

UNDERSTANDING URBAN ADOLESCENT MALES . . . and YOURSELF:

An Alchemical View

Part Two

Saturday, June 27, 2009

Akron General Health & Wellness Center – West

4125 Medina Road – Akron, Ohio 44333



Registration: 8:15 – 9 am - Workshop: 9 am – 4 pm

NO COST for Individuals who attended Part One (March 21, 2009)

\$50 – Early Registration (June 20 Deadline)

\$35 – University Students with Identification

\$60 at Door

Continental Breakfast & Box Lunch Included

Please make checks payable to: Alchemy, Inc. – P.O. Box 4041 – Copley, OH 44321

Register by: payment of check – by phone 330-665-5920 - or email at myth@alchemyinc.net

Contact: G. Kwame Scruggs

www.alchemyinc.net

Alchemy, Inc. is a tax-exempt charitable nonprofit organization founded in 2003, now a nationally recognized program. The mission of Alchemy, Inc. is to assist urban adolescent males in recalling their gift and to develop a sense of personal purpose in life, while utilizing strategies to successfully function as members of a family, school, community and world-at-large. The concept of Alchemy, Inc. is to create a safe environment and sense of community to assist in the development of urban adolescent males through the telling, discussion and interpretation of mythological stories and fairytales told to the beat of an African drum.



This project is funded, in part, by the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services, Alchemy, Inc., the Kutz Foundation and Ashe Cultural Center

WORKSHOP THEMES: THE ALCHEMICAL VESSEL

“Give a person facts and ideas and you enlighten their mind. Tell them a story—and you touch their soul.” Hasidic proverb

- **Objectives:**
 - Participants will develop a deeper understanding of Alchemy’s theory of urban youth development
 - Participants will be able to demonstrate the use of myth in creating discussions with urban adolescent males
 - Participants will understand basic concepts related to the “cultural mindset” of urban adolescent males
- **Method:** The objectives will be accomplished by creating a safe place and sense of community through the telling, discussion and interpretation of mythological stories and fairy tales told to the beat of an African drum.
- **Format:** In the morning we will tell, discuss and interpret a myth with the youth of Alchemy, Inc. An adult- only session will take place after lunch to explore life’s challenges through myth, with dreams lost and then found, perhaps only to be lost again and found once more . . .

“Myths are not just for putting children asleep, but for waking adults up.”

PRIMARY FACILITATORS



G. Kwame Scruggs is founder and Executive Director of Alchemy, Inc. Kwame holds an MA in Mythological Studies with an emphasis in Depth Psychology from Pacifica Graduate Institute in Santa Barbara, California. Within the upcoming months Kwame will obtain his Ph.D. in this discipline. Kwame also holds an MS degree in Technical Education with an emphasis in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Akron where he also completed the entire course work for an MA in Community Counseling. Kwame has utilized myth with urban male youth

for over 15 years and is an active participant in continuing education opportunities through the C.G. Jung Centers in New York and Cleveland. Kwame has been formally initiated into the Akan System of Life Cycle Development (African-based rites of passage process).



Jerry Kwame Williams has worked as an adult mentor and program staff associate with Alchemy, Inc. since its inception. He has over 25 years of direct service and management experience with Cuyahoga County Department of Human Services. He is also a pre-college instructor with the Upward Bound program at Kent State University and has served as a youth mentor and developer for numerous programs, including Rites of Passage. Jerry holds a BS in social work from Central Michigan University and is currently obtaining his masters degree in Public Administration and Urban Studies from The University of Akron. Jerry is a drummer and storyteller with a natural gift

of wisdom and ritual. He has been formally initiated into the Akan System of Life Cycle Development (African based rites of passage process).

