



Ty Brown now dares to dream.

# WINGS

life story

Teaching kids how to live. Joyfully. Powerfully. Responsibly. For life.



FOSTERING SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING IN YOUTH PROGRAMS **WINGS for kids®**

# daring to dream



*Daquan "Ty" Brown today, at the  
Military Magnet Academy*

Daquan "Ty" Brown now dares to dream.

His eyes shine with excitement when he talks of attending college, playing basketball, maybe building houses or caring for animals someday.

Known as "Ty" to his friends, he's considered a leader who is both cool and kind. He works hard on his homework for the Military Magnet Academy, peacefully resolves his disputes on the basketball court and treats adults with respect.

Yet his life seemed headed in a very different direction just a few years ago.

"He was a little thug," says NaKeisha Jones, program director of the WINGS Leadership Academy.

Daquan continually disrupted class. He would clown, curse, trip other kids and defy his teachers. He neglected his homework. Fistfights were routine. Once he climbed onto the roof at school and threw rocks from above.

Arriving at the WINGS program as a third-grader, he flagrantly disobeyed the rules. Sent to a cool-off chair in the Peace Place the first day, instead of sitting in it, he stood drop-kicking the chair against the wall for fun. More than once he had to be physically restrained to keep from hurting someone.

His aggression was not confined to classmates.

He took a swing at Ms. Jones, knocked her against a cabinet and broke the watch she was wearing.

"I was mean back then," says Daquan, who is now 13. "I didn't treat her like a responsible young man."

The story of how Daquan Brown shed his self-destructive ways to become a responsible young man with a promising future shows just how much social and emotional learning can transform the lives of children.

Through the WINGS program, Daquan found a safe place and caring adults offering an alternative to the dangers of street life. He got help for reading difficulties holding him back. And he acquired the tools to develop social skills to cope with the difficulties in his life that so many youth face.

"I put a lot on him at a young age," says his mother, Eisha Brown. "I didn't have patience for his homework. I wasn't giving him that much attention. I wasn't very involved with him. That was a turning point."

Now 29, Ms. Brown was only 16 years old when Daquan was born. The teenager struggled to stay in school, care for her baby and work at McDonald's to help pay the bills. But when a second boy was born in her senior year, she reluctantly dropped out.

"I loved learning. It was so hard to leave," she says. "It was a shame thing—to mess up once, but then get pregnant and mess up again."

Her anger, like her burdens, grew. While Ms. Brown worked long hours managing a sandwich shop at the hospital, she could not always give Daquan the care he needed. He was close to his father, who was working hard as a longshoreman and trying to leave behind a past that included jail time.

Then when the boy was 7, Daquan's father vanished, and police said he was assumed dead.

The mounting troubles coincided with Daquan's difficulties in school.

"Daquan fought all the time. He had aggressiveness," Ms. Brown says. "It seemed like no one could say anything to him. He was using profane language. He was late to school all the time."

Full of rage, Daquan lashed out with his fists. "I used to get in fights if kids would run down my family. They would make fun of how you read or do your work," he recalls.



*Ty at around seven years of age.*

“ WINGS had high expectations for him. He tested their boundaries to see if they meant it, and they showed him. ”



*Basketball on the Battery*

“ He was a little thug.  
Now, he helps  
the other kids.  
He helps me.  
Now, he sees what  
strength  
really is. ”

For a time, he was ejected from the WINGS program for refusing to abide by the rules that keep kids safe. But WINGS leaders never gave up on Daquan, and made it clear to him what he had to do to return. They noticed that the cocky boy so disdainful of their authority was often turning up on the periphery of WINGS activities. And he earned his way back into the program.

It's no mystery to Eisha Brown why Daquan went back. "WINGS had high expectations for him. He tested their boundaries to see if they meant it, and they showed him," she says.

"I was so proud of him that he could change his attitude. It was amazing!" says WINGS leader Virgil Smith. "He was definitely headed for big trouble. He's grown into a bright young man who's got such a mature spirit."

Learning to manage his emotions made a big difference in Daquan's behavior. Getting the emotional support to admit his reading weakness allowed him to get remedial help and to overcome a sense of inadequacy that prompted the constant fights and need to swagger.

Many of the behavior problems kids have stem from lack of success in the classroom, believes WINGS founder Ginny Deerin. She finds that giving them the tools to understand their emotions and strengthen the way they relate to others inevitably results in heightened academic achievement.

"This is why we say that WINGS gives kids the missing piece in their education," Ms. Deerin says. "Building these social and emotional skills transforms everything they do."

The WINGS leader whom Daquan once intimidated now beams with pride over his accomplishments, including an award from his teachers last year for the most-improved student in the 6th grade.

"He's like a totally different kid," Ms. Jones says. "He realizes everybody has strengths and weaknesses. He's got a lot to work on, but he's not trying to impress anybody anymore. He's not afraid he will look dumb when he asks questions. He helps the other kids. He helps me. Now, he sees what strength really is."

Daquan speaks with quiet confidence of the progress he's made. When something frustrates him in class or during basketball, he relies on the skills WINGS taught him. And the carefully trained college students who lead WINGS provide powerful role models.

"I look up to the WINGS leaders a lot," he says. "Keisha is always there, when we're hurt or something's wrong. If you need help, you can get help."

Recently Daquan's mother called Jones when he did not arrive at home on time. Together they worked the phones, calling and searching until locating him. Daquan says Ms. Jones would not have given up until he was found.

Ms. Brown says the WINGS leaders are "guarding him for me," and she considers them part of her family.

"I wish a lot more children could have the WINGS experience. We would not have so much crime and problems with teenagers if they did. The kids would see that the streets don't have as much to offer," she says. "If kids are lost, WINGS helps them to find themselves. That's how I feel about WINGS."

—Paula Schwed



*Ty and his mother today.*

“ If kids are lost,  
WINGS helps them  
to find themselves.  
That's how I feel  
about WINGS.

”  
life story  
with  
WINGS



# emotional intelligence

heart-smart skills

self-awareness

managing emotions

motivating oneself

empathy

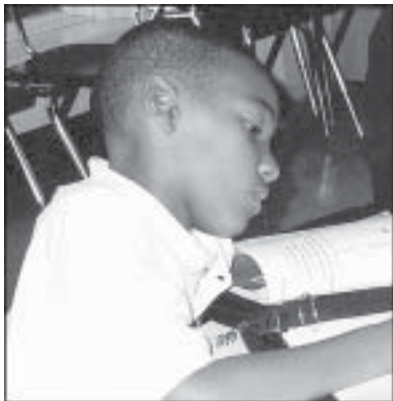
handling relationships



Great emphasis is placed on educating young minds while little is placed on educating young hearts.

To be successful in life people need well-developed academic and emotional intelligence.

Emotional intelligence helps kids achieve academically. However, demands for accountability have resulted in increased time spent on academic skill building. Time constraints make social and emotional learning (SEL) a difficult task for classroom teachers. As a result, afterschool and summer youth programs are environments ideal for fostering the development of emotional intelligence.



WINGS gives kids the missing piece in their education.

“

A person's interpersonal effectiveness largely determines the quality and the course of his or her life. The social competencies...are central to the quality of family life, educational achievement, career success, and social and emotional well-being in general.

*The National Center on Education in the Inner Cities Review*, Vol. 10, No. 6, June 2001

Today's students need to learn more than just reading, writing, and arithmetic. They need to learn life skills to successfully manage tasks, form relationships, solve everyday problems, and adapt to the demands of simply growing up.

*Educational Leadership*, March 2003

Emotional literacy programs improve children's academic achievement scores and school performance.... In a time when too many children lack the capacity to handle their upsets, to listen or focus, to rein in impulse, to feel responsible for their work or care about learning, anything that will buttress these skills will help in their education.

Daniel Goleman, Ph.D.,  
*Emotional Intelligence*

”

Today, WINGS runs two programs serving 220 elementary school-age kids. Because WINGS teaches a serious curriculum of social and emotional learning, they are required to attend from 3:00 - 5:50 daily. We also have The Leadership Academy for middle school students (*see next page for more*).

hang out time 3 hours

choice times 5 hours

academic 5 hours

WINGSworks 1 hour

wildWINGS 1 hour

15 hours a week

how WINGS does it

## choice times

- Basketball
- Football
- Kickball
- Off-Campus Sports
- Game Zone
- Swimming
- Track
- Tennis
- Dance
- Healthy Habits
- Model Mayhem
- Sums Up (*Math Club*)
- Poet's Palace
- Skin Deep (*Etiquette*)
- Gentleman's Club (*Etiquette*)
- Arts and Crafts
- Book Club
- Surf Zone (*Computer*)
- Microwave Cooking
- Wild America (*Biology*)
- Weird Science
- Music Club
- Venture Troopers
- Work It Out (*Fitness*)
- Snap Shot (*Photography*)
- Business Club
- Card Sharks
- Journalism
- Cheerleading
- Phonics Phrenzy
- Brain Teasers
- Checkers/Chess

# new at WINGS

## WINGS Leadership Academy

By popular demand from our kids and families, WINGS has created the WINGS Leadership Academy (WLA). In our pilot year, we serve 20 kids, all of them graduates of our elementary school programs.

WLA kids attend various public middle schools and our headquarters, the ground floor of an historic firehouse on upper King Street, is provided to us by the City of Charleston.

Unlike our elementary program, the WLA is a drop-in program, meaning kids can attend as they would like. Although we require a minimum of 8 hrs/week, our average attendance is 16 hrs/wk!

## WildWINGS Book



WINGS published its first book: *Wild WINGS: Activities That Foster Character Education*. The book, available at Amazon.com, includes forty fresh, fun activity plans for 1st - 6th graders.

## Summer Day Camp

WINGS successfully collaborated with the downtown Boys & Girls Club to serve up a great summer day camp for 100+ kids. Two 3-week sessions included swimming, water sports, computer club, sports, academic skill building, field trips and more.

## Bringing SEL to other youth programs

WINGS has been retained by the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Lowcountry to help them bring an intentional curriculum of SEL into their existing youth programs. Staff training was provided for full-time and part-time staff. Our work together continues.

## Recognition

WINGS has been recognized as a "Promising Practice in Afterschool" by the Academy for Educational Development (AED), Center for Youth Development and Policy Research.

WINGS is also prominently featured in a newly released book, *Bringing Yourself to Work : A Guide to Successful Staff Development in After-School Programs* by Michelle Seligson, a nationally recognized leader in child care policy and practice for 25 years.



Dan Goleman, author of the best-selling book, *Emotional Intelligence*, recognized WINGS in a December 2002 national radio interview. He said, "I think an out-of-school program makes a lot of sense..."

"Children learn all day long and they can get these lessons in any part of life where they have some regularity and they have a significant, responsible adult who can help them out.

"I do know...about the WINGS program. It's a terrific program in itself."

## 2002-2003 Evaluation

Jean Ann Linney, Ph.D., Chair, Department of Psychology, University of South Carolina has been the independent evaluator of the WINGS programs since 1996.

*Evaluation Report Highlights.* Satisfaction with the WINGS program among children and parents remains high. This is important because many programs see declines in satisfaction as the program becomes stabilized and routinized. There is solid evidence that the WINGS program had positive effects on children's report card grades. The evidence available supports the conclusion that WINGS participation was associated with improvements in report card grades across schools.

Overall, more WINGS children increased their grades, and fewer decreased their grades.

It appears that the developmental, perhaps normative changes, resulting in declines in self-esteem and increases in negative emotions can be abated by participation in WINGS.

91% of parents would give WINGS an "A" grade

92% of WINGS kids "like going to WINGS"

98% of parents think WINGS has helped their child in school

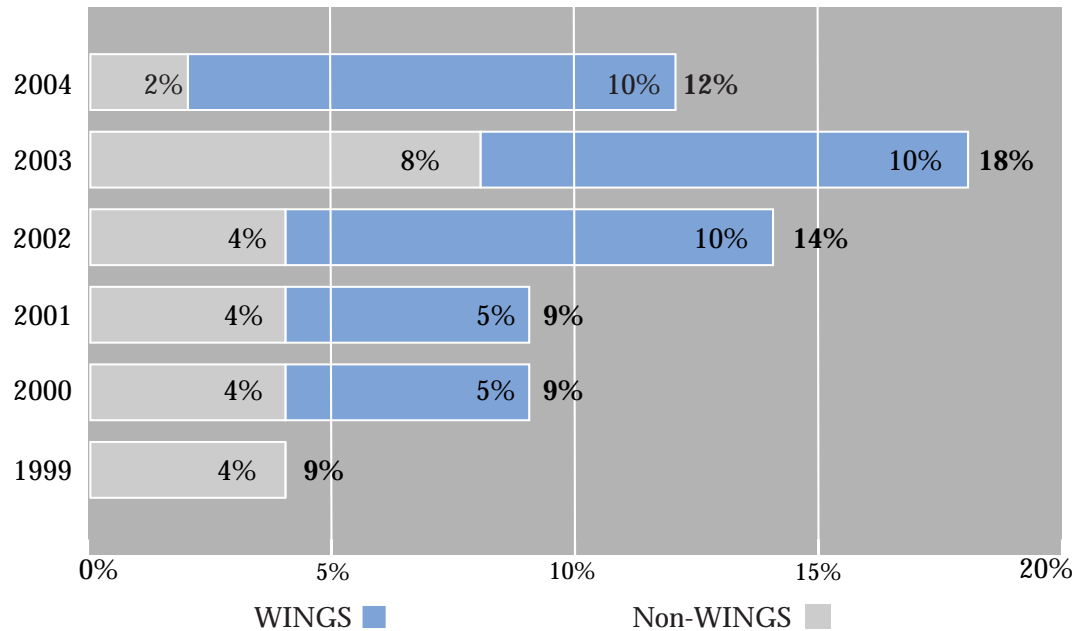
92% of WINGS parents report increases in positive outlook

# In Charleston

Most kids from low-income families don't have afterschool programs.

Take a look at the five public schools in Charleston serving the most low-income kids. Before WINGS, only 4% of these kids attended school-based afterschool programs. By 2002, with the introduction of WINGS, that percentage more than quadrupled to 18%. Unfortunately, due to cutbacks in service in non-WINGS programs, the percentage served today has dropped back to 12%. Thanks to the generous support of our contributors, WINGS is able to continue to serve more students.

Percent of Economically Poor Kids Served in Charleston



“

When the school bell rings.... violent juvenile crime suddenly triples.

9 out of 10 police chiefs said America could greatly reduce crime by expanding educational childcare programs and after-school programs. They said America will pay later in crime, welfare, and other costs, if greater investments in afterschool and educational childcare aren't made now.

*Fight Crime: Invest in Kids 2000.* Report made possible by the William T. Grant Foundation, *et al*, 1999

"Children and youth who regularly attend high-quality afterschool programs have better grades and conduct in school; more academic and enrichment opportunities; better peer relations and emotional adjustment and lower incidences of drug-use, violence and pregnancy."

U.S. Department of Education, September 2000

Afterschool programs are least available where they would do most to prevent crime and help kids get a solid start.... research shows "the vast majority of afterschool programs are funded through parent fees. The annual cost of school-age childcare programs open 3 to 4 hours a day all year ranges from \$2500 to about \$4000. As a consequence, the programs primarily serve children from middle-income families and are located in middle-class communities.

*Fight Crime: Invest in Kids 2000.* Report made possible by the William T. Grant Foundation *et al*, 1999

”

# afterschool needs met

# donors

WINGS is a lean organization and we try hard to put our money into our kids. All of the contributions are handled in-house. The following listing may include errors or omissions. We hope not—and apologize for any mistakes. Every single gift—large and small—is deeply appreciated.

## Contributions

July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003

### \$50,000+

The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation  
David and Dorothy Lewis

### \$25,000+

Rusty Bennett  
*New Morning Foundation*  
Trident United Way

### \$10,000+

Artie Crisp and Robin Crisp

### \$5,000+

*The Bakker Family Fund*  
John Bickford Foundation  
*The Blackburn Fund*  
*Fund for Social Justice*  
*Open Grants Program*  
Mark Tanenbaum

### \$1,000+

John and Mary Lou Barter  
Church of the Holy Cross  
City of Charleston  
Gwyn Conway  
Andrea Ziff Cooper  
The Exchange Club  
Edwin and Joan Halkyard  
Pat and Cheryl Ilderton  
Abby Kaufman and  
Linda Netsch  
Hayes Mizell  
Moo Roo Custom Handbags  
Rawle Murdy Associates  
*Jean and James Rion*  
*Endowment*  
Shan and Jim Rocco  
Jenny and Mark Sanford  
*Saul Alexander Foundation*  
Elizabeth Smith  
Jennifer Stanley  
Weathers Family Trust  
*The Jerry and Anita Zucker*  
*Family Fund*

### \$500+

*The Burney Fair*  
*Endowment Fund*  
Charitable Society of  
Charleston  
John Davis  
Ronda Dean  
Parker and Gail Gilbert  
*The Houghton Fund*  
Jasper Johns  
Lurie Family Foundation  
Bruce Lydiard/ Kathleen Brady  
Conley Rollins  
Marshall Stith

### \$250+

J.B. and Meghan Deerin  
Direct Marketers of Charleston  
Fine Line Painting  
Louisa and David Hawkins  
Richard Hendry  
Lesesne and Bury Hudson  
*I. Mayo & Posey Myers Read*  
*Fund*  
Kit Regnery and Alice Paylor  
Neil Robinson  
Bob and Karen Sywolski  
Ed and Jordi Yarborough  
Mindelle Ziff

### \$100+

Anne Darby  
Carol and John Deerin  
Dick and Susie Deerin  
Armand Derfner  
Connie and Tom Dittrich  
Cecelia Franko and Pat Tobin  
Colleen and Bernie Groseclose  
Vesta and Eddie Haselden  
Gedney Howe  
Anne Long  
Rita McKinney  
Shelia Miglarese

### \$100+ *continued*

Ashton Phillips  
Everett and Margaret Presson  
Terry Rickson  
Betty and Greg Ryberg  
Georgia Smith  
Melvin and Judy Solomon  
Alan Toporek  
Robert Vingi  
Wertimer and Associates

### Smaller but greatly appreciated gifts

Sara Berliner  
Dimatar and Kay Ciganovic  
Michele Crull  
Kim Duckworth  
Jean and Conrad Festa  
Sue Fike  
Jamie and Bill Frehse  
Paula Greer  
Cody Jones  
Sara Karrer  
Rose Mitchell  
Michael Molony  
Beverly Rivers  
John and Lana Schmitz  
Elizabeth Shevock  
Deborah and Ron Turkewitz  
Billy Vandiver  
Tim and Page Walter  
Lucy Weathers  
Cappi and Peter Wilborn  
Rose Wolf

*\*Funds of The Community*  
*Foundation Serving Coastal*  
*Carolina*

## In-Kind Gifts

### \$1,000+

Julie Britt  
Charleston Place  
Fine Line Painting  
Sticky Fingers  
Charleston Place  
Sue Miller  
CPA, McKnight Frampton  
and Co.

### Under \$1,000

Cisco's  
Dominoes Pizza  
KSI Corporation  
eSite  
Kaye and Randy Koonce  
Stuart Lawrence  
Papa John's Pizza  
Piggly Wiggly Carolina  
Beverly Rivers  
Spoleto Festival USA  
SC Aquarium  
Subway  
Eddie White, DMD

## NEW! Endowment Fund

WINGS now has an endowment fund at The Community Foundation Serving Coastal Carolina. Building this "savings account" fund will help establish financial stability so we can continue to serve kids—despite economic conditions.

WINGS is a proud partner of



...working to solve our community's  
most pressing human service problems

## Board of Directors

*President:* Theron Snype  
Program Director,  
The Promise Alliance  
Charleston, SC

*Secretary/Treasurer:*  
Rita McKinney, Esq.  
McNair Law Firm  
Greenville, SC

Whitnei Anderson  
*(WINGS Staff 2000)*  
Clinical Counselor  
SC Department of Mental Health  
Charleston, SC

Russell Bennett, Esq.  
Real Estate Developer/  
Investments  
Sullivan's Island, SC

Ronda Dean  
President, The Dalton Demorest  
Foundation  
Seabrook Island, SC

Anthony Dixon  
*(WINGS Staff 2000)*  
Program Director, Gear-Up,  
The College of Charleston  
Charleston, SC

Audrey Harley  
*(Former WINGS parent)*  
Customer Relations Manager,  
Wachovia  
Charleston, SC

Ann J. Higdon  
Community Volunteer  
Charleston, SC

Patricia Lindsey  
CEO, Star Farm Productions  
Chicago, IL

Walter McRackan  
President,  
McRackan Properties, Inc.  
Charleston SC

Hayes Mizell  
Distinguished Senior Fellow  
National Staff Development  
Council  
Columbia, SC

mutindi ndunda, Ph.D.  
*(Former WINGS Parent)*  
Professor, College of Charleston  
Charleston, SC

Aneita Rashford, MD  
*(WINGS staff 1997)*  
San Diego, CA

Jim Rocco  
President, Creative Bubble  
New York, NY

Fred Snyder  
Developer/Investments  
Mount Pleasant, SC

Jennifer Stanley  
Community activist,  
Founder of Oxford Camp  
Oxford, MD

*Ex Officio*  
Ginny Deerin, *Executive Director*  
WINGS for kids

## Professional Advisors

Jean Ann Linney, Ph.D.  
Chair, Department of Psychology  
University of SC  
Columbia, SC

Susan Miller CPA  
McKnight, Frampton and Co.,  
Charleston, SC

## Staff

Ginny Deerin, *Founder and  
Executive Director*  
Bridget Laird, *Assistant Director*  
NaKeisha Jones,  
*Program Director,*  
WINGS Leadership Academy  
Virgil Smith, *Program Director,*  
Fraser Elementary School  
Andrae Sherman,  
*Program Director,*  
Memminger Elementary  
School

## Partnerships

Alpha Kappa Alpha,  
College of Charleston  
Boys & Girls Clubs  
Charleston County Library  
Charleston County School  
District  
Charleston-Dorchester  
Community Mental Health  
Department  
Church of the Holy Cross  
City of Charleston  
College of Charleston  
Faculty and Staff  
Creative Spark  
Delta Sigma Theta,  
College of Charleston  
Kappa Alpha Theta,  
College of Charleston  
Lowcountry Food Bank  
REACH *(Sailing)*  
Recreation Department,  
City of Charleston  
SC Aquarium  
Trident United Way  
US Department of Agriculture



# great staff

**WINGS is great because our staff is great.**

Our part-time staff is made up of juniors and seniors in college. Before beginning their jobs, staff members receive 40+ hours of training. We take pride in our creativity, hard work, responsibility, love of fun and, of course, highly developed heart smarts.

We also like to work smart. It's not unusual for us to hold staff meetings at the laundromat so we can wash sports uniforms while we talk!

**The national average for annual staff turnover is 35% .  
Our turnover rate is 2%.**

# WINGS team



### A Brief History of WINGS for kids

1998

Launch of first summer camp and monthly Return Flights

**8,000**  
hours served

2000

Launch of first afterschool program at Memminger Elementary School

**42,000**  
hours served

2001

Expansion of Memminger Program

**60,000**  
hours served

2002

Afterschool program replicated at Fraser and Murray LaSaine

**87,000**  
hours served

2003

Launch of summer day camp; launch of Leadership Academy (*middle school program*)

**119,000**  
hours served

*Photographs by*

Claire Kramer  
Debbie Dukes  
Ilene Perlman  
WINGS staff and kids

*Brown Family Photographs Courtesy of Eisha Brown*

*Brochure and Web Design by Julie Britt*



**WINGS for kids®**  
P.O. Box 369  
Sullivan's Island SC 29482  
Phone: 843 437-5565

[www.WINGSforkids.com](http://www.WINGSforkids.com)