

Champions for change

African Americans creating a healthier world through sports

2015 African American History Calendar

Marquis Taylor – video transcript

My name is Marquis Taylor, and I am the co-founder of Coaching4Change.

Sports is a huge part of community and what we've done a little bit different is we train high school students job skills through coaching. They run after-school programs for elementary and middle school students.

Sports teaches young people skills that really prepares them for life. They learn how to socialize, they work together in teams and they're able to express themselves through play.

What really motivated me to do this work was when I was growing up, I really didn't connect or have a connection with school. I really was able to build my own self-confidence and learn how to work within a team within a sports setting, and sports is what helped me not only graduate from high school, but get through college.

We had a high school student who was on the verge of dropping out of school. We were able to convince him to become a part of the program and it was the first time that he became a leader.

He took on the responsibility of coaching, mentoring, tutoring. He ended his freshman year caught up and now he is on track to graduating on time.

It makes me feel as if what we're doing is worthwhile. It's those types of stories and those relationships that really keep me fighting to extend and expand learning opportunities through sports.