

# MOTHERS IN CHARGE



## OUR MISSION

Mothers In Charge is a violence prevention, education, and intervention-based organization that advocates and supports youth, young adults, families, and community organizations affected by violence.

## OUR VISION

Mothers In Charge envisions nonviolent communities that are healthy, educated, and with full access to benefits and resources for a safe nation.



*Mothers In Charge approaches violence prevention from a holistic perspective because we know violence is a complicated, multi-faceted response to life's circumstances. Our goal is to arm our community with the tools and resources necessary to have successful lives, within and out of their communities. As an organization, we listen to what is needed and then try to address those needs so that Philadelphia is a safe place to live, work, and raise a family.*

*~Michelle Kerr-Spry, Director of Programs*

## OUR APPROACH

We're here to stand by youth, young adults, families, and community organizations impacted by violence, by healing those affected by violence with **PIE**.



**Prevention**



**Intervention**



**Education**

## Healing Through Art: Empowering Youth with the Artivism Project

### The Artivism Project

With an increase in violence in communities of color, Mothers In Charge has teamed up with KABOD Consulting and Pyroglyphics Studios to develop an interactive, art-based, community-centered curriculum geared toward the healing of young people and the communities that support them. By combining art and trauma awareness, the Artivism project is a way for youth to take their personal stories, stretch their imaginations, and reshape their reality to inspire others. Artivism was designed to elicit change through art; specifically, change in perspective and thus character. Marginalized youth must have access to interactive, culturally appropriate healing spaces that prioritize their wholeness and well-being. The 6-week art-based, trauma-informed, awareness and healing-centered project for youth that uses art, trauma-informed training, anger/grief management strategies, storytelling, and creative writing to usher in new perspectives.

## WHO WE SERVE

The Artivism Program aims to serve 100 youth ages 13-18 during the second Community Expansion Grant (CEG) cycle. Students use professional art supplies and learn basic drawing and comic book creation techniques. Participants render their own unique comic book characters upon completion of the project and be inducted into a league of justice called the "Protectorate" to continue networking and using their powers (trauma awareness, communication) for good. Each participant earns a \$100 stipend upon completion of the project.



## PROGRAM COMPONENTS

The 6-week program explores:



**Nu Perspectives:** Exploring trauma & how it shapes character.



**Nu Frontiers:** Learning the impact of systemic oppression on language.



**Nu Decisions:** Identifying trauma responses & how to tap into alternative responses.



**Nu Abilities:** Discovering coping mechanisms & ways to activate self-regulation.



**Nu Universe:** Discussing environments & behaviors in our past and future.



**Nu You:** Students partake in a character reveal, in a communal celebration.

## IMPACT SNAPSHOT

**78** participants found the program to be helpful when regulating self, specifically stress.

**77** participants felt motivated to set or complete set goals post-program completion.

**82** participants experienced an improvement in social cohesion, belonging, and orientation toward the common good.

**Artivism in Action:** *After completing six successful cohorts at , we've earned the respect and admiration of both staff and students. Staff members have praised our work, sharing that the students truly value the message we bring. They enjoy the process and are eager to have us teach Artivism in other units. It's not uncommon for students to forgo gym time, outdoor activities, or even snacks just to be in our class. Sometimes, we're met with applause as we enter—proof that our efforts are deeply appreciated. We love what we do, and it's clear that the students feel the same way.*

## GET INVOLVED

Getting involved with us is crucial to strengthening our support for young people who need consistent, meaningful guidance. With frequent interruptions to their learning due to court dates, releases, and placements, it's important to deepen partnerships that can bridge these gaps and help us follow up with students post-release. By engaging parents and expanding our collaborations, we can ensure lasting, positive impact on both the students and their communities. Please visit our website for volunteer and donation opportunities.

**Mothers In Charge**



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