



Mr. Dwayne Adams has been a dedicated employee of the Alameda County Probation Department for nine years. He has been an exemplary employee and an asset to the department, but his real passion is mentoring at risk youths from Oakland, Berkeley and across the bay in San Francisco.

He is the founder of the *All For One* mentoring program. The program's main objective is to prepare at risk youths for life's true journey, teach them basic skills, show them what teamwork can accomplish along with their individual gifts to enhance the teamwork.

He and fellow mentors teach the youth the game of basketball, but the real lesson is about the basic rules of life. Common decency and respect; patience and understanding and be open minded are just some of the life lessons the youth learn in this program.

Coaches, mentors, and former athletes including those who have played in the National Basketball Association establish rapport with the youths and their parents and guardians and share their life experiences and lessons they learned along the way. They fully understand the influences surrounding today's youths. Punctuality, refrain from profanity and steering away from gang activities are invaluable messages the youths receive at this program.

Mr. Adams provides uniforms, gym time, equipment, transportation and makes himself available to youths anytime. Soon the program will include basketball clinics to teach basketball and keep youths in the gym and off the streets.

Mr. Adams is a motivator, and an inspiration who truly believes that *"creativity and talent is not lacking; what is lacking is opportunity and the understanding that with opportunity comes responsibility, patience, and appreciation"*.