Son of a Saint exists for the fatherless boys of New Orleans, those in our program and those who will be. But we’re not doing it just for them. Our work is for everyone who lives in and loves New Orleans. By building solid citizens, we’re helping to build a better city.

As a nonprofit organization, we rely on the individuals, corporations and foundations that support the organization with gifts of money, resources and time. Please consider joining the team as a Son of a Saint donor, partner, volunteer or mentor executing our mission of providing fatherless boys with the support, experiences and tools they need to become productive men.

The need cannot be ignored. No kid is guaranteed a bright future, but the prospect is especially dubious for boys growing up without access to a father figure. It’s a painful truth that statistics bear out—fatherless homes produce 85% of the youth prison population, 71% of high school dropouts and 75% of male patients in chemical abuse centers.

Let’s roll up our sleeves. Faced with a problem that seems insurmountable, we have a choice: to throw up our hands or to roll up our sleeves. With the Formation of Son of a Saint in 2011, we chose the latter. And this organization has been chipping away at the epidemic of fatherlessness in New Orleans ever since, saving the lives of a growing family of fatherless boys and improving the quality of life for everyone in New Orleans for generations to come.

The ripple effect, right and wrong. The first four Son of a Saint graduates are currently attending college, each the first in his family to do so. We’re chipping away. Four college students may not seem like a big deal until you consider the alternative, and the ripple effect. Every boy has a right path and a wrong path in front of him. The moment he’s accepted into Son of a Saint, the wrong path vanishes, setting into motion an inverse ripple effect. Every boy has a right path and a wrong path in front of him. The moment he’s accepted into Son of a Saint, the wrong path vanishes, setting into motion an inverse ripple effect. No kid is guaranteed a bright future, but the prospect is especially dubious for boys growing up without access to a father figure.

Our organization is growing. With the newest class of young men inducted at the end of this year, Son of a Saint will have 100 mentees, ranging in age from 10 to 18. This year also saw Son of a Saint named as one of three organizations statewide selected by the Louisiana Department of Education to help facilitate the state’s Tuition Donation Credit Program. Son of a Saint Scholars will put a quality education within reach of our mentees along with many, many more underserved and at-risk kids across New Orleans and beyond.

Essential intervention at a critical time. Each year, Son of a Saint selects a group of boys to join the existing kids in our program. The boys must be fatherless due to their father’s incarceration, death or abandonment. They’ll remain with the program until receiving their high school diploma, receiving consistent support, guidance and tutoring, along with a wealth of opportunities for travel, volunteerism and enrichment. The objective 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, opportunity and a life-changing experience. We provide a secure and consistent environment for them, access to mental health professionals, skilled tutors and role models from all walks of life. But most important is the consistent support, guidance and friendship they receive from their dedicated Son of a Saint mentors.

The ripple effect, left and right. Son of a Saint will have 100 mentees, ranging in age from 10 to 18. This year also saw Son of a Saint named as one of three organizations statewide selected by the Louisiana Department of Education to help facilitate the state’s Tuition Donation Credit Program. Son of a Saint Scholars will put a quality education within reach of our mentees along with many, many more underserved and at-risk kids across New Orleans and beyond.

The mentor-mentee relationship is the key component of the Son of a Saint program. Boys are paired with a trained, dedicated mentor immediately upon entering the organization. Mentors can participate in as many as 20 Son of a Saint activities per month, free etiquette dinners and life-skills seminars, coaching classes and sporting events. Volunteerism is a key tenet of the Son of a Saint experience. Mentors must meet a minimum number of volunteer hours per month. Most fit exceed the minimum.

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