



October 17, 2012

Tony,

I believe we have been in the business of helping young people for almost the same amount of time. When you do good for that long a period of time, often it is not recognized by your peers. While looking back on it I came to realize just how unique and special you have been for young people in the city of Richmond and the state of Virginia.

With that being said, I want to personally congratulate you for 25 years of service to the people who most need our help. There are so many youngsters whom without your help would not have had the opportunity to realize a dream for themselves. That special vision you have to see things bigger than yourself is a gift very few people have.

Along with that, to be the first person in the Richmond area to start an AAU program is special as well. I'm sure there were many days when the same obstacles facing these kids were also there to stop you from your mission. I can say first hand though I have seen you persevere through many tough times to always make sure your kids have an opportunity for a bright future.

The names and stories of the people who have come and gone through your program are too many to mention, I just know that whether its basketball players, dads or husbands, you have helped shape lives over the years like few others could. I know you have more work left to do and I hope and pray that you and others around you are able to continue working together to better your community. In the world we are living in God only knows it's needed now more than ever!

Once again congratulations from the bottom of my heart. Take a minute to smell the roses than it's back to work as there are many more young people out there waiting for your guidance.

With appreciation,

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