



MADE2BMORE: Promoting Positive Role Models for Girls

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- [Monthly Feature](#)

Rhonda Mincey knew something needed to be done when she found out numerous girls were placed on waiting lists to be mentored. She decided to start a program in the Atlanta area five years ago to address the need for young girls to attend a program that addressed team building, self-esteem, decision-making, and career exploration. "In my neighborhood, I would drive around and see girls aimlessly just wandering from house to house with no direction," says Rhonda. "I saw the need for young girls to go where they were valued and loved...especially on Saturdays."

Rhonda wanted to offer more than just cheerleading or dance classes. "At the time, I had a daughter that was 13, and I was looking for a place for her to go to," explains Rhonda. "So, in my quest to find something for her, and in addition to seeing the girls in my own community not really having a place to go, it was impressed upon me to be the person to start something."

She was unsure what to call the program or what the details would work out to be, but Rhonda used her personal experiences to create a program that would address the various social and emotional needs of girls aged 11 to 19-years old. "I would always tell my own daughter, she was made for more," says Rhonda. "By me reiterating to her that, 'you're made for more, think of yourself more highly,' that's when the name came to me."

Made2BMore began in the Atlanta area, where Rhonda was able to use the Boys and Girls Club facility for the girls to meet. Through personal friends, she ran a public service announcement on the radio and a local community newspaper ran a story on the program. Rhonda was also featured on TBS Storyline, which highlighted her dedication to helping young girls. "Young women are told by the media who they should be, who they should look like, but they have very few role models in life telling them the truth about true beauty and who they should become," says Rhonda. The program aims to help girls achieve their highest potential.

The girls meet approximately three times per month, where they participate in a number of activities, including specialized sessions that involve role playing, exploring various social and emotional topics, and listening to special guest speakers. Made2BMore consists of two programs: the "Leaders" program and "S.I.S.T.E.R.S." (stay in school to excel, rise, and succeed) program. The Leaders program lasts for one year, beginning in August and goes through May. At the end, a ceremony is held.

Topics such as self-esteem, abstinence, peer-pressure, media madness, decision-making, goal-setting, leadership, life-skills, and much more are explored. Another important aspect to the program includes community service, where these young girls participate in giving back.

In 2007, Rhonda decided to move her family to Middle Georgia. She launched the program shortly after moving and Made2BMore is currently being offered in Perry. "Coming to Perry, a smaller town, a more rural area, I realized that I wanted to start up the program here as well," says Rhonda, who describes her commitment and passion to reach these young girls as a burning desire. "We ask these young girls what are they made to be?" says Rhonda. "And

they'll finish that sentence by saying, "I'm made to be a leader" - they'll own that sentence."

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Sessions are held one Saturday per month at the Perry recreation center and the S.I.S.T.E.R.S program is held at a high-risk school in Warner Robins. "Once a week, we'll go to Crossroads and have a session with girls," says Rhonda. "To be able to talk with these girls about life skills and decision-making encourages and helps them understand what they're doing." Although the girls meet once a month on Saturdays in Perry for the Leaders program, Rhonda hopes the program will continue to grow. "We have some girls from a group home in Macon that drive down here to be with us; however this program is open for all girls who have a desire to be different from their peers," says Rhonda. "Our goal is to change the mindset of our young girls and help them to reach their full potential." Rap sessions are held, where the girls can discuss what they want to discuss along with journaling and public speaking.

Made 2B More has received local support from the community including a grant from Wal-Mart, and meal coupons from Chick-Fil-A. The program is in need of financial support as well as session facilitators.

To get involved, make a tax-deductible donation, or for more information visit www.made2bmore.org or call Rhonda at (478) 731-2664.