

Harold Robinson FOUNDATION



TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH CAMP

Harold Robinson Foundation (HRF) was founded in 2009 by Joyce and Jeff Robinson and David Moss. Their vision was **to counter social and economic disparities in South LA and build bridges** between student groups by sending kids to outdoor camp retreats. Today, HRF continues the mission of providing children with transformative experiences through three-day retreats (Camp Ubuntu); a summer day camp (Camp Ubuntu Watts); and follow-up programs for students, parents, and teachers.

HRF has served over 11,000 youth through our meaningful work, children from some of the most poverty-stricken areas of our community. Many have never experienced the wilderness, attended a camp, or even played on an open field of fresh grass. Their lives are often surrounded by chaos and violence. They miss out on the simple joys of being a kid.

OUR APPROACH

HRF's transformative camp retreats are based in the South African philosophy of "Ubuntu," which means that we rise and fall together as a community; I am because we are. It represents respect, love, kindness, and connectedness. Camp Ubuntu is a rare safe nurturing space for these children, a space where they can learn to support each other, and use that experience to foster positive discourse, provide tools for reflection, and help young men and women set goals to rewrite their futures.

**SELF
AWARENESS**

**SOCIAL
AWARENESS**

**RELATIONSHIP
SKILLS**

**RESPONSIBLE
DECISION MAKING**

**SELF
MANAGEMENT**

We leverage the camp experience as a vehicle for personal empowerment and social change by focusing on social and emotional development. Through a diverse set of recreational programs, including arts, enrichment and athletics, we give our campers powerful lessons in community, character-building, leadership development, and healthy living. All the while, our campers experience nature or their own neighborhood in a way they never have before. Camp Ubuntu enables vulnerable children who have often lost hope to find that hope again, to learn how to be a part of a community of caring and trust. HRF measures its impact based on the SEL framework below. Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

The community of South Los Angeles, like other underserved communities across the country, lacks proper funding for quality public education and programs that provide safe spaces for adolescents to learn important lessons in character-building or leadership development. Only one-third of Watts and Compton residents have a high school diploma and only three percent of the population have earned a college degree.

Too few young people in South LA are given the opportunity to break out of a pre-determined destiny. At Harold Robinson Foundation, we believe all youth deserve the chance to pave a new pathway towards a successful and healthy life.

HRF PROGRAMS

HRF programs serve over 1,500 youth each year and we are growing to serve even more students in need.

Camp Ubuntu Retreats (Three-Day Nature Retreats): Our flagship program brings school groups of 100 students and 36 adults to the Angeles National Forest for three days at Canyon Creek Complex. Activities at camp include hiking, yoga and meditation, arts and crafts, ropes course, writing workshops, music therapy, sports, campfires and more. Our holistic approach is critical to facilitating real change and we invite a wide range of stakeholders to participate in the retreats, from parents, to teachers, and community leaders. These stakeholders' benefit from the opportunity to interact with the youth in a new environment, as well as from programs designed specifically for them, including parenting workshops as an opportunity for parents to connect with one another more and to learn new ways to communicate with their children.





Camp Ubuntu Watts (Six-Week Summer Camp in Watts): To further anchor our presence and impact in the community, we offer a free, six-week summer program directly in Watts. Camp Ubuntu Watts allows us to build on the success of the weekend retreats and provide much-needed enrichment directly where our youth and their families live, specifically during the summer months when crime rates are the highest. On any given day, campers engage in something artistic, something athletic, and something enriching, where high-quality programs range from film-making to conflict resolution. Group rotations introduce students to a variety of activities and a free-choice component allows them to pursue their individual interests. In Fall 2019 HRF will expand its programming to include weekends.

Leaders In Training Program: The purpose of the LIT Program is two-fold. It brings teens from our more affluent communities together with teens from Watts and Compton, who have attended Camp Ubuntu. This allows our teens to take on leadership roles at camp. They assist the counselors, show support, inspiration, and love to the kids in their cabins and help them try new things, overcome obstacles, and conquer their fears. The LIT program provides teens with a unique opportunity to make a lasting impact on the economically disadvantaged communities we serve while providing the opportunity to stay involved with our programs and organization.

PARTNERS IN EMPOWERMENT AND CHANGE

Harold Robinson Foundation is honored to have **over 40 organizational partners and collaborators** including 23 LAUSD Schools and a broad range of dedicated community organizations.

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For further information, please visit:
www.HaroldRobinsonFoundation.org