

Youth



It has been said that the children are our future. I certainly believe that. Upon taking office, I had the initial idea of creating a program targeted at our youth, particularly boys of color. But I am a big fan of not trying to reinvent the wheel.

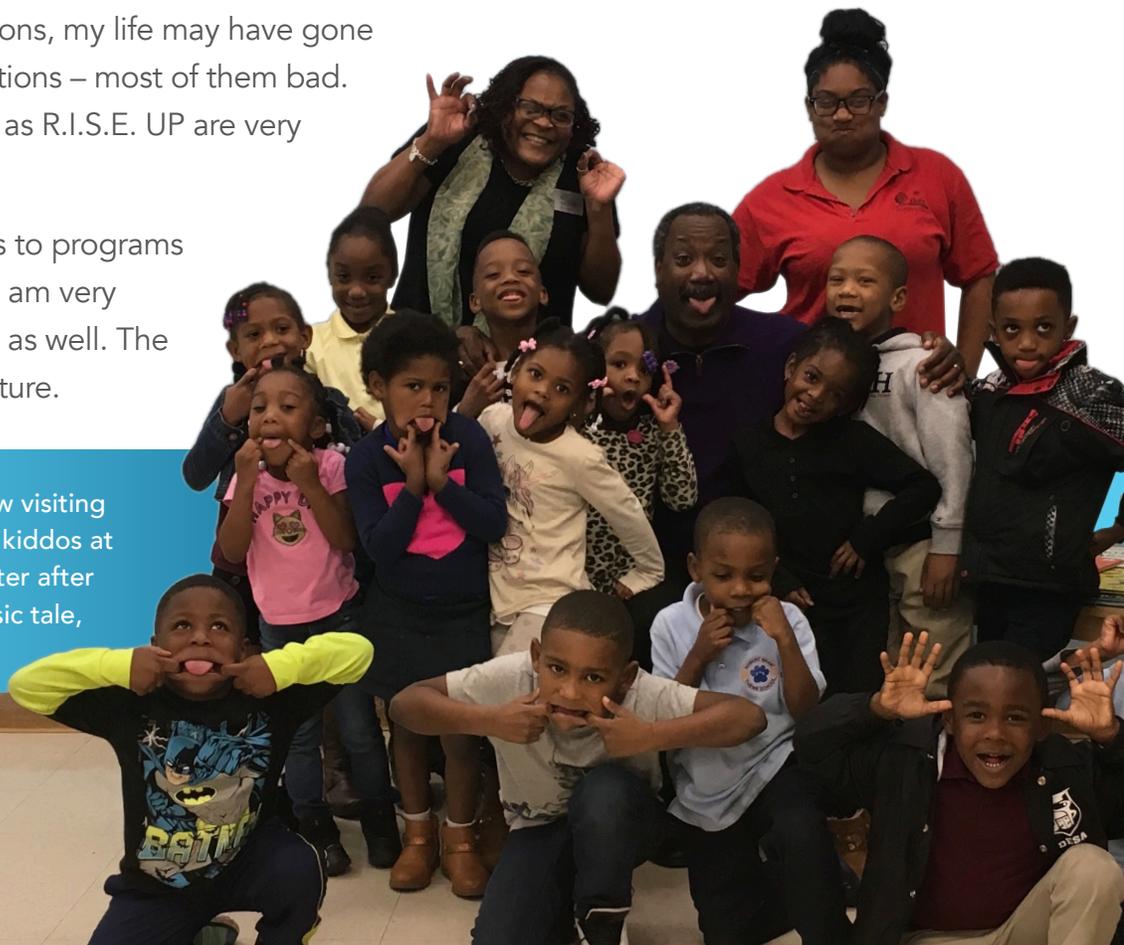
Fortunately, I discovered the Resilience, Intervention, Service, & Empowerment Young Men's Leadership Development Program (R.I.S.E. UP). This program is administered by DeKalb's Human Services Department Office of Youth Services, and they do an outstanding job. R.I.S.E. UP is a derivative of President Obama's My Brother's Keeper program, which teaches relevant life skills to middle school-aged boys of color.

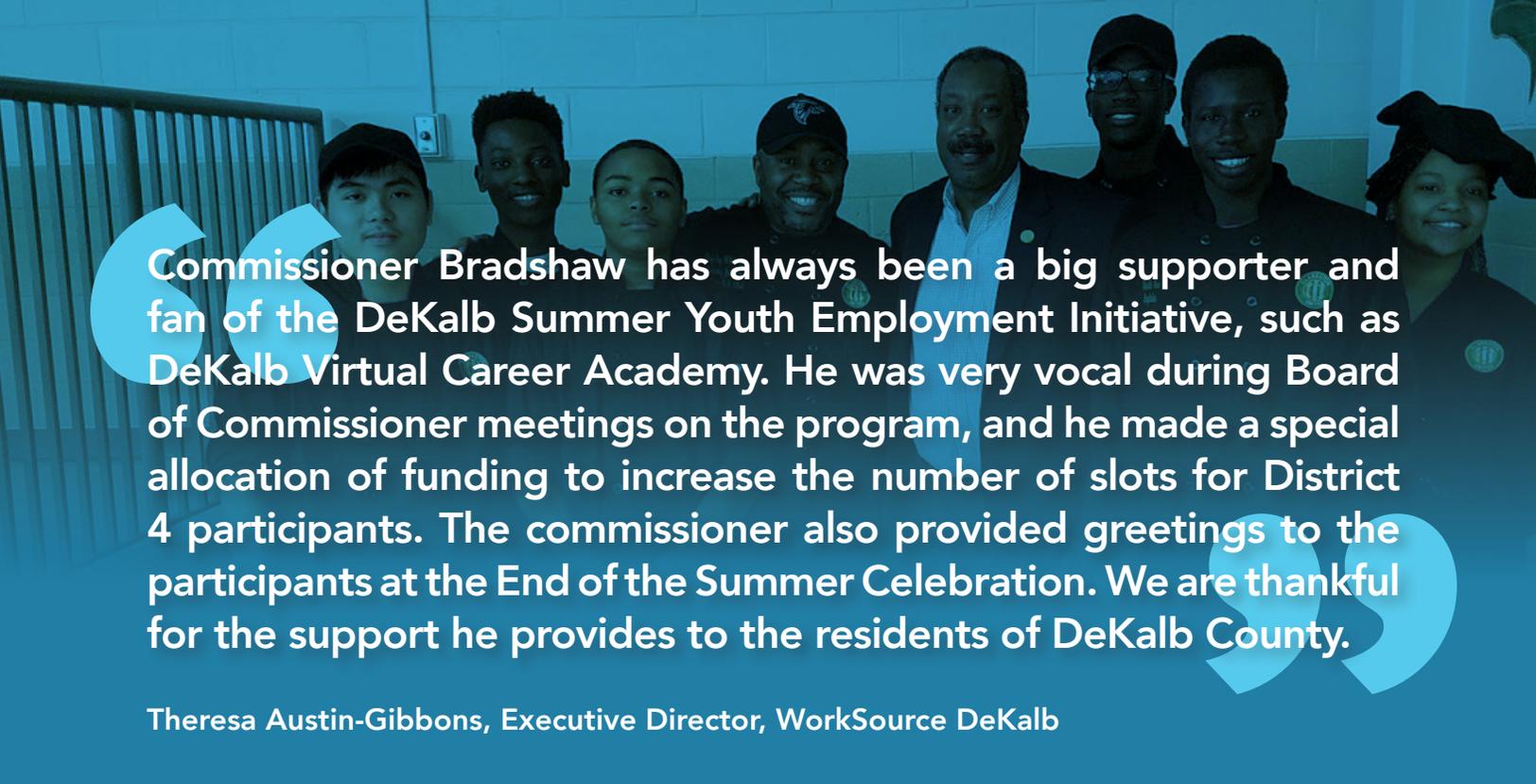
When I witnessed how this program was being executed in another district, I became determined to introduce such a program to District 4. I have fully funded this program out of District 4 reserve funds, and it may be the best money that I have allocated since I have been in office.

As I write these words, I am a 57-year-old African American man, which means that once upon a time, I was an African American boy. Occasionally, I think back on myself as a youth. Had it not been for certain interventions, my life may have gone off in any number of directions – most of them bad. Therefore, programs such as R.I.S.E. UP are very close to my heart.

I have also allocated funds to programs targeted at all our youth. I am very proud of these allocations as well. The children are indeed our future.

Commissioner Steve Bradshaw visiting with staff and cutting up with kiddos at The Hamilton Recreation Center after a thrilling retelling of the classic tale, Green Eggs and Ham.





Commissioner Bradshaw has always been a big supporter and fan of the DeKalb Summer Youth Employment Initiative, such as DeKalb Virtual Career Academy. He was very vocal during Board of Commissioner meetings on the program, and he made a special allocation of funding to increase the number of slots for District 4 participants. The commissioner also provided greetings to the participants at the End of the Summer Celebration. We are thankful for the support he provides to the residents of DeKalb County.

Theresa Austin-Gibbons, Executive Director, WorkSource DeKalb

DeKalb County – District 4

Accomplishments

- Voted to support the administration's youth summer employment program, which has employed over 1,000 youth interns county-wide over four years
- Allocated \$62,000 of District 4 reserve funds to add 50 additional intern slots for the 2020 youth summer employment program
- Employed four interns in the District 4 office
- Allocated \$55,000 of District 4 reserve funds to R.I.S.E. UP Young Men's Leadership Development Program at Freedom Middle School, including an evaluation from Georgia State Masters students of the program



R.I.S.E. UP Opening Ceremony, January 2020.