, the panel spoke for about an hour and a half about their own underdog stories and their advice for the future college students. The entire room was captivated and inspired by their words.

After lunch, the students broke out into smaller groups and had discussions about college and their expectations and anxieties. They all wrote letters to themselves to be mailed back to them in a year. Finally, Jidenna capped the day off with a performance in The East Room.

The entire day was surely unforgettable for Lariona, but one particular memory will last the longest:

“I will never forget being able to breathe the same air as Michelle Obama.”
POET-ATHLETES MEET THE
U.S. National Team

On a chilly afternoon in late October, thirty DC SCORES poet-athletes let out a gasp as the U.S. Women’s National Team (USWNT) walked across the President’s Park in front of the White House to meet them.

Fresh off being crowned champions at the 2015 Women’s World Cup in Canada, the women happily posed for pictures, answered questions, and signed autographs for a group that represented millions of young soccer lovers across the country.

The meet and greet was preceded by a soccer clinic for the young poet-athletes in conjunction with partner Coca Cola, the National Parks Foundation, and the National Park Service’s “Find Your Park” movement. Before the arrival of the team, groups of students cycled in and out of stations led by USWNT coach Jill Ellis and her staff: speed-dribbling relays, communication drills, and one-touch shooting. The coaches were enthusiastic and always moving. The kids followed suit, clearly thrilled to display everything they had learned in SCORES.

As their national team heroes approached, organizers and volunteers from the Catholic University men’s soccer team had to settle the kids down so as not to swarm the likes of Abby Wambach, Carli Lloyd, and Sydney Leroux.

Once everyone was settled, the players faced the kids in a long line, as if for the national anthem before a game. The kids then got the opportunity to ask questions of the World Cup champions.
Most questions revolved around when the women began playing soccer and what inspired them.

Wambach, the now-retired legend of the game, took a moment to thank the youth for being at the park. “You give us hope for future World Cup champions.”

Long-time SCORES supporter Heather O’Reilly was excited to see SCORES involved in the event. O’Reilly donned a SCORES Boston scarf in support of the city where she lived during her Boston Breakers NWSL days.

Between autographs and hugs from her pint-sized fans, O’Reilly commented, “This is the fourth SCORES city where I’ve met poet-athletes!”

The day will hold a special place in the memories of these poet-athletes as they continue to model their games on the likes of Abby, Heather, and Sydney. And though they may never reach that level of athletic success, they are certainly motivated to do big things and will no doubt inspire the next generation similarly.
“Ten years from now, you’ll STILL be talking about me!”

With these words, a theatre in Manhattan erupted into cheers to celebrate 13 elementary school students from across the country. Far more than an awe-inspiring display of poetry, the 10th Annual National Poetry SLAM! was confirmation of the immense power of America SCORES to give students a voice, and a culmination of months of writing, rehearsing, and performing for the 13 students.

Arriving the Saturday before the SLAM!, the poet stars (many of whom had never even been on a plane before!) met each other and began a fun weekend of rehearsing, sightseeing, and bonding. They went to the top of the Empire State Building, picnicked and played soccer in Central Park, and visited Times Square.

On the day of the main event, the poets joined 250 SCORES supporters, coaches, and families into the SVA Theatre in Manhattan. At homes and watch parties across the country, hundreds more tuned in for the live stream.

Throughout, the 2016 poet-athletes displayed an incredible level of skill and lyricism. As a celebration of the event’s 10th year, the alumni featured from past SLAM!s provided plenty of reflective moments on the impact of the event. The highlight was 2014 poet and MSNBC star Xavier from D.C., who gave a powerful performance about achieving in the face of adversity.

After a reprise of the group poem, the show ended with more cheers and standing ovations as the 13 poet-athletes took one last bow. Though the SLAM! only lasted an hour, the positive impact of the night will no doubt stay with them forever.
Life can be so confusing.
I know you are afraid to help me
because you’re afraid I am going to
steal your shine.
I’m not here to steal your shine but
make my own!
Just know there’s enough radiance
for all of us to glow.
I stand before you...confused no
more!

– Feliciana
Cleveland

A bully takes action against you
A victim receives the agony
The bully annoys you and
The victim is miserable
Bullies destroy victims’ lives
But we must stand up and speak up
Victims become demotivated
But we must keep fighting
To abolish bullying

– Jalen
New York

Sometimes I wonder why people
dress their animals up like other
animals.
Bunny ears are not a good look for
dogs.
Sometimes I wonder if my mind will
ever stop wondering.
Will I still be me, if my mind isn’t
free?

– Lizette
Chicago
America SCORES was developed in 1994 in Washington, D.C. by a public school teacher concerned that her students, lacking constructive after-school options, were at risk of gang activity and other dangers after class. As she introduced new activities—soccer, poetry, and service learning—to her students, she found that they had become more engaged in class, more physically active, and more involved in their communities. Designed as a replicable model, SCORES has grown since becoming a national organization in 1999 to impact over 14,000 students in over 190 public schools in 14 cities in North America — Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, New York, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle, St. Louis, Vancouver, and Washington D.C.

Originally focused on elementary school, the program has expanded to meet the demands of its students. With middle school programs, SCORES poet-athletes can stay with their teams and continue to have a safe space after school. Similarly, many SCORES sites now offer winter and summer programming, ensuring students can reap the benefits of teamwork and leadership year-round. As students have entered high school and college, programs have emerged to engage alumni and help them graduate high school and prepare for college. In this way, SCORES establishes the platform for students to succeed now and for the future. To date, more than 75,000 urban youth have benefited from the unique programming of America SCORES.
The SCORES Program

Active students...

Poetry
ACTIVE MINDS

Soccer
ACTIVE BODIES

Service
ACTIVE COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Throughout the year...

24 WEEKS OF CORE PROGRAMMING

As they grow...

JUNIOR SCORES
K–2nd Grades
7 cities
18 schools
574 poet-athletes

CORE PROGRAM
3rd–5th Grades
14 cities
124 schools
4,133 poet-athletes

MIDDLE SCHOOL
6th–8th Grades
7 cities
30 schools
1,399 poet-athletes

ACTIVE ALUMNI
9th+ Grades
8 cities
215 poet-athletes

+8,397 additional poet-athletes participate in summer/winter and partner programming
AEROBIC CAPACITY

Impact

The Progressive Aerobic Cardiovascular Endurance Run (PACER) test measures a student’s maximum ability to complete a 15 or 20 meter distance in a decreasing amount of time, providing an important measure of aerobic capacity. The results below show improvements on the test from students scored before and after participating in the America SCORES program.

LOS ANGELES
67% increase

NEW ENGLAND
89% increase

NEW YORK
70% increase

WASHINGTON DC
83% increase
Poet-Athlete

I am a pop star
I am grounded, because I am bossy
I am mama gaga with my insides out
I am a guitar tune
I am chop chop
I am poetry, as P.O.E.T.R.Y
I am SOCCER
Coaches, referees, the fans
Forward, midfield, goalie
I am SOCCER
Kicking, running, jumping
Team, goal, win, cheers
I am a poet-athlete!
THANK YOU AMERICA SCORES!

Anahi, Age 11
Dallas
Amidst an eventful National Poetry SLAM weekend, more than 30 SCORES staff and coaches from all 14 SCORES programs convened in New York for SCORESCon 2016.

Although SCORES has hosted annual program retreats in the past, SCORESCon 2016 commemorated the 10th Annual SLAM! by bringing together executive directors and program staff alike for three days of best practice sharing, professional development, and, of course, an opportunity to see their poet-athletes in action.

“My favorite moment was meeting program staff from other sites. It was great networking with them and hearing the different ways SCORES helps kids achieve success,” says Susie Bakajic of Canada SCORES Vancouver.

Hosted in the beautiful conference space of Société Générale on Park Avenue, SCORES staff participated in a series of sessions on training, technology, fundraising, coach safety, and communications.

“I learned a lot from the communications training. It was helpful to know what’s realistically feasible to accomplish based on available resources,” says Debi Pence-Meyenberg, Executive Director of America SCORES Cleveland.
Other sessions included a presentation on "Fun Maps" from The George Washington University researchers, the unveiling of the new America SCORES Power of Poetry curriculum, and roundtable discussions with middle school after-school program One Hen and long-time music partner ASCAP on opportunities to collaborate.

“It is inspiring to see the way our unique program is able to flourish in the different landscapes, challenges, and opportunities that every city presents. I love to meet people who so far away are seeing the same impact we experience each day,” said Brian Bullington, then Executive Director of America SCORES Chicago.

Arguably the most exciting part of SCORESCon was a surprise visit from America SCORES founder Julie Kennedy. She gave an inspiring address about the process of founding and expanding SCORES and the challenges and friendships she encountered along the way.

“The work America SCORES is doing is fundamental to the health of our society, said Kennedy.”

Of course, the three days weren’t confined to a classroom for staff. Other activities, like a photo scavenger hunt around Manhattan and an East vs. West soccer game, gave staff the opportunity to have fun and stretch their legs.

Special thanks to Société Générale, Football for Hope, Soccer.com, and an anonymous donor for making SCORESCon possible and giving hardworking SCORES staff the opportunity to connect, reflect, and be inspired by the program and each other.

Concludes Bullington, “It always amazes me how much more insight gets shared between a group of smart people in two hours than in hours of webinars and months of emails.”
In 2005, Lupe was an elementary student growing up in an under-resourced neighborhood of Milwaukee where many schools failed to meet state standards and few positive activities were available for children during the high-risk after school hours.

Lupe and her twin sister participated in the SCORES program for 3 years at Riley Elementary. Her dedication and willingness to help was easily noticed and, for multiple years, she was selected by her coaches to be the Teamwork patch winner. Additionally, Lupe and her sister were nominated to the Julie Foudy Leadership Summer camp in 2008.

Lupe’s positive connection to her SCORES peers carried forward to life beyond elementary school. An excellent student, she attended one of the state’s premier private high schools and remained active playing soccer there. To this day, she still plays with several of her original teammates.

Fast forward a couple years, and Lupe is now a student at Marquette University pursuing an education degree. What once appeared to be out of reach is now her daily reality. Armed with such experiences, Lupe recently reached out to SCORES to ask how she could re-engage with the program.
Today, Lupe is a soccer coach leading a team of girls at the very school she attended as an elementary student.

Her positive attitude and ability to relate to her team with first-hand knowledge of life in under-resourced and under-served communities is invaluable and will undoubtedly inspire young girls to live to their full potential.

After her first season as a coach, she commented, “I absolutely loved being a coach at Riley! It is definitely a very fulfilling job, and what better way than to combine both of my passions for education and soccer?”

“I cannot thank you enough for everything you’ve done for me (and my family). As a participant many years ago, I learned so much from SCORES. Now, I have the opportunity to share what I learned with others and give back to my community.”

Lupe
America SCORES Milwaukee
America SCORES LA has been at Charnock Elementary for over a decade, enough time for parents of high school graduates to recall when their kids were in the program. Those who know the program know their kids have learned leadership, commitment, and teamwork from SCORES.

Such values can only be taught by coaches who embody them. At Charnock, these tenets are personified by site coordinator Oscar Gonzalez. Beyond being a good person, Oscar is good in a way that children understand. Not only is he honest, fair, and forgiving, but he leaves no doubt to his kids that he will teach and protect them as long as they are under his care. With him at the helm, the Charnock ship sails without worry.

The students who participate in the Charnock program remain enthusiastic champions of LA SCORES and are among the first to sign up for our middle school program, participate in our alumni events, and volunteer. When asked why they come back, they all say the same thing: “we had so much fun when we were kids; we want to help those that come after us.”

As a result, the program has been flooded with potential coaches who not only know the philosophy of the program but have lived it firsthand. Seeing them succeed in their transition from participant to coach shows Charnock Elementary School’s success as a program.
PROFILE

Coach Stephan

CHICAGO

Born and raised on the west side of Chicago, Stephan is a former poet-athlete who now coaches a SCORES team in the neighborhood he grew up in. Initially more interested in poetry, the program helped him discover his passion for soccer.

“When I played basketball in the neighborhood, I would put the ball on the ground and kick it like a soccer ball, so soccer was a natural fit for me, said Stephan.”

His coaches in the program had a profound impact on his childhood, from creating a positive place for him to belong to helping him develop as a leader. They steered him away from negative influences and encouraged him to have the confidence to be a leader in the community. Perhaps most importantly, they gave him role models to look up to.

“Not having a father at home, my coaches were the men that I looked up to in my life. Thinking about my role now as a coach, I recognize how important those interactions with a positive role model can be.”

When Stephan first reached out to SCORES to get involved, he was only looking to volunteer. However, when SCORES staff encouraged him to consider coaching, he accepted and now is thinking about a future career working with youth. The kids look up to him as someone who’s been in their position and he, in turn, is growing from the experience of mentoring youth, learning patience, energy, and reflection.

“If I can make a real difference in their lives, the way that my SCORES coaches did for me, then that is the path forward that I want to take.”

Coach Stephan
3rd-5th Grade Hughes Boys
Chicago
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A new addition to the board this year, Cy is the Senior Vice President for Economics and Housing Programs at the National Urban League (NUL). Prior to joining NUL in 2002, he worked in various positions in New York City government including as a researcher with the New York City Council, with the New York State Legislature on economic policy issues, and as a Land Use Planner for the Brooklyn Borough President. He also conducts basic and applied research broadly related to building wealth in communities of color. In addition to multiple advanced degrees, Cy was a four-year starter and captain of the nationally ranked University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill baseball team during his undergraduate time.

Since joining the board, Cy has been focused on learning the ins and outs of the program and the strengths and accomplishments of the various affiliates. As an executive at a similarly national non-profit organization, he has been essential to assisting in the important governance challenges of supporting our network of sites linked by an innovative program design. Attending the 2016 National Poetry SLAM! marks his first program experience, one he describes as unforgettable.

Says Cy of the program’s value to the community, “I believe America SCORES is fundamentally important as a vehicle to boost self-confidence, improve self-coaching ability, problem solving skills, and an increased ability and desire to lead!”
Support soccer, poetry, and community service!

Thank you!

AMERICA SCORES 2016 Annual Report
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Boxed  Constant Contact - National  Hunt4Soccer - National  The Sports Shed

CLEVELAND

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The Cleveland Foundation  Fairmount Santrol Foundation  United Way of Greater Cleveland

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Captains


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In Kind

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League of Champions

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2016 Annual Report
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Thank you!

America SCORES has proudly partnered with mobile shopping retailer Boxed this year to support youth athletes around the country. The partnership began at the 10th Annual National Poetry SLAM!, where Boxed CEO Chieh Huang was honored with the inaugural America SCORES Commitment Award for his pledge to pay college tuition for the children of Boxed employees.

Together, America SCORES and Boxed will continue to find innovative ways to support a shared belief in after school programming.

“America SCORES continues to inspire and lead the way with their innovative programs — programs that I wish we had access to when I was growing up.”

Chieh Huang
CEO, Boxed

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America SCORES has proudly partnered with mobile shopping retailer Boxed this year to support youth athletes around the country. The partnership began at the 10th Annual National Poetry SLAM!, where Boxed CEO Chieh Huang was honored with the inaugural America SCORES Commitment Award for his pledge to pay college tuition for the children of Boxed employees.

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“America SCORES continues to inspire and lead the way with their innovative programs — programs that I wish we had access to when I was growing up.”

Chieh Huang
CEO, Boxed

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support</th>
<th>FY2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>Corporation and foundation contributions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual contributions</td>
<td>100,761</td>
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<td>Donations in-kind</td>
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<td>Government contracts</td>
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<td>Contract income</td>
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<th>Expenses</th>
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<td>Program services:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting services:</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>General and administrative</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total supporting expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$223,258</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$740,306</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ (65,184)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>FY2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$ 23,768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and contributions receivable</td>
<td>28,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses and other assets</td>
<td>2,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 54,288</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>$ 22,854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 22,854</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>$ 31,434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 31,434</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 54,288</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SUPPORT

- Corporation and foundation, 33%
- In-kind, 18%
- Individuals, 15%
- Special events, 11%
- Registration Fees, 1%
- Affiliate Fees, 13%
- Government, 9%

EXPENSES

- Program services, 70%
- Fundraising, 14%
- General and admin, 16%