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HISTORY + STATS

“The fact that black Americans are more than five times as likely to be incarcerated as white Americans *is wrong*. The fact that black Americans are more than twice as likely to live in poverty as white Americans *is wrong*. The fact that black unemployment rates nationally are double that of overall unemployment rates *is wrong*. The fact that black imprisonment rates for drug charges are almost six times higher nationally than white imprisonment rates for drug charges *is wrong*. The fact that black Americans own approximately one-tenth of the wealth that white Americans own *is wrong*. The fact that inequality is built so deeply into so many of our most trusted institutions *is wrong*.” — Kyle Korver

Autry Parker Brantley "Coach A" anchored the underpinning for Equity PlayersSM in 2007, when the dynamics of a 2004-05 NBA season - considered outré - and/or providence led him into management at the Joe Dumars Fieldhouse of Detroit. In observing a myriad of AAU Boy's Basketball clubs + the culmination of Manny Harris' primo career at Redford High School, Coach A recognized a need for an organization led by a team of walking success stories, which could mitigate the common detrimental introjections youth acquire often in underserved/underprivileged/marginalized/disadvantaged milieus. However, "The Great Recession" led to the scarcity of charitable dollars, discontinuance of projected programs, and dissolution of the corporation holding an idea whose time had come - the Spirit EmbassySM.

In 2009, Coach A resuscitated the quintessence of the Spirit EmbassySM via the birth of Equity PlayersSM, when a low NCAA Division II season, and reports of Detroit student-athletes - out of state - returned home without an associate degree. As a Detroit Public Schools life skills teacher + truancy officer, Coach A recognized that, in a society of global prejudice, the culture and lack of exposure causing Detroit's civic empowerment + achievement gaps hampers the attainment of a competitive advantage, privileged citizenship, or desired rarified air. Additionally, he knew that participation in the game(s) of competitive tennis and basketball could definitely have a benefic influence of salubrious introjections, as each were one of the strongest impetuses that enabled him to achieve scholarship (e.g., United Negro College Fund Michigan Mayor's Scholar featured in Ebony Magazine, etc.).

As such, in the spirit of *esse quam videri*, which means "to be, rather than to seem", Coach A began providing Detroit students "pro bono tennis + basketball training", so as to elutriate or stymie the detrimental introjections + galvanize a focus on Michigan Meritocracy + NCAA Eligibility. Thus far, his mentoring, essentially aligned with the Detroit Deputy Mayor Saul Green's Youth Violence Prevention, U. S. Attorney General Eric Holder's Defending Childhood, U. S. First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move!, U. S. President Barack H. Obama II's "My Brother's Keeper", and "Reach Higher" initiatives has provided many students across the Detroit-Windsor metropolitan international border community with an opportunity to play basketball, receive apt sustenance, social resources and/or academic services with respect to the transition from high school to college.

Additionally, Equity Players gives Detroit's youth the opportunity to travel within the USA to experience diverse cultures and collegiate milieus, as well as, outside the country (e.g. strategic partnerships with Core City Hoops and Equity Players' Vice Chairman Emerita's SPLASH, Inc.). Pursuant to sustaining the continuum of assisting a myriad of youth with Scholar-Athlete DevelopmentSM and/or becoming Positive Productive CitizensSM, Equity Players, Inc as expanded to the other borderplexes of San Diego-Tijuana, El Paso-Juárez and Vancouver-Bellingham. Thus, we welcome your assistance.

Become An Equity PlayerSM!

