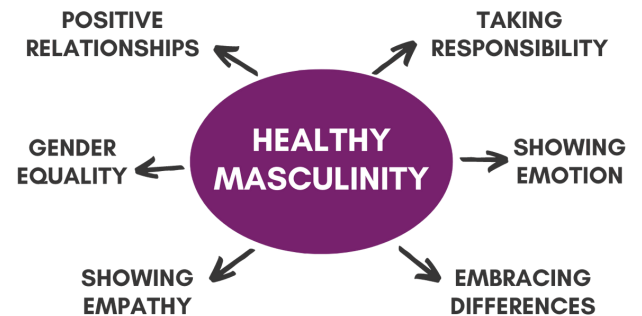


WHAT'S UP WITH MANHOOD?



We're on a mission to redefine gender roles, prevent violence against females, and empower male adolescents to embody healthy masculinity.



WHAT'S UP WITH MANHOOD CHANGES YOUNG LIVES

Our What's Up with Manhood? program is a proven approach to reducing the impact of violence in the lives of adolescent LatinX and Black males living in under-resourced neighborhoods on the South and West sides of Chicago.

- Started in 2017 with a cohort of 28 high school boys in Chicago's Little Village neighborhood.
- Led by our Male Mentors, the program provides 2-3 years of academic and social-emotional support to participants in grades 9-12.
- Employs a multilevel approach including one-on-one mentoring sessions, group training, as well as parental and school community engagement.

PROGRAM GOALS:

Increase high school retention and graduation rates.

Increase post-secondary education acceptance rates.

Reduce gang involvement and prevent interaction with the criminal justice system.

Positively change attitudes of and foster appreciation for gender equality, healthy masculinity, and healthy peer relationships.

WHAT'S UP WITH MANHOOD = SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES



A young man's attitude related to his masculinity shapes his behavior, his relationships, his health, and ultimately, his ability to be a productive member of his community.

Rigid stereotypes of masculinity drive our young men to feel the need to act tough, hide emotions, and dominate women. Options for Youth's *What's Up with Manhood?* program combats these attitudes, using evidence-based and gender transformative curriculum with astounding results.

SINCE 2017:

- 98% of our seniors graduated from high school.
- 100% of those graduates were accepted into college or trade school.
- Participants began to think critically about how "being a man" is defined in their communities.
- Participants gained an understanding of and appreciation for gender equality and peaceful conflict resolution, reporting healthier relationships with partners, peers, and parents.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

"I realized I was treating my girlfriend as an object, not as a person."

- Program Participant

"I learned there are more sides to being a man... when you are constantly bombarded with negative images, because that is all you see and all you know, you think that is normal, but it's not healthy normal."

- Program Participant

"I grew up seeing a lot of bad stuff go on between my mom and dad. The program showed me that things don't have to be like that for me. I learned how to treat girls, and how to care about others."

- Program Participant

About Options for Youth: For over 20 years, OFY has worked to expand life opportunities for Chicago's most vulnerable teens on the South and West Sides of the city. Through programs that build upon the strengths and maximize the potential of each young person, OFY helps to break the cycle of poverty in their lives and communities.