



SAVE OUR SONS



In this newsletter:

Featured "Son of the City"
Page 01

YouthForce Program
Page 02

Upcoming Events
Page 02

Featured Partner
Page 02

Sons' Sayings:

"My piece of advice is just continue to step forward, continue to be progressive. This is the big advice: be confident in being weird. Be confident in being different."

- Corey Hodge

Featured Son of the City

What is a son of the city?

"Sons of the City" are men of color who grew up in the City of Knoxville and are now living, working, and serving in the area. Being successful in their respective fields encourages young men coming behind them and enriches the community around them.

SON OF THE CITY: COREY HODGE

By Emma Beard

Corey Hodge graduated as salutatorian at Austin East High School and completed his education at the University of Tennessee. He uses his creativity to craft stories, receiving national acclaim. In his two books, *As the Sun Smiles* and *A Simple War: The Tale of the Best Worst Hero*, Corey draws on experiences in his hometown (one character lives in East Knoxville and another attends "Falcon High School"), allowing local readers to recognize and better connect with the story. His writing provides inspiration to young people in Knoxville while simultaneously showing them they are not alone in their struggle against obstacles.

Beyond writing, Corey encourages young people in his job as a primary school teacher at Maynard Elementary School. He mentors youth through Project Grad and provides his "Legends of Knoxville" scholarship annually to a few deserving individuals.

Corey strives for excellence in all his endeavors - writing novels, teaching students, playing drums - while proving to the younger generation that people are only bound by the limits they place on themselves. Corey's students showed surprise when he told him about his published books. He said, "Being an author is something that a lot of students don't realize that they're capable of becoming. So, going back to the communities, showing them other options, showing them other capabilities, other potentials that their work, that their intelligences are able to help them become." Corey aims to help young people dream without limits and work to make their dreams a reality.

Thank you, Corey, for helping young people in the Knoxville community dream big.



@SOSKnoxville

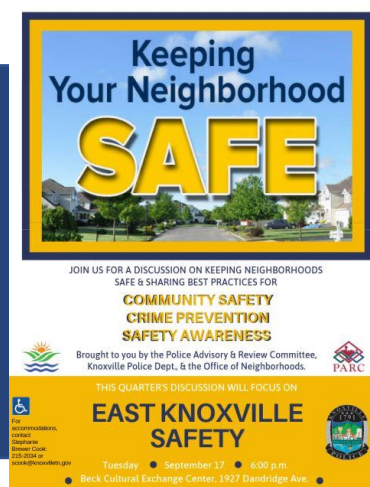
Featured Partner:



Boys & Girls Clubs of Tennessee Valley YouthForce Program

YouthForce connects Knoxville teens with the local workforce through paid job skills training and job internships. The program serves students grades 9-12 in Knox County after school and during the summer months at our new teen center. The program includes the following components:

- YouthForce University – an intensive, soft skills training program which teaches teens to apply for, obtain, and maintain a job. Email applications to the YouthForce Director Rebecca McDonough at rmcdonough@bgctnv.org or call 865-232-1127 for information.



Upcoming Events:

September 17, 2019

- Neighborhood Safety Workshop -EAST
 - o 6-7:30 pm
- Beck Cultural Exchange Center- 1927 Dandridge Avenue

September 28, 2019:

- SOS Community Resource Fair
 - o 10 am -3 pm
- Honey Rock Victorious Church Event Center- 4113 Holston Drive

Announcements:

Check our Facebook page and Twitter for "Sons of the City" interviews!

