

MEN 2 BE INC.

Impact Report

July 2025 to June 2026

Everything we do comes back to six words.

Wisdom · Delivery · Respect
Integrity · Honesty · Responsibility

Hopkinsville, Kentucky

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

Eighty three young men. Five days a week.

Our mission is to empower young males with the tools they need to reach their full academic, social, and personal potential through impactful mentorship. This year the program grew in every direction that matters: more young men, more days, more hours, and more ways out.

83 YOUNG MEN ENROLLED	7 to 18 AGES SERVED	5 DAYS A WEEK	75% ZERO REFERRALS
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WHAT A WEEK LOOKS LIKE

Three days became five.

The goal was always to increase both availability and scale. This year we did both. Programming no longer ends when the school year ends, and mentors moved from stipends toward paid, consistent positions.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Life Skills and Mentorship	Tools in a Toolbox	Workforce Development and Training NEW	Men 2 Be Academy, one on one tutoring	Recreation Day NEW

GROWTH

Weekly enrollment grew by roughly 60 percent in a single year.

2023 to 2024	52 young men
2025 to 2026	83 young men

What changed: three days a week became five. Programming stopped ending when the school year ended. Mentors moved from stipends toward paid, consistent positions. Availability and scale grew at the same time.

BEHAVIOR AND BELONGING

Three out of four carried zero referrals, every single term.

Across all four nine week terms, between 72 and 78 percent of our young men held zero behavior referrals. Seventy five percent finished the full year clean.

The number that actually moved

Total referrals stayed roughly flat across the year, at 39, 43, 40, and 43 by term, while enrollment grew by 60 percent. That means referrals per young man fell.

The bigger story is concentration. The group generating the highest number of referrals narrowed from three students in the fall to one by June. The young men struggling in September were not the same young men struggling in June.

Positive expectations, relationships, and consistent adults are working.

A DOOR OUT

Three young men. All three still here.

Men 2 Be now serves as a diversion option for young men referred out of the juvenile justice system. Instead of moving deeper into court involvement, a young man is placed into structure: five days a week, a mentor who knows his name, a trade in his hands, and adults who expect something of him.

What happened to the three

Diversion is not yet a volume program at Men 2 Be, and we are not going to pretend otherwise. Last year three young men came to us through the court.

One completed his requirements and chose to stay in the program. One is still working his. One has struggled with behavior outside our walls, and the court has allowed him to keep coming, so he keeps coming.

Every young man referred to Men 2 Be last year is still connected to this program today. In diversion work that is the first number that matters. A young man who is still showing up is a young man who has not been lost.

How a young man arrives

Referrals come through court designated workers, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and school administrators who would rather send a young man to us than to a hearing.

Why it works here

Kentucky reformed its juvenile code in 2014 to divert more children away from the courts, and the reform worked. What the Commonwealth never built was the other half: somewhere for those children to go. State policy analysis has found there have never been enough community programs for the children who could benefit from them, especially in rural counties, and that many programs operating before the pandemic have closed, changed missions, or stopped accepting system involved youth.

Kentucky's diversion reforms work only when there is somewhere real to send a young man. In rural counties, that somewhere often does not exist. In Hopkinsville, it does.

WHY THIS PROGRAM MATTERS

And they come back

One young man completed his diversion requirements through Men 2 Be while he was a senior in high school. He now returns as a volunteer, including at events connected to the same court that referred him. He arrived as a case. He returns as a mentor.

“This program empowers participants through comprehensive mentoring and life skills training, allowing them to make positive choices and develop into responsible individuals. The impact of Men 2 Be on our local community is profound, with many young men demonstrating increased engagement in their education and improved behavior as a result of their involvement in the program.”

The need for such a program is vital, as it plays an essential role in guiding these young men toward successful futures.”

- Ms. Allison Osborne, Juvenile Services Clinician, KY Department of Juvenile Justice

FROM EXPERIMENT TO PROGRAM

We tried workforce enrichment. It worked. So we built it into the week.

Workforce Wednesdays

Every Wednesday during the school year, participants engage in career and workforce enrichment through a rotating curriculum. Some sessions are led directly by mentors, while others bring in vendors and community volunteers who provide hands on learning experiences that expose youth to a range of career pathways.

The Summer Trades Cohort

A twelve week summer cohort with Temperature Control Institute for high school participants. Hands on labs in HVAC and basic electrical, safety instruction, employer panels, and preparation for industry recognized credentials. Transportation, protective equipment, meals, and stipends are covered so no young man is priced out.

The proof of concept

The Bentley Street home turned demolition, drywall, and job site safety into a classroom.

Twenty six young men worked Saturdays. Fifty two participated in weekly sessions. Proceeds from the sale go toward the Attucks roof.

Credential pathways available to participants: OSHA 10, HVAC, Electrical, and Welding.

WHAT IT COSTS

The arithmetic of showing up.

Kentucky budgets roughly \$8,667 per placement for its Alternative to Detention program, the state’s own answer to keeping a child out of a locked facility. A bed in one of Kentucky’s secure juvenile facilities ran \$87,000 a year when the Commonwealth last studied it in 2013, and that number has only climbed since.

\$_____ PER YOUNG MAN AT MEN 2 BE	\$8,667 PER KY ALTERNATIVE TO DETENTION PLACEMENT	\$87,000 PER SECURE FACILITY BED, 2013
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That figure covers five days a week of programming, transportation, meals, mentors who are paid to show up consistently, and a pathway to an industry credential. It is not a discount version of the alternative. For most of our young men, it is the only thing standing between them and the alternative.

Every dollar invested here is a dollar the Commonwealth does not spend later, and a young man who does not have to be recovered from a system that was never built to raise him.

Alternative to Detention figure calculated from the 2024 to 2026 Budget of the Commonwealth. Secure facility bed cost from the Report of the 2013 Task Force on the Unified Juvenile Code, Legislative Research Commission. Both as cited in Kentucky Center for Economic Policy, Children in the Balance, January 2025.

FILL IN BEFORE PRINTING

Replace the blank above with total program spend for the year divided by 83. Use the FULL program cost including staff. Do not subtract staff costs: every detention figure here is fully loaded with staffing, so removing your people makes the comparison invalid and makes the program look implausibly cheap.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Unforgettable experiences.

Camping trips. College campuses. Race cars and construction sites. State capitol visits and championship courts. Our young men saw parts of the world that had never been offered to them, and they saw them in a tuxedo, in a hard hat, and in a group of brothers who went together.

FUNDERS ARE PAYING ATTENTION

What community trust looks like on paper.

State funders are investing in a program that started in our town, with our families, led by people who live here. That reflects on all of Hopkinsville, not just on Men 2 Be. When one organization here proves it can deliver, the next application from our county gets read differently.

FUNDER	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission	Five days a week expansion and summer trades cohorts	\$401,000
Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, KY SIX	Program support	\$100,000
Kentucky DJJ Title II Formula Grant	Program year	\$96,000
City of Hopkinsville, Hoptown Helps	Trades training cohort	\$26,000
Kentucky African American Heritage Commission	Attucks interpretive signage and youth tours	\$8,000
Siemer Milling Company	Program year	\$6,500
Altria Give Together	Trades training cohort materials	\$6,000
Hopkinsville Rotary Club	Program support	\$5,000
National Trust Preservation Fund	Attucks community visioning sessions	\$5,000
Kentucky Heritage Council	Historic preservation tax credits, Attucks	\$5,000
TOTAL AWARDED		\$658,500

THE ATTUCKS DREAM

A legacy reimagined.

Attucks High School now stands ready to nurture young minds and inspire a new generation in Hopkinsville.

1916	Built as Christian County’s first public school for Black students.
1988	Closed.
2024	Gifted to Men 2 Be in February for one dollar.
Today	On the National Register of Historic Places, and on its way to becoming a permanent home.

STAND WITH US

Grant funding pays for programming. It does not pay for a roof.

Your support is what lets us keep providing mentorship, resources, and opportunity for our young men. Grants have ceilings. The next chapter runs on community investment.

MENTOR	SPONSOR	VOLUNTEER	REFER
Show up on a Tuesday. Consistency is the whole program.	Fund a young man, a credential, or a piece of the Attucks roof.	Support a camping trip, a college visit, or a job site day.	Send us a young man who needs somewhere to be.

We thank you.

Hopkinsville is stronger when we all show up.

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