



The Skillman Foundation Presents

# YAKTIVITIES FOR HELPING KIDS

## The MAN Network Organized in Osborn to Make a Difference

The MAN Network is a group of men determined to make a difference in their community.

The MAN in the name stands for Maintaining a Neighborhood, and the goal is to create a network of men who will give parents – especially fathers – the support they need to raise their children successfully.

Interested men can be any color, any religion or any age. The only requirement: Participants need to be man enough to step up to the challenge of community restoration.

The MAN Network is a collaborative effort of churches in the Osborn community, which has more than 32 churches and faith-based organizations. These churches serve as recruitment hubs and sources to get men involved in the network. At the heart of the MAN Network is its commitment to making communities safer for children.

In all its activities, the network embraces the challenge to put the “neighbor” back into the “hood” to restore the “neighborhood.”

### Three-Phase Strategy

To accomplish its mission the MAN Network uses a three-phase strategy:

Phase One: Presence. The men in the MAN Network get involved in the community through school patrols, foot patrols and radio patrols.

Phase Two: The Return of Respect. The men in the MAN Network believe thought affects behavior and seek to change behavior by changing thought. Through media



campaigns, respect rallies and block parties, the network saturates communities with messages of kindness, unity and nonviolence.

Phase Three: Support for Men, Youth and Seniors. Men, especially fathers and single fathers, need encouragement and support, and the MAN Network provides resources to help them be all that they can be.

### Man-to-Man & More

In keeping with its goal of giving parents the support they need to raise their children, the MAN Network has created a regular forum for discussions on key issues through its Man-to-Man Project. Monthly seminars are held for men and others at select locations, and the network brings in experts and authors who have messages unique to men.

Mentoring is also another strong component

of this group. Once a year, a three-day Respect Rally is held, which includes workshops, trainings, recognition of good work and strategizing for the future success of the MAN Network.

The mentorship division is called the Fellowship of Sons, and it provides resources to bring the best to the sons of the community so that they will grow to be reverent, respectful and responsible leaders.

The Network assists seniors with the Call a MAN program. In this program, volunteers provide free lawn care, snow removal, minor repair work and transportation to seniors at no charge.

### The MAN Network Message

The MAN Network message can be summed up as follows:

It's your duty as a man who lives in Detroit to get involved:

- To assist people to have a greater sense of ownership in the community.
- To encourage people to take back their streets from predators.
- To invoke the concept of racial harmony and unity.

The MAN Network's office is located at 14510 East Seven Mile Road in Detroit. To learn more about this group or to get involved, visit [www.themannetwork.net](http://www.themannetwork.net).



## THINK ABOUT MEN'S ROLES

Men have important roles to play in the community. In strong communities these roles include supporting their children, being role models for boys and younger men and providing leadership for solving problems in neighborhoods. With family or friends, talk about men you know who offer leadership, are role models or provide family support in the community. Then talk about ways families can encourage strong men they know to be more active in the community.