

SON OF A SAINT

INSPIRING MENTORSHIP AND TRANSFORMING
THE LIVES OF FATHERLESS BOYS



SONOFASAINTE.ORG





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AND TRANSFORMING THE
LIVES OF FATHERLESS BOYS**



Dear friends,

A bright future is never guaranteed, and even less so for boys growing up without access to a father figure. Son of a Saint exists for the fatherless boys of New Orleans, providing a necessary intervention at a critical time. We give them hope, vision, opportunity and, above all else, a good example in the form of a dedicated Son of a Saint mentor.

STOPPING A VICIOUS CYCLE

Many mentees have witnessed homicide, experienced abandonment or bear the burden of having a murdered or incarcerated father. These devastating issues put fatherless boys at a strikingly high risk of imprisonment, violence, chemical abuse, and poverty — trapping them in the same cycle to which their fathers fell victim.

Son of a Saint is stopping this cycle. Each boy enters our program with different circumstances and needs. To truly change the life of a boy who faces so many disadvantages, we employ a holistic, individualized approach and stick with him for a long time (ages 10-21).

OUR MENTEES ARE THRIVING

Our boys grow into men who are independent thinkers and leaders. The alternative is a stark contrast: loss of freedom, violence, and poverty. Each year, our list of program graduates continues to increase, and these young men continue their higher education journey into college – often, the first in their families to do so.

WE ARE GROWING

Throughout 2023, Son of a Saint will continue to reach more than 200 boys. Additionally, we are excited to continue strengthening our distinct mental wellness, education, college access, and career development programs.

WE NEED YOU

If you aren't familiar with our organization, I invite you to spend a few minutes to get to know and understand the critical need we strive to meet. We cannot do this work without you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bivian Lee III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the "B" being particularly large and stylized.

BIVIAN "SONNY" LEE III
Founder + CEO, Son of a Saint



WHAT WE DO

MORE THAN MENTORSHIP

Son of a Saint is founded on an enduring mentor-mentee relationship, but we go so much deeper than that. Our model is holistic and responsive, regularly intersecting every facet of boys' lives with programming adjusted based on specific needs and circumstances. The result: a formula for success tailored to each boy.

WE TRANSFORM LIVES AND THEN WE BUILD THEM.

Each year, Son of a Saint selects a group of boys ages 10-12 to join the existing kids in our program. The boys must be fatherless due to their father's incarceration, death, deportation or abandonment. Each boy remains an official Son of a Saint mentee until he is 18, but the connections remain, and we continue to advise and support him in the years that follow. Our goal is to graduate self-sufficient, independent thinkers who are leaders and give back to their community.

WHAT WE PROVIDE, ABOVE ALL ELSE, IS AN EXAMPLE.

Son of a Saint equips boys with the tools they need to become productive men. We give them hope, vision and opportunity. We provide a secure and consistent environment for them. But the Son of a Saint mentors' most important role is simply to be a good example.

WE HAVE EXPECTATIONS.

The boys must maintain a minimum 2.8 GPA, complete four hours of community service each month and maintain good conduct at home, school and within the Son of a Saint organization.

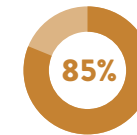
WHY WE DO IT

Life for boys who lose their fathers in is an uphill battle involving challenges related to self-confidence, anger and feelings of abandonment. Left unaddressed, these challenges too often manifest in unhealthy behaviors during the early teenage years through young adulthood.

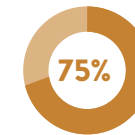
THERE IS A NEED THAT CANNOT BE IGNORED.

Son of a Saint is a necessary intervention at a delicate time — a wellspring of positive influence when it's needed most by the boys who need it most. Young members forge relationships with volunteer mentors, counselors and tutors that develop over a long period, ensuring consistent support, guidance and encouragement.

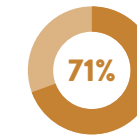
DID YOU KNOW



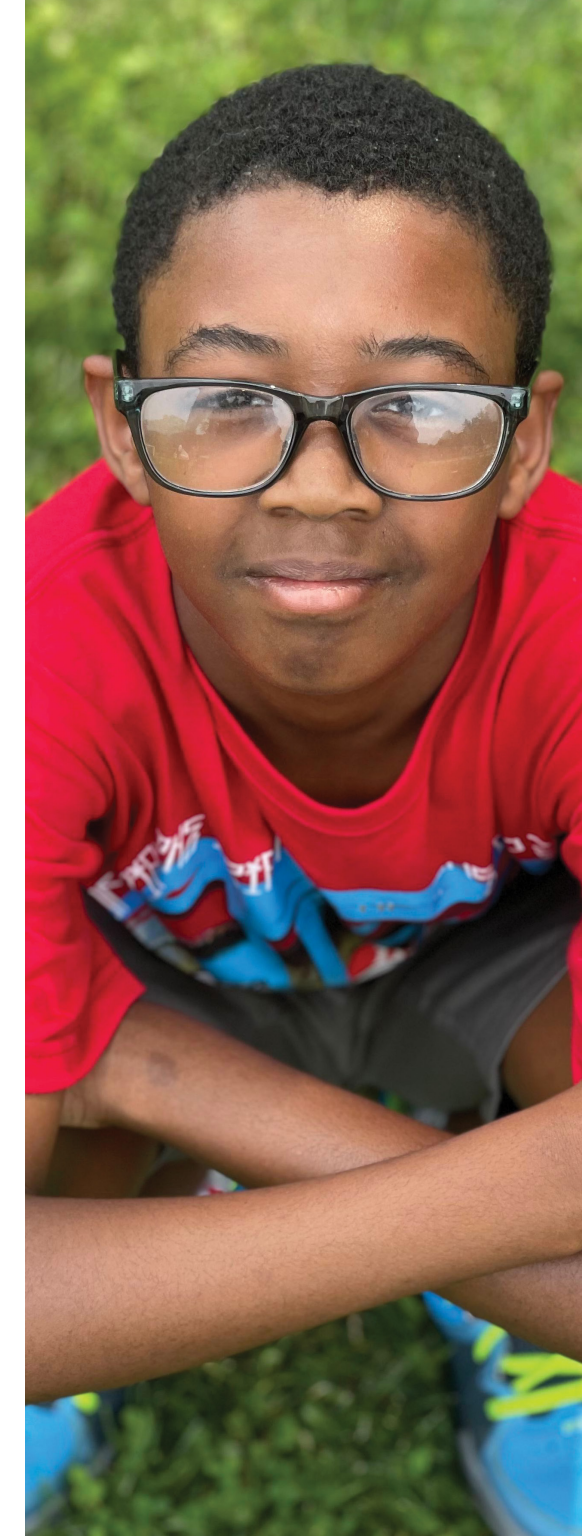
Youths in prison who grew up in fatherless homes¹



Male patients in chemical abuse centers come from fatherless homes²



High school drop outs come from fatherless homes³



¹ "Father Absence and Youth Incarceration," *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, Harper & McLanahan, 2004
² "What Can the Federal Government Do To Decrease Crime and Revitalize Communities?" *Panel Papers*, US Department of Justice, 1998
³ "Father Absence, Father Deficit, Father Hunger," *Psychology Today*, Kruk, 2012
⁴ United States Census Bureau, 2017



Son of a Saint places great emphasis on mental health, from affording mentees access to mental health professionals to participating in evidence-based methods like equine therapy.

HOW WE DO IT

Son of a Saint exists to transform the lives of fatherless boys through mentorship, emotional support, development of life skills, exposure to constructive experiences and formation of positive, lasting peer-to-peer relationships.

MENTAL WELLNESS

Son of a Saint's Licensed Professional Counselor provides evaluations and ongoing counseling for our boys. This counselor works with mentees individually and in groups to address issues such as trauma, anger and grief.

ONE-ON-ONE + GROUP MENTORSHIP

Regular daylong mentorship sessions are designed to aid in our boys' academic, personal and overall development. We host 20 group mentorship sessions per month, on average, covering topics such as etiquette, time management, decision-making, critical thinking, anger management, moral reasoning, life skills, work ethic, leadership, civic responsibility and teamwork. Kids and mentors enjoy frequent outings, such as sporting events, educational trips, movies, dining, parades and volunteer activities. 75% of our boys are also paired with a dedicated mentor to facilitate an ongoing, one-on-one mentoring relationship.

RECREATIONAL ACCESS

Son of a Saint mentees are exposed to horseback riding, fishing, yoga, music, chess, the arts and more. Every boy participates in at least one of these activities weekly. Mentors also support and encourage our boys in their extracurricular endeavors by attending various activities.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Son of a Saint provides ongoing tutoring for boys in need of additional academic support. Many of our volunteer educators are current New Orleans middle school or high school teachers, and are familiar with the boys' coursework. We also serve as advocates for the boys at school, intervening in the case of behavioral or academic challenges, and providing support to guardians.

TUITION ASSISTANCE

Son of a Saint works to provide middle school and high school scholarships allowing mentees to attend tuition-based schools in the New Orleans area. If a mentee has the inclination and academic capability to attend a private or parochial school, we do our best to make sure financial means are not a barrier to a quality education.

COLLEGE PREPARATION

Son of a Saint works with boys to ensure they have the preparation and knowledge to make an informed decision about their higher education path. We review postsecondary education options, facilitate ACT preparation classes, guide them in the college essay writing process, teach them about college financing, and help connect them with financial aid and scholarship opportunities.

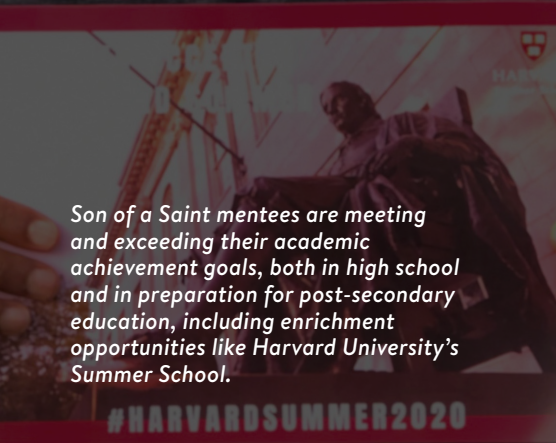
CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Son of a Saint's Career Development Coordinator pairs boys with internships, job shadowing opportunities and academic camps. We also organize company tours and career panels for our mentees to learn about interview skills and different career options.

CULTURAL IMMERSION

Son of a Saint provides cultural immersion opportunities for mentees, allowing them to break down preconceived barriers about other cultures and people, all while building confidence, developing newfound cultural sensitivity and making meaningful connections with the local ways of life in different destinations. Son of a Saint mentees have journeyed to places including Montreal, Costa Rica and Ghana, Africa.





Son of a Saint mentees are meeting and exceeding their academic achievement goals, both in high school and in preparation for post-secondary education, including enrichment opportunities like Harvard University's Summer School.

#HARVARDSUMMER2020

OUR IMPACT

As we enter our twelfth year of service and success, Son of a Saint is witnessing the growing impact of its work. Our program graduates are attending postsecondary education institutions and are on trajectories to become well-rounded, positive contributors to society.

WE ARE SEEING RESULTS

- Grown to more than 200+ boys and projected to strategically increase enrollment in 2023
- Nearly 100% mentee retention rate, year over year
- Improved academic and behavioral performance
- Graduated three classes of mentees, the majority of whom are first-generation college students

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

- Reduced poverty
- Increased equitability
- Reduced crime and incarceration
- Breaking cycle of fatherlessness
- Young mentees growing into self-sufficient men positioned to pay it forward in their communities

A POSITIVE RIPPLE EFFECT

Every boy has a path in front of him. The moment he's accepted into Son of a Saint, the wrong path vanishes. He is no longer in danger of becoming a prison inmate, a victim or perpetrator of violence or an absent father.

Instead, we begin to witness the positive ripple effect of the boy on the right path, felt in his family, school, neighborhood, and even at the city level. This kid is a future leader, father, and mentor to the next generation of Son of a Saint enrollees.

OUR BEGINNING

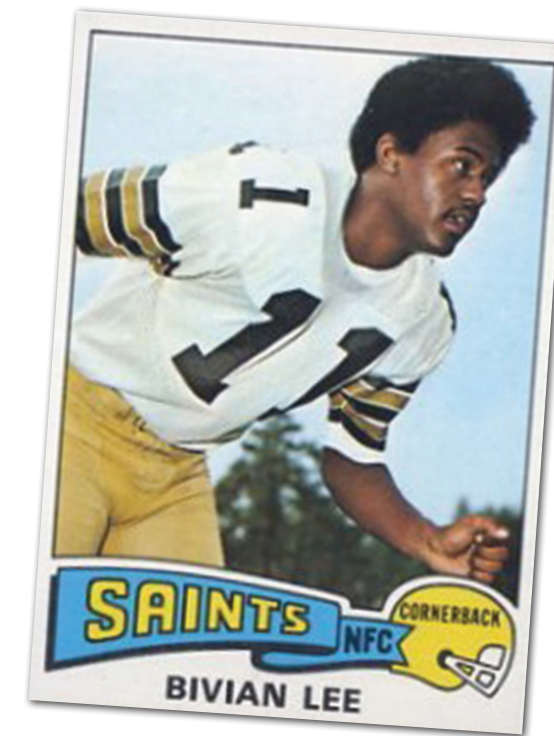
Bivian Lee, Jr., was an NFL defensive back for the New Orleans Saints from 1971 to 1975. Tragically, in 1984 Bivian died at the young age of 36 after suffering a heart attack. He left behind a wife, a five-year-old daughter, Tamica, and a three-year-old son, Bivian "Sonny" Lee, III.

As an adult, Sonny came to understand the struggles and challenges his mother faced, and he gained a real appreciation for the opportunities he had as a child — opportunities the average boy would not be afforded. From access to psychiatrists who helped him navigate through anger issues associated with the loss of his father, to the ability to participate in sports leagues and enjoy relationships with teammates and coaches, Sonny was convinced that the array of opportunities made him who he is today.

IN TURN, SONNY, THEN 29, FOUNDED SON OF A SAINT ON JANUARY 1, 2011, IN HONOR OF HIS LATE FATHER AND SINGLE MOTHER.

He aims to "pay it forward" and replicate his own experience for a special group of fatherless young males in the community.

Sonny often speaks to companies and organizations on topics such as mentorship, community service and the importance of education. Send an inquiry to request information on booking Sonny for speaking engagements and other appearances.



FUND THE MISSION

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Son of a Saint depends largely on the generosity of individuals, foundations and corporations. We ask that you consider making a donation now. The examples below give an idea of the impact of your gift.

| | PRICE | QTY | SUBTOTAL |
|------------------------------------------|----------|-----|----------|
| SCHOLARSHIPS (FOR TUITION-BASED SCHOOLS) | \$10,000 | | |
| ACT PREP | \$5,000 | | |
| PAID SUMMER INTERNSHIP | \$1,000 | | |
| THERAPY SESSIONS | \$500 | | |
| SCHOOL SUPPLIES | \$100 | | |
| COLLEGE APPLICATION FEE | \$50 | | |
| TUTORING SESSION | \$25 | | |
| OTHER | | | |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | |

Please make checks out to Son of a Saint. Visit sonofasaint.org/donate to learn more.
501(c)(3) Tax Id #46-5554558

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sonofasaint.org/donate

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New Orleans, LA 70179

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(504) 561-7508

STOCKS + MAJOR GIFTS

(504) 655-8416
or development@sonofasaint.org

VENMO

@SonOfASaintOrg

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OUR BOYS GROW INTO MEN WHO ARE INDEPENDENT THINKERS,
LEADERS, AND COMMITTED TO GIVING BACK TO NEW ORLEANS.



VETERINARIAN



SURGEON



NFL PLAYER



FARMER



ARCHITECT



MICROBIOLOGIST



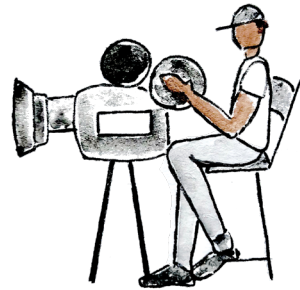
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FILM DIRECTOR



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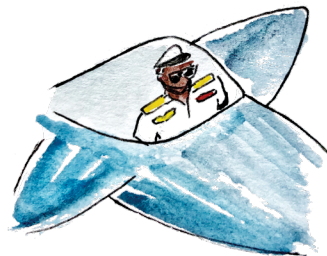
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