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The Youth Advisory Council is a non-profit, philanthropic organization that aims to address the problems of youths today in hopes to provide solutions. Thus we issued our Answers For Change Survey to have the youths themselves tell us what they think seems to be the issue surrounding them. The results of the survey were not surprising. The youths said that they needed guidance and mentorship simply because they have their dreams; however, there are no clear avenues on the island that provides pathways for them to achieve such.

In order to help with such the Youth Advisory Council had a forum in which the purpose was centered on leadership. The youths who were there were from the different public middle and high schools on island and throughout the day they engaged in zealous activities that focused on educational and leadership development with Eric Cork as their speaker. There was even a panel of the members of the Youth Advisory Council discussing the many challenges of teens in our society.

From the forum, we then concluded that one day engaging in leadership development was merely not enough to address the need of mentorship that the youths revealed in our survey. Hence we then began creating a Global Youth Network which serves as a research clearing house for youths. On the website you can find successful individuals from a wide variety of careers who in a video recording told the steps they took to accomplish their goals and gave advice on how others can do the same. While the Global Youth Network is up and fully functioning it still needs work to be done in regards to webpage development.

Nonetheless, the Youth Advisory Council alone can not address the need of mentorship that our adolescents cry out for. Providing more resources for youths such as information regarding college readiness and preparations, having items such as SAT and ACT waivers always available, having more after programs that focus on leadership development is a start.

I would like to thank the government for having the Man Up Conference in the past several years. Such is a start in offering leadership to young men in our community. However, one day is not enough to make change simply because making change takes consistency. Perhaps there can be mini conferences twice a month that focuses on leadership development for the young men. Furthermore, while there are many negative dilemmas surrounding the young community there are also life changing issues that the young women have to deal with such as teen pregnancy.

In sum I hope that we as a community can come together to offer the youths leadership