

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING EPDC

When you support Emerson Park Development Corporation, you are changing lives of young men and women like Montez Moore.

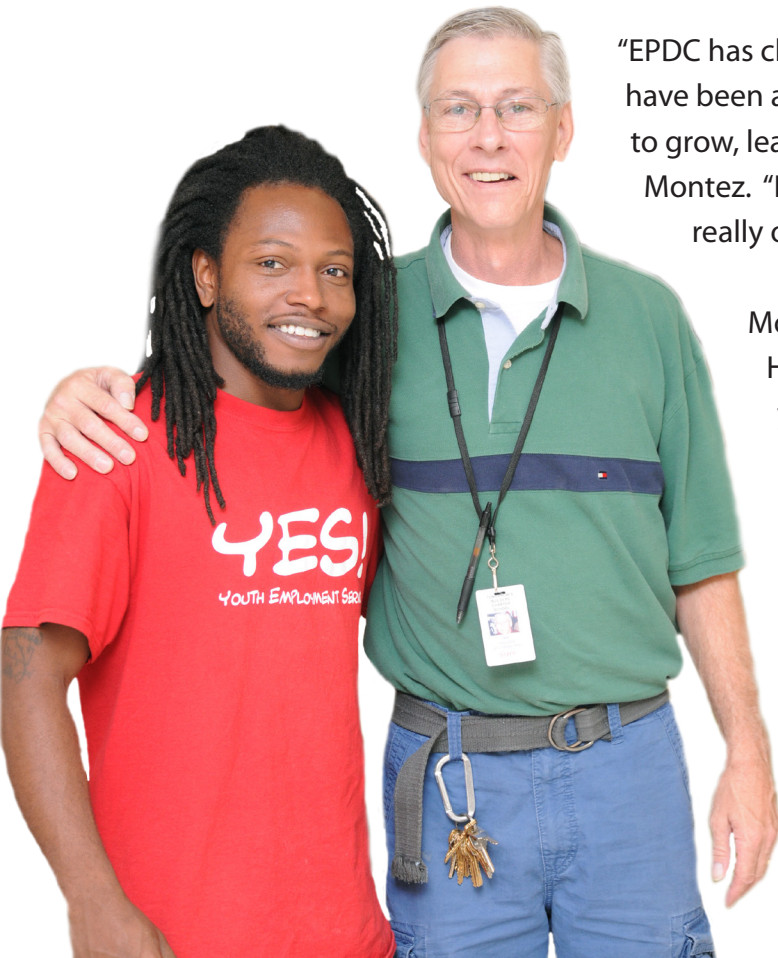


In 2009, Montez Moore had just been released from jail on house arrest. Old enough to be a senior, Montez had only sophomore credits when he entered *Tomorrow's Builders YouthBuild Charter High School* program. "At the time I didn't know anything about the school, but I had gotten a felony and they were the only program that would let me in," says Montez. "I was just trying to get my high school diploma."

Montez started at the charter school in the fall, and by January had earned enough credits to become a part of the *YouthBuild Construction Trades Training* program. He went on to complete the weatherization program, be a part of Teens Against Killing Everywhere (TAKE), and become certified in Green Building, Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

"EPDC has changed my life. It opened doors that I would never have been able to open by myself. It gave me the opportunity to grow, learn, and strive for new levels of success," says Montez. "It took me away from the violence and drugs and really opened me up to something more."

Montez now works for EPDC as a youth organizer. His responsibilities include scheduling the summer youth program and making sure all the student files are complete. "Emerson Park has taught me that I don't have to be a drug dealer or a gangbanger; that there are positive things I can do to help my community," says Montez. "Once you get involved here, it becomes your life to help people. These people eat, sleep, and breathe changing lives and neighborhoods one city at a time."



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