



# WHAT'S WORKING

A Message From DJJ Director Andy Block

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## Fighting To Keep Kids Off The Streets

Detrina Crawley has spent her career finding creative ways to keep disadvantaged kids out of trouble. She never thought she would actually encourage them to fight.

But when she investigated the Ninth Dimension Sports Circle boxing program on Hull Street in Richmond at the suggestion of Inter/Intra Recreational and Extracurricular Activities Program (IREAP) Manager Clarence McGill, she made an exception.

When she saw that Coach Omar Aleem shared her passion for providing a structured environment to kids in which they can learn boxing in a disciplined way from caring adults, she saw a partnership in the making. And perhaps best of all: Coach Aleem never turned a child away, even if he couldn't afford to pay the \$80 monthly fee for the program.

"I asked Coach Aleem why he let kids keep coming, even if they

couldn't afford it," says Crawley, who is a Transitional Parole Officer at CSU 13-Richmond. "He told me that when he sees passion and drive in the child, he wants to nurture it to help keep the kid out of trouble. At that moment, I knew I had to find a way to raise money so other kids could benefit from the program."

Crawley decided to set up an online fundraising website ([youcaring.com](http://youcaring.com)) and asked all her friends and family to support her mission. She raised more than \$3,000 in less than a month. "I call the money we raise from this effort the 'Crawley Scholarship,'" she says with a smile. "So far, we've been able to help eight kids who would not otherwise be able to attend. But even if the money runs out, because I have built that relationship with Coach Aleem, I now know that kids in our area will always have a constructive place to go."



Left: Detrina Crawley watches two young boxers spar under the close supervision of a coach at the Ninth Dimension Sports Circle. Above: Crawley with Coach Omar Aleem. Below: Crawley and Clarence McGill urge on youngsters.

