

HYDE
T A S K F O R C E
SQUARE
JAMAICA PLAIN

THE HYDE SQUARE TASK FORCE

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EDUCATION & COMMUNITY IN ACTION
EDUCACIÓN Y COMUNIDAD EN ACCIÓN

■ **ARTS & CULTURAL PROGRAMS**
- PROGRAMAS CULTURALES Y ARTÍSTICOS

■ **COLLEGE & CAREER EXPLORATION**
- PREPARACIÓN PROFESIONAL Y PRE-UNIVERSITARIA

■ **COMMUNITY ORGANIZING**
- ORGANIZACIÓN COMUNITARIA

■ **MENTORING & ACADEMIC SUPPORT**
- CONSEJERÍA Y APOYO ESCOLAR

■ **PARENT ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES**
- INICIATIVAS DE PARTICIPACIÓN FAMILIAR

■ **SCHOOL-BASED AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS**
- PROGRAMAS DESPUÉS DE CLASES

■ **SUMMER PROGRAMS**
- PROGRAMAS DE VERANO

■ **YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**
- DESARROLLO JUVENIL



United Way
of Massachusetts Bay

Hyde Square Task Force Mentoring Success Story

Wandy and Ken first met on the baseball field in Jamaica Plain. Wandy was an 11 year old with a dream of making it big to Major Leagues one day, and Ken was a community volunteer coach for his team in the local league. A long time resident of Jamaica Plain, Ken was immediately taken by Wandy's passion for sports. The pair bonded over baseball practice and the constant discussions of professional baseball and football. Living in the same neighborhood, Ken and Wandy often made plans to meet for pizza and to watch Red Sox and the Patriots games together. Relatively new to the country from the Dominican Republic, Wandy was hesitant of speaking English in front of others. With the encouragement from Ken, who is an English professor at the Roxbury Community College, Wandy's linguistic skills significantly improved. In no time, Wandy became more confident in school and in his social life.

The pair drifted apart as Wandy grew older and began to hang out with his friends more. Although they saw each other around the neighborhood, their bond grew further apart. It wasn't until a few years later when they would reconnect again.

When Wandy turned 15 years old, he was looking for something to do after school.

After running into Ken, he was encouraged to apply to become a youth leader at Hyde Square Task Force. Wandy did and was selected as a Youth Community Organizer. Also involved with the Hyde Square Task Force as a Program Developer, Ken reestablished his bond with Wandy. Through the Hyde Square Task Force Mentoring Program, Ken and Wandy were officially paired up to participate in all of the activities. Ken has provided both emotional and academic support for Wandy and helped him work through challenges. Ken also took the initiative to contact Wandy's teachers and guidance counselor to develop a plan to help him apply himself in school. Because of Ken's support, Wandy has improved his attendance in school and greatly improved his grades.

Now 17 years old and college bound, Wandy is set to graduate in June 2006. In their third year of official mentoring relationship, Ken and Wandy meet regularly to talk about his future plans. With an interest in business and technology, Wandy hopes to attend college and further his education. Having been there every step of the way, Ken is providing any guidance and support Wandy may need in order to get there. Sharing the same passion for sports, the pair continues to use that as a way to connect and meet. Being selected by Mass Mentoring Partnership as Vince Wilfork's Match of the Game through the Bernie & Phyl's Furniture Be a Champion for a Child program will add another exciting memory to their long-lasting friendship.



