

MILWAUKEE'S FATHERHOOD BROTHERHOOD

NUT GRAPH

Over 60% of African American children live in fatherless homes. In Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where the achievement gap is nearly the highest in the country, Delvyn Crawford is trying to turn the numbers around. This story is about Delvyn's work as a fatherhood specialist, creating a brotherhood of young black fathers. Delvyn provides fathers in his community with a support system and a new hope.

TREATMENT

SCENE 1: Setting The Stage: Character & Conflict Intro

We see Milwaukee, Wisconsin rolling by through a car window and we meet Delvyn Crawford as he drives and tells us about his city. Delvyn explains that Milwaukee is a very racially divided place and much of the African American population lives in poverty. Delvyn paints a picture of the struggle his community faces.

SCENE 2: One Man's Solution: In The Classroom

Delvyn enters a building and we meet a group of African American men of all different ages, but with one thing in common; they are fathers. We are with Delvyn as he leads a man-to-man discussion session and we see real verite moments of black fathers talking about their personal struggles. Themes of these sessions include forgiving the past Delvyn's message is that fathers can start now to build the relationship they want with their children.

SCENE 3: Character Backstory: Being A Dad

We cut to Delvyn at home, preparing a snack for his children and helping them with their homework. In his living room, Delvyn tells us about his own past his father was abusive, but eventually turned his life around. Delvyn also struggled with substances and became a father when he was very young. We learn of his own inspiration to become a better dad.

SCENE 4: Back In The Classroom

We're with Delvyn as he performs a spoken word rap to a group of people. His speaking performances are driven by his past struggles and they communicate a hope for the future.

SCENE 5: Does It Work?: Meeting with Graduates

Then, we go with Delvyn as he visits a father from the group and has a more intimate discussion of the issues. We see the father reading with his son and then talking to Delvyn about recent problems. It's an emotional and honest moment. (I'll plan to film a few of these to find the best moments).

SCENE 6: The Mission Goes On

In the end, we drive back with Delvyn as he describes the uphill battle for African American fathers. We understand the problems are complex and that there is no quick fix, but Delvyn believes they can find strength in their support system, their brotherhood.

