

# **OPEN LETTER TO ALL BLACK FATHERS: What You Must Do Now To Save Your Children**

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This is an open letter and national call to action to all black fathers to save black youths by helping them become successful business owners. There is no blueprint to show anyone how to raise a black child but first all black fathers need to be a part of their child's life.

We can no longer tell our youths to go to school and get a good job. Due to the failing economy, the whole paradigm has now shifted and that's why schools are serving as feeder systems into prisons.

We know that black males are the last hired and first fired in the workplace simply because when companies hire a black female, they have hired a minority who is: 1) a female, and 2) an African American. So the company gets two quotas when they hire black females instead of black males. So it will be extremely hard for black males, no matter their age, background or education to hold on to many jobs in America.

In the past black youths went to school, got out and got jobs and worked for 30 years and retired. But now if you end up in the workplace, there's a good chance that you will be forced out no matter what type of credentials you have acquired.

Because of the economy, the people in charge in the workplace are bringing in their relatives and friends at an alarming rate, and this practice has totally polluted most workplaces in America.

So why do we continue to prepare our children for a workplace that doesn't want them in the first place? At this point, we have no other choice but to prepare our children to become business owners.

## **A Father's Duty:**

With over 70% of homes being ran by black women, black men or fathers, must now step up to the plate and do the right thing and be in the lives of their children. Black mothers are very strong individuals but still sometimes they need help!

Black fathers need to come back into the lives of their children and help them transition into successful business owners. Let's not dwell on what happened in the past between you and your child's mother but let's start today building for the future. Let's build a gateway to empower your children to become successful leaders of tomorrow. And the way to do that is for them to become successful business owners.

We are asking all black fathers to sit down with their children that are at least 10 years of age and encourage them to investigate the possibility of becoming a business owner. Explain to your children how important it is for them to stay in school especially with black parents being arrested for truancy or educational neglect at an alarming rate.

Black men must also work with other black females who no longer have any type of males in their lives. They need to work with groups such as “Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.”

Fathers it’s never too late to do the right thing for your family. Remember you are still the father of that child and, therefore, you are responsible for that child’s future.

### **Black Youths are Multi-talented!**

Our children are multi-talented! So what are you waiting on? It’s time to invest in them! They have the strength, the tenacity, and the boldness to become successful business owners. They are imaginative, creative, and fashionable. But the reality is, our youth do not want to be a carbon copy of their parents.

They are living in the world of technology. Everything is opened to them with just a click. Therefore, they do have what it takes to become a successful business owner but one of the main obstacles that will stop them from going that route is the lack of parental supervision and support in their lives.

### **A New Concept:**

Youth business ownership is a new concept especially in the black community. And for some, it’s going to be an uphill battle because people don’t embrace new things. Chances are support from the community will probably be slow. That’s why it’s extremely important for black parents to be on board with their children as they maneuver through this uncharted territory of youth business ownership.

No one expects black mothers or fathers to teach their children about entrepreneurship especially when most of them don’t understand how businesses really work themselves. But what is expected of black mothers and fathers is to encourage, allow and assist their children to investigate the possibility of becoming a business owner especially all pre-teens and teenagers.

If you don’t understand business yourself, there are ethical business mentors, consultants and coaches and other business owners that would love to help your kids succeed in business, but first you have to see the vision and take the proper steps to make this happen. Many of these experts might be in your own family. Do your research by all means, but then take the proper steps to help your youth transition into a successful business owner.

## **The Vision:**

Black males should understand how important it is for their children especially males to become business owners. And the good thing about becoming a business owner, you can start many businesses from the leisure of your own home.

With all the bullying taking place in schools, in neighborhoods and on the internet and with the suicide rate of black children reaching an all time high, if black children have something that they can feel good about, then they would not want to join gangs and be criminalized by the police or engage in some other type of unhealthy habit in order to feel good about themselves.

Your daughters would not go out and look for young men to make them feel good about themselves. All this love and training should start at home, even if the father is not in the home.

For many parents, it's will be black children especially pre-teens and teenagers that will teach them about business ownership. But first they have to learn the process themselves -- so don't stand in their way but support them instead!

## **Let's Look at Some of the Qualifications for Youth Entrepreneurs:**

- Is your child a self-starter?
- Can your child make decisions?
- Does your child have will-power?
- Does your child have self-discipline?
- Does your child have a good understanding of their strengths and weaknesses?

Not all black youths, like black adults, have what it takes to become a business owner. Some youths will have to work for others!

## **Some of the Reasons that Black Adults Need to Start Businesses:**

- One out of every two marriages ends because of finances, so someone in your household (youth, parents, or both) need to start a business.
- Most families dream of having their own businesses and being self-employed.
- No family really wants to have latch-key kids.
- People are sick of office politics (discrimination/workplace abuse, cutthroat co-workers, etc.)
- People do not like driving in traffic.
- When you transfer to another city, it's best to start a business rather than looking for a job.
- Because of the weak economy, no job is secure and owning your own business will lend more security to your life.

But the reality is, it is going to be extremely hard for black parents over the age of 35 to start a business because: 1) They are eating bad foods (GMOs/processed foods) which is turning off their brains and causing them to be at risk for many preventable illnesses and diseases; 2) They are too set in their ways; 3) They want everything for free; and 4) They refuse to read helpful non-fiction books.

Black children, unlike adults, are still learning and their minds are still developing, therefore, they will read non-fiction books, which will make it much easier for them to learn about business ownership.

### **Some of the Reasons That Youths Need to Start a Business:**

- It will help them grow into a responsible adult.
- It will help them help their family out financially.
- It will help them change the conditions in the community.
- It will help them become a great humanitarian.
- It will help them pay for their entire college education.
- They have no other choice because of the economy.

The entire black community must get behind the black family and especially black fathers that are trying to be in the lives of their children and set up several outlets to teach black youths about entrepreneurship opportunities. If we can't set up youth entrepreneurship opportunities in the school system, then we must set up these opportunities in communities -- especially in our own homes.

### **Steps You Can Take to Help Your Children Jump-Start Their Entrepreneurial Minds and Start a Business:**

- Remember all youth need business mentors. If you can't find them in your family then look for these business owners in local business groups. Allow your youths to join and work with local Chambers of Commerce, Business Networks, or Business Leagues. Remember not all business groups cater to youth businesses, so look for one that does. And make sure they are not involved in Network or Multi-Level Marketing (aka Pyramid Schemes).
- Take your children to the library often to read books on business and marketing especially during the summer time when they are out of school and let them form book clubs with family and friends.
- Buy a Kindle, Nook or some other type of reading device and allow your kids reading time everyday.
- Sit down with your children at the computer one or two hours a day at home and allow them to conduct business research at <http://www.google.com> or <http://www.yahoo.com>.

- Cut down on the amount of time that your children are watching TV and let them read and make sure they are watching educational shows such as documentaries and financial shows.
- Subscribe to BlackEnterprise.com online or read the magazine free at the library and support their annual Kidpreneurs and Teenpreneurs' events.

There are several businesses that your children especially pre-teens and teenagers can start ASAP and start making money within two weeks – why -- because they are multi-talented!

Cathy Harris is known as The Ethical Black Business Coach, <http://www.TheEthicalBlackBusinessCoach.blogspot.com> and is the author of over 20 non-fiction books including two business books ***“The New CEO: 185 Easy-To-Set Up Businesses for Youth and Adult Entrepreneurs”*** and ***“How To Take Control of Your Own Life: A Self-Help Guide to Starting Your Own Business (Series 2).”*** She is available for business seminars, workshops, webinars and coaching at <http://www.CathyHarrisSpeaks.com> and can be reached through her empowerment company at Angels Press, P.O. Box 19282, Austin, TX 78760, Phone: (512) 909-7365, Website: <http://www.angelspress.com> and Email: [info@angelspress.com](mailto:info@angelspress.com).

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