

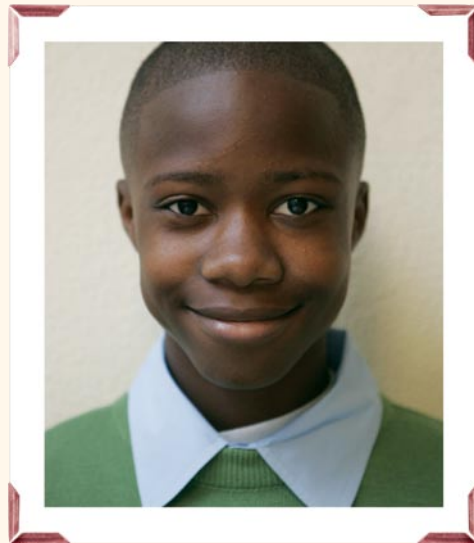
2008 ANNUAL REPORT

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*Jeff Williams*

**FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN  
IS A MENTORING PROGRAM  
DEDICATED TO IMPROVING  
THE LIVES OF OUR NATION'S  
HIGHEST-RISK CHILDREN.**

FOUNDED IN 1993, AND CURRENTLY WITH SEVEN CHAPTERS  
NATIONWIDE, FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN PROVIDES EACH OF  
ITS CHILDREN WITH TWELVE YEARS OF MENTORING FROM A  
PAID PROFESSIONAL WITH ONLY ONE JOB TO DO—ENRICHING  
THEIR CHILDREN'S FUTURE.



## A Letter to Our Friends:

We're happy to report that 2008 has been a tremendously successful year for fourteen year-old Jeff Williams—even better than forecasted! Jeff continues to face tremendous obstacles in his life. But thanks to the guidance and support of his mentor James, Jeff met and exceeded all quarterly goals, and has positioned himself solidly for continued growth as he prepares for high school.

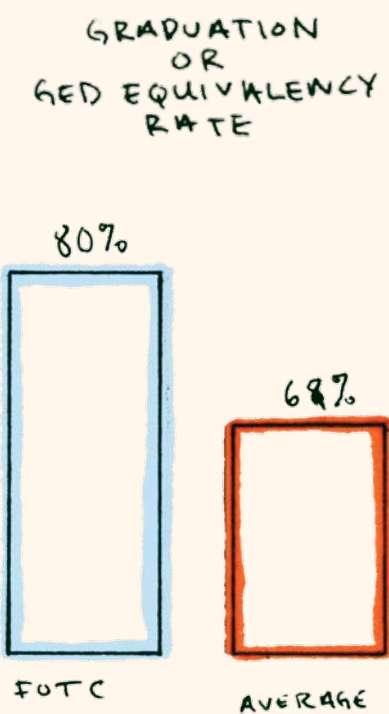
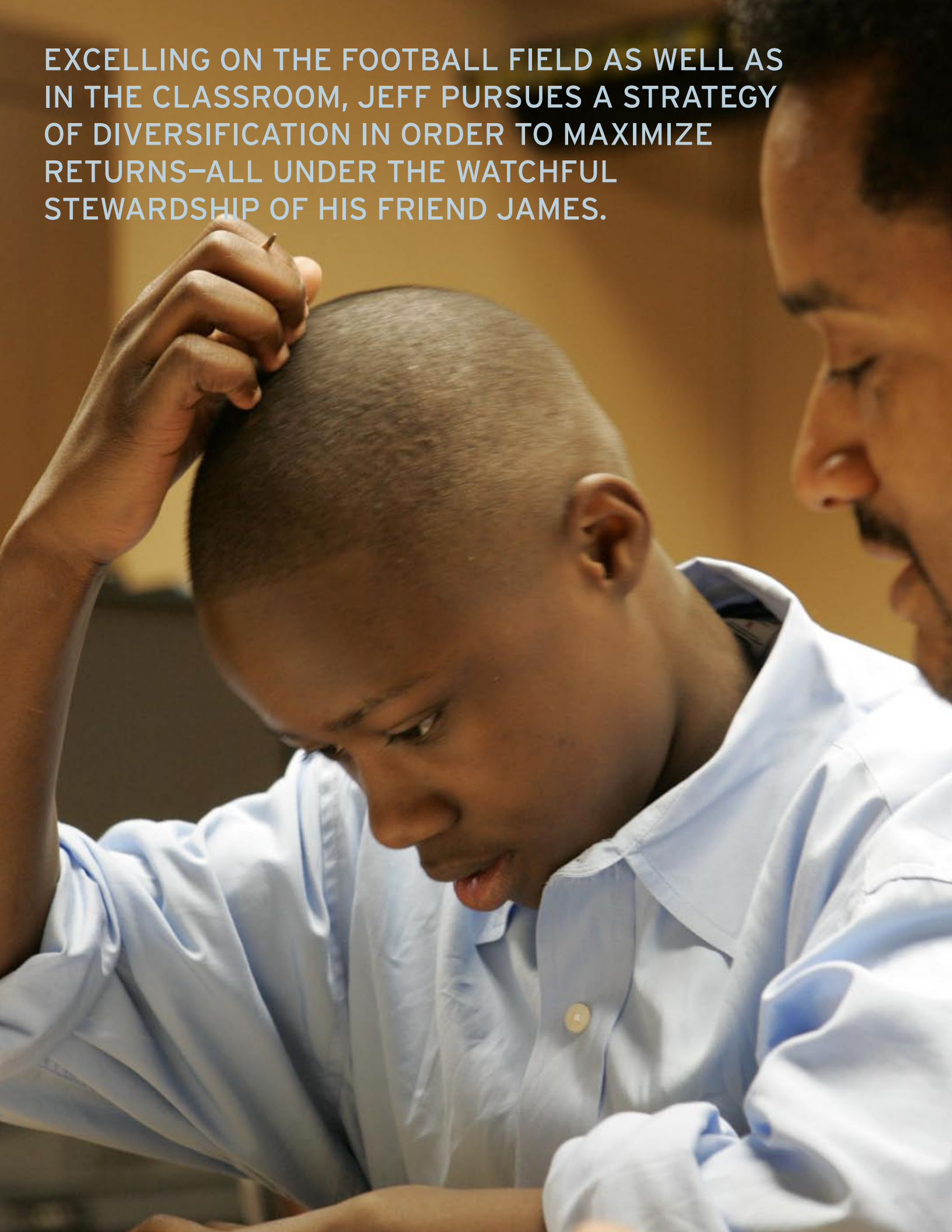
2008 was a year of many firsts for Jeff: his first milkshake at Sonic, first roller skating adventure, and first trout fishing trip—catch and release only. But what we are perhaps most proud of are his sustained year-to-year trends. Math and science test scores are progressing steadily, school absences saw a sharp downturn, and initiatives to boost self-esteem continued to pay dividends.

Even with these excellent developments, now is not the time to rest on our laurels. To reach his lofty 2009 goals and beyond, Jeff is going to need our further support. As you review this Annual Report of Jeff's achievements, please consider how you can invest in his continued success.

Sincerely,



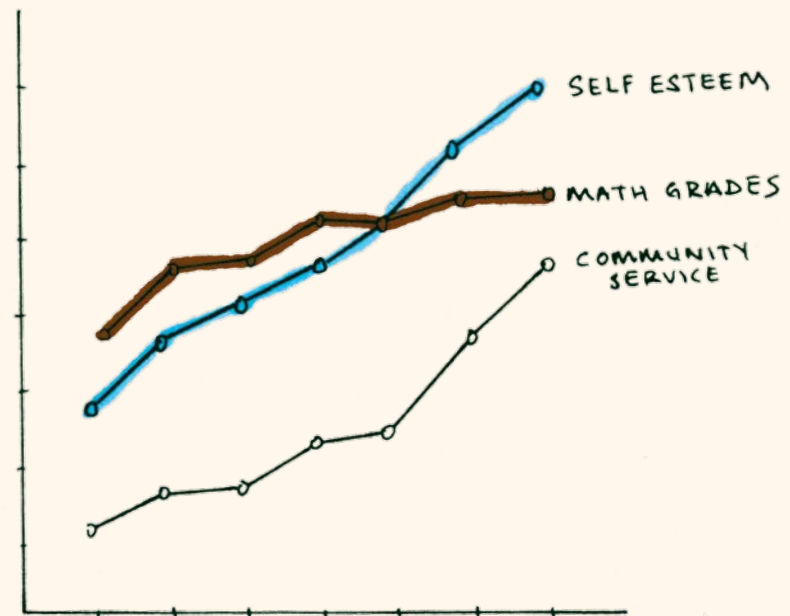
EXCELLING ON THE FOOTBALL FIELD AS WELL AS IN THE CLASSROOM, JEFF PURSUES A STRATEGY OF DIVERSIFICATION IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE RETURNS—ALL UNDER THE WATCHFUL STEWARDSHIP OF HIS FRIEND JAMES.



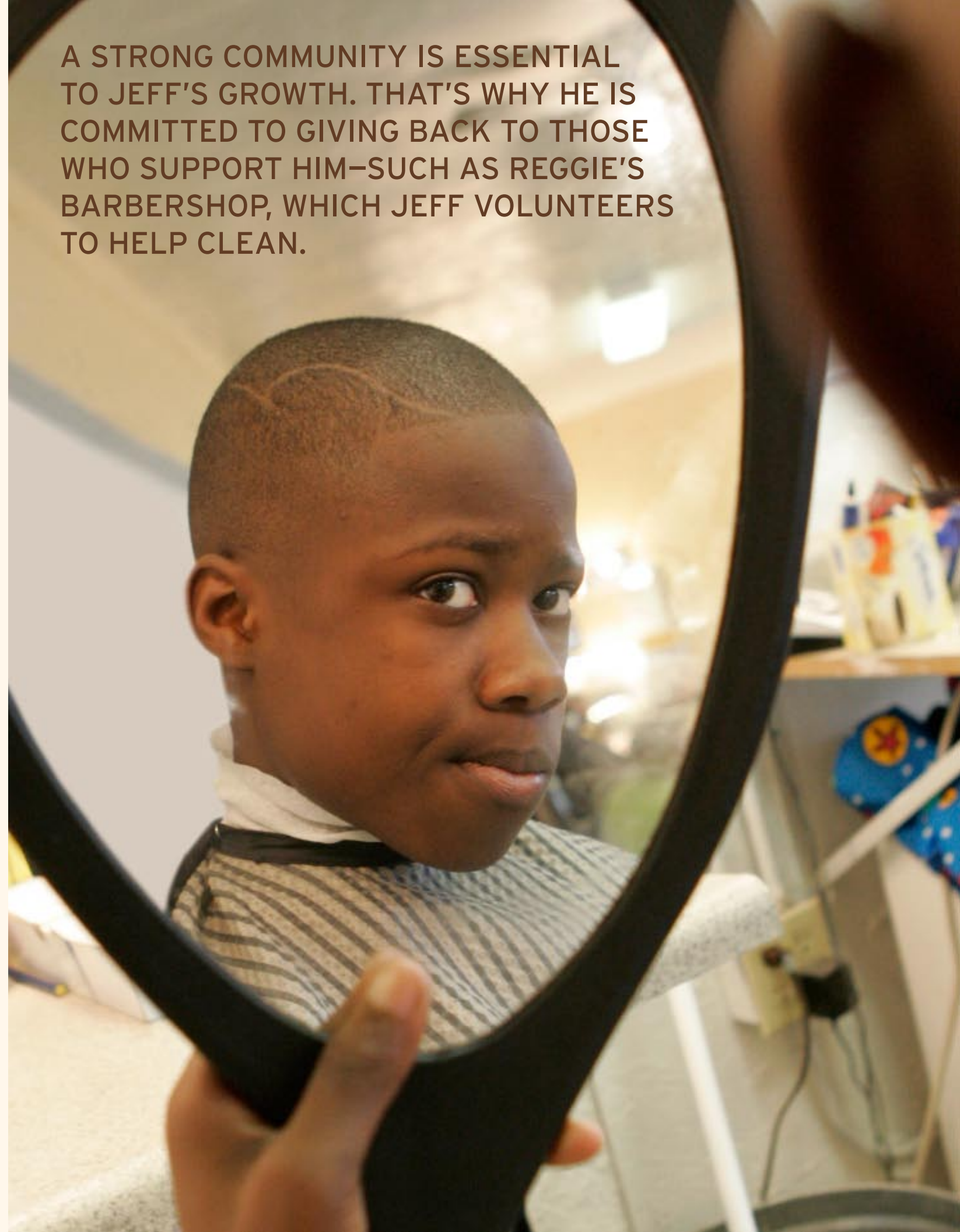
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Education is one of the cornerstones of Friends of the Children's program. Studies have shown that students who complete high school are dramatically less likely to become parents early or be involved in the criminal justice system.

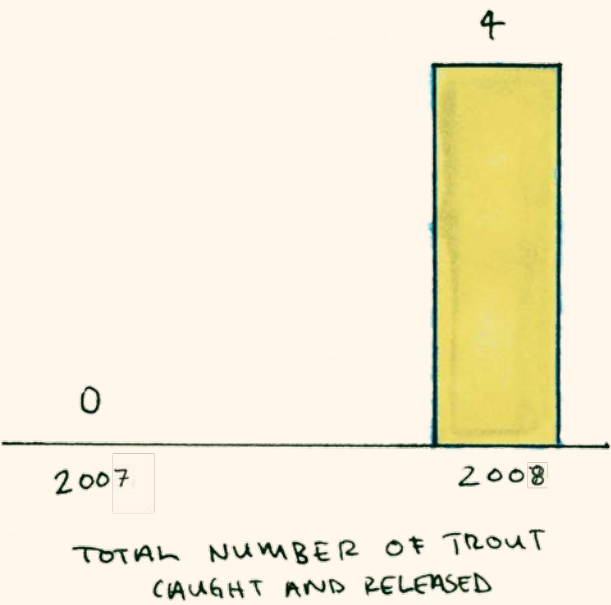
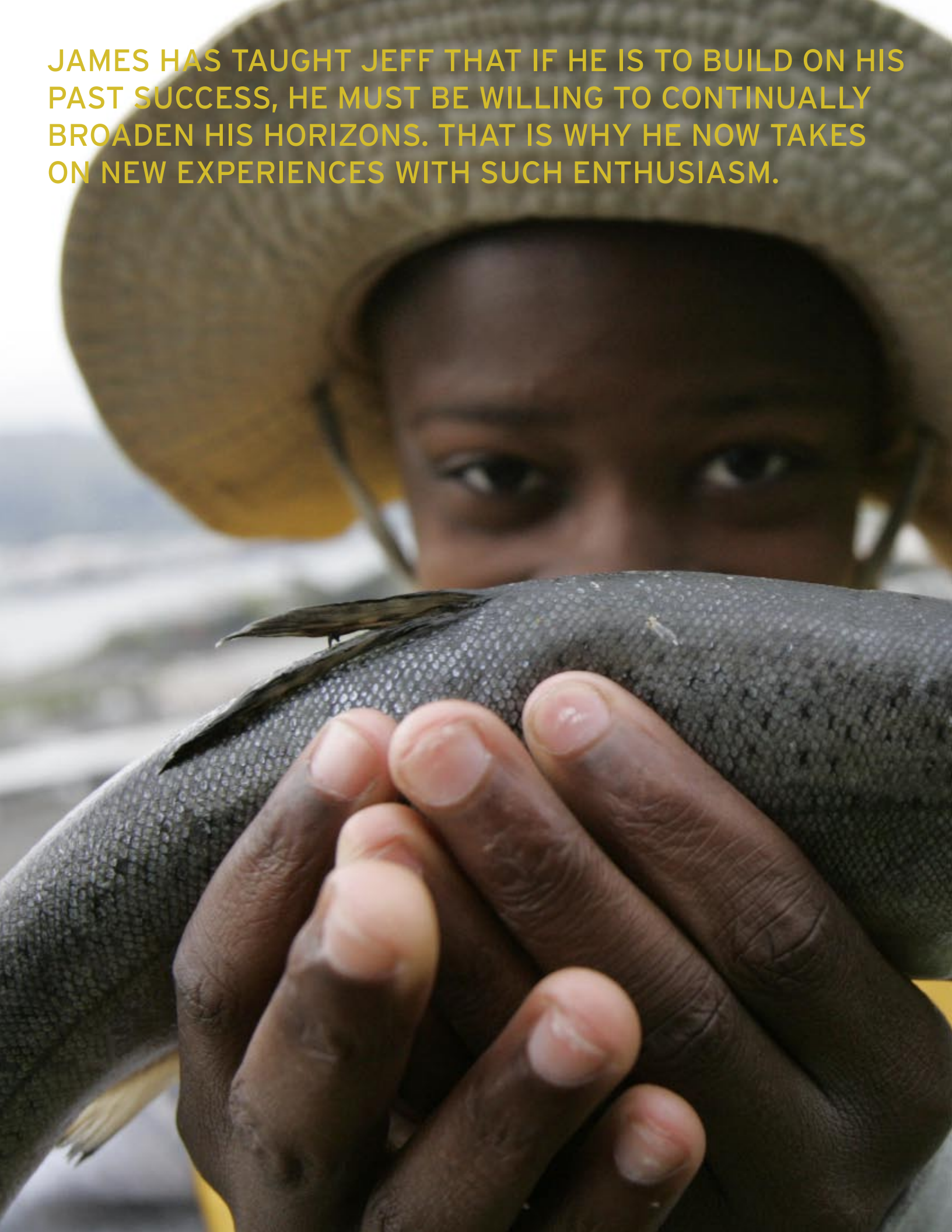
A STRONG COMMUNITY IS ESSENTIAL TO JEFF'S GROWTH. THAT'S WHY HE IS COMMITTED TO GIVING BACK TO THOSE WHO SUPPORT HIM—SUCH AS REGGIE'S BARBERSHOP, WHICH JEFF VOLUNTEERS TO HELP CLEAN.



Friends of the Children strives to foster a sense of belonging in each of its children. Feeling like a part of a caring, vibrant community can have a striking effect on all aspects of a young person's life.



JAMES HAS TAUGHT JEFF THAT IF HE IS TO BUILD ON HIS PAST SUCCESS, HE MUST BE WILLING TO CONTINUALLY BROADEN HIS HORIZONS. THAT IS WHY HE NOW TAKES ON NEW EXPERIENCES WITH SUCH ENTHUSIASM.



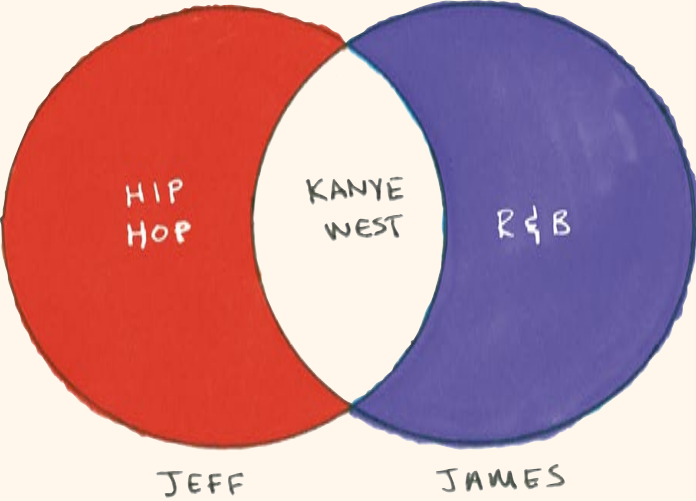
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An entire world of opportunity has been hidden from our children. Friends of the Children goes above and beyond other mentoring programs in showing it to them.

IN 2009, JEFF WILL CONDUCT EXPLORATORY LISTENING SESSIONS IN SOUL MUSIC AND R & B IN THE HOPES OF CLOSING THE GAP BETWEEN HIS AND HIS FRIEND JAMES'S MUSICAL TASTES.



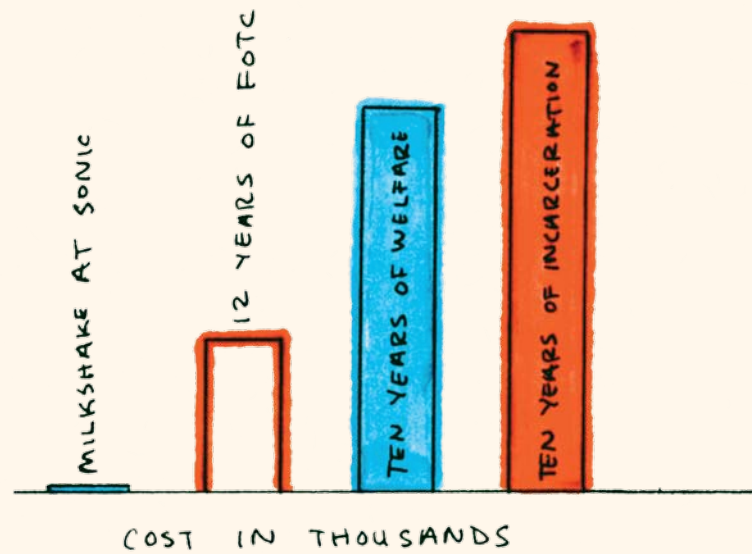
MUSICAL TASTE



The foundation of Friends of the Children's mentoring is the basics, like education and health.

But the relationship extends far beyond that.

Friends are active in every area of their children's lives.

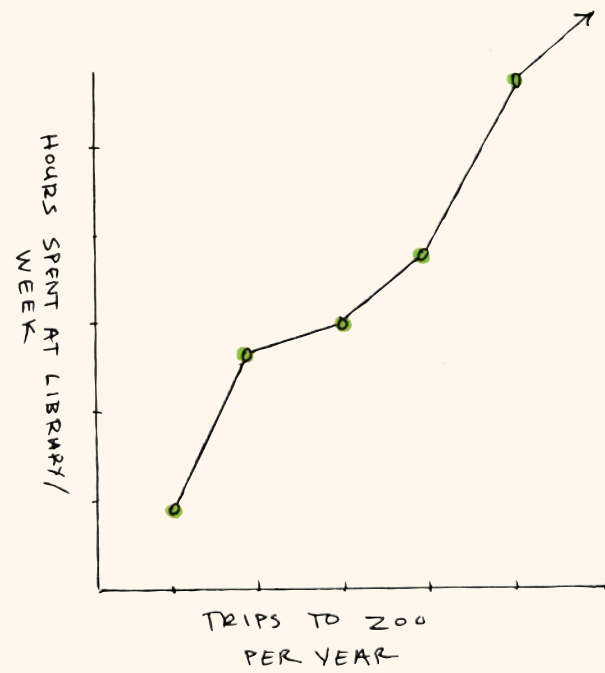


Friends of the Children requires a sizable investment to maintain its level of commitment, but its proven effectiveness makes it considerably more affordable than the alternatives—especially doing nothing at all.

DESPITE MANY AMBITIOUS INITIATIVES, JEFF NEVER LETS HIS HECTIC PACE OVERWHELM. HIS TIME WITH JAMES HAS SHOWN HIM THAT THE BIGGEST LESSONS CAN OFTEN BE TAUGHT BY THE SIMPLEST PLEASURES.

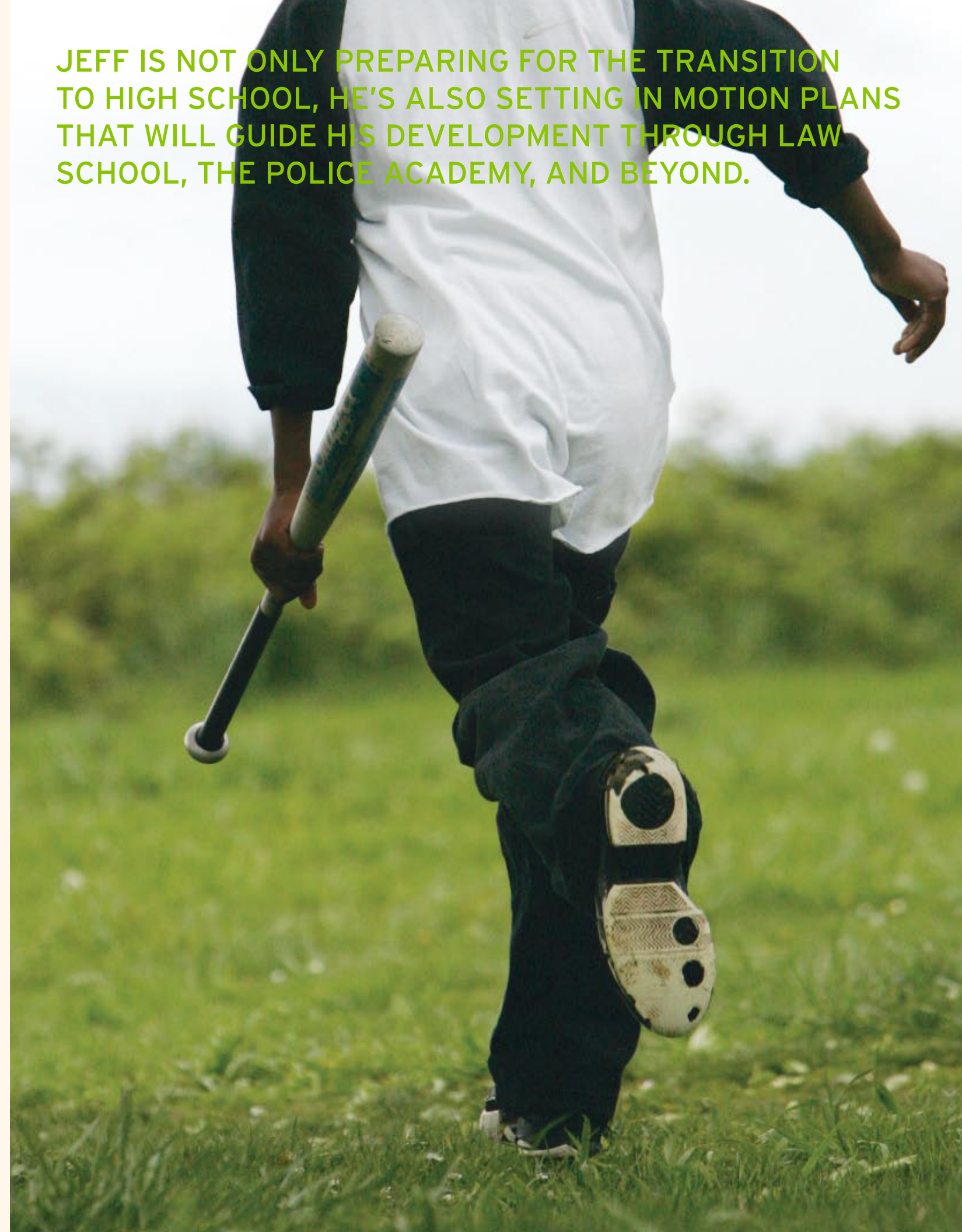


JEFF IS NOT ONLY PREPARING FOR THE TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL, HE'S ALSO SETTING IN MOTION PLANS THAT WILL GUIDE HIS DEVELOPMENT THROUGH LAW SCHOOL, THE POLICE ACADEMY, AND BEYOND.



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Friends of the Children guarantees each child 12 years with a mentor, no matter what, but the relationship doesn't end on graduation day. We make lasting, lifelong differences for every child—and we help them grow into the adults they dream of being.



2008:  
TIME SPENT



How do you measure the Return on Investment on a changed life?

It may seem strange to mention Return on Investment when discussing youth mentoring. After all, most people who get involved with high-risk children are motivated by their hearts, not their brains.

But Return on Investment is exactly what Friends of the Children delivers, and what distinguishes it from other mentoring programs. Our system focuses on what all the best research in the field of youth development consistently identifies as the most important factor in improving the lives of high-risk youths: a caring, consistent adult relationship.

By putting this research into practice, we have built an unbeatable track record of real, measurable success. And while this commitment comes with a bigger price tag, it also comes with the knowledge that when Friends of the Children becomes involved in a child's life, that life is changed for the better—and forever.

Jeff Williams is just one example of the tremendous impact Friends of the Children has had. Since our founding in 1993, we have grown from one chapter helping 24 children, to eight chapters across the country helping almost 600.

We hope to report next year that those numbers have increased.

With your help, we know we can.

