



June 10, 2022

Ald. Milele A. Coggs  
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## **We Got This kicks off 10<sup>th</sup> season on Saturday**

Alderman Milele A. Coggs is pleased to announce that **We Got This** – the work and mentoring initiative for middle- and high school-aged males – begins its 10<sup>th</sup> season **TOMORROW - Saturday, June 11 at 8 a.m. at N. 9<sup>th</sup> St. and W. Ring.**

For 12 Saturdays, starting on Saturday June 11, young men can come to the garden at 9th and Ring to make a positive contribution to the neighborhood and earn \$20 in the process.

Alderman Coggs said she is looking forward to the boys being ready and eager to be a part of the project again, and is hopeful that donors will once again step up and provide the support that helps generate the positive reward for the work the boys complete.

“We Got This provides each boy with a landscaping or cleanup assignment in their neighborhood and a small amount of money is paid to each for their work,” Alderman Coggs said. “We are so grateful for the initiative, which has given many youth the opportunity to build a good work ethic and has kept many on a positive path.”

Motivated by concern for neighborhood boys surrounded by drugs, violence and a degree of hopelessness, community mentor and leader Andre Lee Ellis started We Got This in the summer of 2014 (please visit the website <https://wegotthismke.com> or email [contact@wegotthismke.com](mailto:contact@wegotthismke.com) for more information) with the support of countless community stakeholders.

The We Got This work initiative takes place on Saturday mornings (from 8 a.m. until noon) in the Borchert Field neighborhood so boys and teens can receive pay for landscaping and gardening work, as well as neighborhood cleaning and other small projects. Through the years hundreds of young teens -- ready and willing to work -- started showing up. Social media promotions have helped with donations, and people from across the community (and metro area) have responded, including many who drove to the neighborhood to meet the participants and provide positive support have aided in growing and sustaining this powerful neighborhood led initiative.

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