

@ Brother's Bond



www.B4Linc.org

BROTHERS FOR LIFE, INC.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Upcoming Fund-raising events.
- College information
- Donation Opportunities
- Scholarship Information
- Member Spotlight

ONE JOURNEY, DIFFERENT PATHS

Filled with the anticipation of what is yet to come, strengthened by the missteps of the past and yet overjoyed with the blessings of the triumphs already realized; we begin to tell the story of 19 men and their common journey, but very different paths.

We the Brothers For Life Organization was founded on the 19th Day of December, in the nineteen hundredth and ninety-third year of our Lord. The founders were David Allen Bell, Reginald Arthur Rieder and Kevin DeShaun Hollis.

What started off as a boyhood clique has transitioned into an organization comprised of educated men determined to give back to the system which

birthed the greatness that we are destined to achieve. The very same system in which society has deemed inadequate, and only capable of



Sexton H.S. Prom Picture
May 2000

producing men who subsist and ultimately only exacerbate the diminishing quality of life in America. The system we speak of is that of the Public School System.

Kevin, Regie, David, Andre Tyus, Anthony Tyus, Robert Hollis IV, Calvin Donald, Richard Carter, Alvin Mask, Jameel Cooper, Marcus Jackson, Dominick Brown, Greg Green, Jon Green, Carl Hargrove, Larry Moon, CJ Quinney, and Tyrone Walker make up 18 of the members of our organization and our proud graduates of J.W. Sexton H.S. class of 2000 and 2001. Kelly Butler our 19th member started his high school career at Sexton but moved to Grand Rapids where he graduated from Grand Rapids Union High School.

It was athletics, (football in particular) that brought us together and provided the motivation for us to overcome the societal hurdles that stood

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ROBERT D. HOLLIS V MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

We would like to recognize Crystal Stanley as our first Robert D. Hollis V Memorial Scholarship Recipient. Crystal received this first year award because of her hard work and dedication throughout her high school tenure at J.W. Sexton High school.

She graduated a honors student with a G.P.A. of 3.2 in the spring of 2006. While taking care of her academic responsibilities she also participated on the "Big Red" track team. Crystal ran the 100m Hurdles and finished sixth in the state championships.

As the recipient of this award Crystal received a new Dell Notebook. We hope she will put the computer to good use as she starts her first year in her pursuit of a Bachelors of Science degree in Physical Therapy. Crystal has chosen

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MARY CARTER GOLF TOURNAMENT

There are two events the "Brothers For Life" is currently working on to continue to give back to the community. One of these events is the Mary Carter Golf Tournament. This event is really close to the heart of all of our members.

This golf tournament was developed in the memory of Mary Carter, the mother of Brother Richard Carter. Mary Carter was an active member

of the community for many years as she devoted countless hours of her life to Boy Scouts of America and various other community centered activities. She was a dedicated teacher in the Lansing area for over 25 years where she taught English and served as a mentor to many young men and women. Mrs. Carter also supported and encouraged the use of sports to invoke

discipline and pride in today's youth. Mary Carter passed away in 2004 after a long courageous battle with cancer of the lungs. In her remembrance, we are establishing The Mary Carter Golf Tournament to help others in their fight against Cancer and to promote financial stability in inner-city athletics. Proceeds will benefit The American Cancer Society, and the BFL organization.



Please visit our website for updates on this event.



THE JOURNEY

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

"You don't have to be at the "Top" to reach down and pull someone else up"

before us. It was the way everyone's parents looked out for all of us equally. This coupled with the athletics and our education that allow us to pursue our dreams. The pursuit of these dreams lead us to colleges like Tenn. State, Purdue, Central Mich., Western Mich., N. Iowa, Mich. State, and Wayne State. We now have in our midst an engineer, a med student, a professional football

player, 2 youth advocates, a professional entertainer, and a host of good fathers and better men. The moral of this story is not that we have already achieved success but that we are all working towards it.

Our collective journeys have seen many set backs and bumps along our individual paths, but everyday we continue to encourage each other to press on. To never give in or

give up and to remember that we didn't get this far on our own. It is because of this belief that we feel you don't have to be at the "Top" to be able to reach down and pull someone else up. The Brothers For Life Org. is dedicated to helping others achieve their dreams as we continue to live ours.



B.F.L. SCHOLARSHIP

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

To continue her education at Central Michigan University.

The Robert Hollis V Memorial Scholarship was established in memory of "Robbie". Robbie was the son of Brother Robert D. Hollis IV and nephew of founder Kevin Hollis. Robbie died in a

tragic accident at the early age of 3 years old in 2004. Even though he didn't have the chance to grow into the great man he would have been, we will never forget his free spirit and love for life. In remembrance of him, it is our attempt to recognize young individuals who have the

motivation to continue their education past high school.

In our first year of presenting this award, we were disheartened by the number of applicants and hope there is better turnout in the 2007 graduate class. Please visit our website for more information on this year's scholarship.



Scholarship Recipient Crystal Stanley & President Kevin Hollis



UNIVERSITY BLOCK: IS THIS COLLEGE FOR ME?

In every issue of "A Brother's Bond" there will be a section titled "University Block" Brothers For Life will attempt to educate our readers of their post high school options.

Future articles will range from "How to get into the school of your choice" -to-"How to maneuver around the pitfalls that many college students experience". We will also highlight both local and non-local colleges in this section.

Our first article we will discuss; Things to consider when deciding on the perfect college for you.

◆ What subject should I major in?

Although most colleges don't require you to declare a major until after your sophomore year, it is a good idea to at least think about what majors may interests you. This will help narrow your search. Hint: Make sure the major you want is offered and accredited before making your college choice.

◆ How much will it cost?

Cost is often the biggest deterrent for individuals wishing to continue their education. Money should never be the reason for not

going to school. There is money out there, you just have to find it. Some helpful hints to financing college are listed below:

- ◆ Start early, keep your G.P.A. up, this will make you eligible for more scholarships.
- ◆ Get involved with extra-curricular activities while in high school, colleges like to see a well rounded student.
- ◆ Visit your guidance counselor your freshmen year and start planning for college. Your counselor can give you information on scholarships and loans which are available out there.



"Help Us, Help Our Youth. We Need Your Support."

REMINDER BANDS

The second project we are currently working on are reminder bands. These rubber bands have our motto "Strength and Honor Lies Within" engraved on them.

We Brothers For Life Inc. have incorporated the use of reminder bands to generate a positive message and promote awareness of our organization.

Donations received in exchange for the reminder bands will place B.F.L. in a better position to assist today's youth. The proceeds will directly affect the success of the Robert. D. Hollis V Memorial Scholarship and various other community projects such as the Mary Carter Golf Tournament.

You can obtain your collection of reminder bands now, for \$2 each band. Help us, help our youth. We need your support.



B.F.L. MEMBER SPOTLIGHT REGINALD RIEDER

This issue's member spotlight falls on one of our founders, Reginald Rieder. Regie is a twenty-five year old Lansing native. He graduated from J.W. Sexton H.S. and obtained Bachelors degree from Northwood University in Business Administration.

Regie currently works for the Dart Container Corporation in

the Ink Production department. Regie's proudest moment was on October 21st of 2006 when he married his high school sweetheart Jacki Norris. Regie and Jacki had been together since their sophomore year of high school, over eight years ago. In fact as Regie's dad will tell it they have been destined to live out their lives together

since Regie first laid eyes on Jacki in kindergarten.

On behalf of Brothers For Life Inc., we would like to congratulate Regie and Jacki. The best of luck you both and may everything you do be blessed.



Regie and Jacki Rieder's October 21st, 2006 wedding.



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"STRENGTH AND HONOR LIES WITHIN"

OUR MISSION

The mission of Brothers For Life Inc. is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling proper values and promoting goal-oriented habits. Brothers For Life Inc. will provide guidance to ensure character development and value-based leadership throughout all facets of the community. We will train young people in citizenship, service, and leadership by serving America's communities and families with our uncompromising message of brotherhood.

Kevin D. Hollis—President

Andre K. Tyus— Vice President

Carlas Quinney—Secretary

Regie Rieder—Treasury

TIME TO TAKE ACTION

All of us must find a way to make a deposit into the youth of today. There is an urgency for dedicated men and women willing to take a stand for our children. You do not have to be a lawyer, a doctor, or even have a degree to give back. Our community needs volunteers, people who will give their time not just their money. These people only need to be aware of situations that impact our streets. They only need to be concerned about the future of our civilization.

Do not take our word for it. Read some of the stats listed below for the graduating class of 2006 as reported by The Michigan Department of Education:

- ◆ Only 58% of students in the Lansing Public School District meet or exceeded the standards on the MEAP Test for Reading. This is down from 72% in 2005 and down from 74% in 2004.
- ◆ Only 39% of students meet or exceeded the standards in Science and only 35% in Writing, down from 50% in 2005
- ◆ Math is also down to 35% and has dropped every year since 2003.
- ◆ It is not just the Lansing School District that's in trouble, the state of MI average is almost just as bad. Reading—70%, Science—57%, Writing—55% and Math—52%
- ◆ If the test scores aren't enough to motivate you what about the economic level for this District. 63% of students in the Lansing School District qualify for reduced or free lunches.

We do not believe that our students are not smart enough to succeed, just that they need to be motivated to succeed. We must provide our students with motivation to want more than what is laid out in front of them. Motivation may be in the form of sports, theater, or just a positive role model that can articulate the opportunities that are available to each and every student. **TAKE ACTION NOW AND GIVE BACK TO OUR STUDENTS.**

