



“In life we must utilize every moment we have to strive towards becoming the people we want to be.”

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

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Letter from the Founder & CEO



Boys Speak Out, Inc. (“BSO, Inc.”), a Georgia 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation organized December 15, 2005, made huge strides in 2008. BSO, Inc. devoted 2006 to strategic planning, 2007 to implementing its first programming, and 2008 to increasing its programming all over the nation. We are proud to announce that in 2008 we reached out to kids via ten (10) BSO, Inc. programs in Atlanta, Georgia, New York, New York, Los Angeles, California, Jacksonville, Florida, and Chicago, Illinois. BSO, Inc. hopes to build off the momentum gained in 2008, and in 2009 organize 15 programs.

BSO, Inc. reached two major milestones in 2008. First, the corporation organized its inaugural Boys Speak Out® Forum (the “Forum”) at Georgia State University. The purpose of the Forum is to deconstruct masculine stereotypes and teach middle school male students the importance of constructive self expression. Fifty (50) middle school boys from Woodward Academy, Atlanta Youth Academy and KIPP WAYS Academy gathered to learn from one another and from Forum mentors, and the program was a major success. The second major milestone BSO, Inc. reached was the filing of its first Form 990 with the Internal Revenue Service. BSO, Inc. is committed to serving the community responsibly and effectively, and the implementation of the Forum and the Internal Revenue Service’s acceptance of BSO, Inc.’s Form 990 support the notion that the corporation is progressing well.

BSO, Inc.’s “For a Day” programs reached new heights in 2008 as well. Programs such as College Student for a Day at the University of Southern California, Doctor for a Day at Morehouse School of Medicine (Atlanta) and Law Student for a Day at the University of Chicago Law School exposed participants to a vast array of professional and academic settings while emphasizing the importance of the BSO, Inc. Three Keys to Success: hard work, dedication and surrounding one’s self with positive people.

We are truly excited about 2009 as we have targeted new partner schools and host institutions all over the United States. Further, BSO, Inc. will continue to spread word of its excellent work all over the nation through fundraising events and email updates. We are truly grateful for all of the support provided by many individuals and the leadership provided by our Directors and Trustees. We look forward to an outstanding 2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony Webb". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anthony Webb
Boys Speak Out, Inc. Founder & CEO

The Boys Speak Out® Forum: Why a Program for Boys?

It is well known that the challenges that boys and girls encounter as they grow up are numerous and complex. Unfortunately, for boys, it is less socially acceptable for them to delve deep inside themselves to recognize and address their struggles openly.

Society places many pressures on boys to be “tough.” This tough guise makes it more difficult for adults to notice when boys are internally struggling. The same shame that silences girls from expressing themselves as adolescents takes a significant toll on boys as well, and it can also manifest itself in dramatic and dangerous ways.

Like all children, boys need guidance and support. The Boys Speak Out® Forum is a response to this need. Boys Speak Out® Forums were developed to provide boys with the proper tools to articulate their emotions, seek support, and access resources. With these tools in hand, they will be prepared to become strong men capable of serving as foundations within our communities.



2008 Boys Speak Out® Forum at Georgia State University



The purpose of the Forum is to serve as a problem solving workshop for middle school boys. They learn (i) how to recognize issues that face them in their lives and (ii) how to address these issues without resorting to violence or other forms of negative behavior. The Forum, run by male discussion leaders, serves as an outlet for the participants; it is a place where they can speak freely about their feelings, emotions, fears and expectations. They are shown that there is great strength in understanding one's own emotions, and that this understanding can lead to positive personal development and less "negative statistics" (e.g., higher likelihood of being placed in special education classes, more likely to commit violent crimes, etc.).

On April 3, 2008 fifty (50) middle school boys from KIPP WAYS Academy, Atlanta Youth Academy, and Woodward Academy came together to take part in the Boys Speak Out® Forum. The kids enjoyed a keynote address from restaurateur and BSO, Inc. Trustee Bob Amick, along with various presentations and discussion group sessions. The program was a major success; it received excellent reviews from participants and school administrators alike and was covered by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and *Academy Magazine*, the Woodward Academy (College Park, Georgia) alumni magazine.

For a Day Programs

The Boys Speak Out, Inc. “For a Day” programs grew out of an interest to provide more regular and directed programming to boys and girls in the communities we serve. These programs expose middle and high school students (“Participants”) to various professional fields and academic institutions including law, medicine, business, and entertainment. For a Day Programs generally last about 3-4 hours.

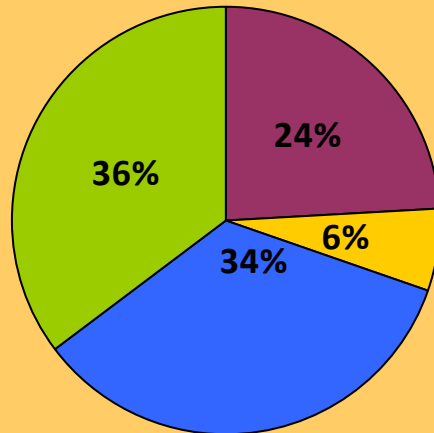
Through hands on interactions, discussion groups and presentations, “For a Day” programs allow the Participants to engage with young professionals from the leading professional firms and academic institutions in the country. Participants learn about the Boys Speak Out, Inc. “Three Keys to Success:” hard work, dedication, and surrounding one’s self with positive people. During the course of the program day, invited guests share personal experiences with the Participants as well as emphasize the importance of the Three Keys to Success to the Participants’ professional growth.

In 2008 BSO, Inc. staff organized a total of nine (9) “For a Day” programs in Atlanta, Georgia (e.g., Business Student for a Day at Emory Goizueta Business School), New York, New York (Doctor for a Day at Columbia University Medical Center), Los Angeles, California (College Student for a Day at University of Southern California), Jacksonville, Florida (Lawyer for a Day at Rogers Towers, P.A.) and Chicago, Illinois (Law Student for a Day at University of Chicago Law School). BSO, Inc.’s “For a Day” programs have proved to be incredibly meaningful for youth, allowing the Participants the opportunity to broaden their horizons and visualize their goals.



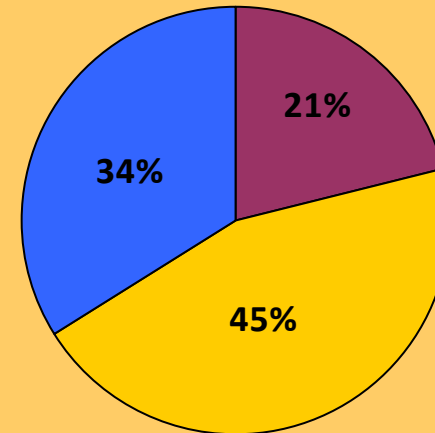
Financial Overview

BSO, Inc. 2008 Contributions and Revenue*



- Corporations
- Foundations
- Board Members
- Individuals

BSO, Inc. 2008 Fundraising / Operational and Program Expenses*



- Program Expenses
- Fundraising Expenses
- Operational Expenses

In 2008, BSO, Inc. focused most of its financial activities on effectively using previously donated funds to ensure the success of the inaugural Boys Speak Out® Forum and the increased number of For a Day programs. BSO, Inc. leadership also utilized funds to build new relationships with like-minded schools, organizations and engaged individuals. Nonetheless, BSO, Inc. hosted one fundraising event, entitled “Next Generation,” at the Tribute Lofts in Atlanta, Georgia. In 2009, BSO, Inc. will refocus its energy on planning differentiated fundraising events, along with identifying and pursuing promising grant opportunities.

* unaudited

Goals for 2009

In 2009, BSO, Inc. plans to continue along a growth trajectory focused on organizational, programmatic and financial growth.

Organizational Development: In an effort to grow the business and improve efficiency, we will begin actively seeking an Executive Director to manage the day-to-day activities of Boys Speak Out, Inc. In tandem with this search, we will also work to continue developing and disseminating promotional materials in order to bolster our recruitment of institutions and program participants.

We will continue to develop and distribute recruitment and marketing materials in order to share our mission and build our organizational base. Further, we will continue to augment our website to serve as a platform for marketing as well as information sharing. In addition to highlighting our activities and our progress, we will also provide information and resources related to child development and mentoring.

Programmatic Bolstering: Building off the successful programming in 2008, BSO, Inc. Officers will continue to focus on implementing new programs as well as enhancing previously established programs. Building off the success of the Boys Speak Out® Forum at Georgia State University, we will plan additional Forums at institutions throughout the country, beginning with a Winter 2009 BSO Forum at Alabama A&M University.

The "For A Day" Programs will continue to highlight the fields of medicine, law, and business in addition to reaching out to more nontraditional fields. We expect to host 15 programs around the country in Spring and Fall of 2009.

Financial Growth: To strengthen our financial base, we will employ a two pronged approach. First, we will continue to plan exciting and creative events, including a large scale gala. Not only will the gala provide an opportunity for raising funds, but it will also provide a time to gather our supporters in one space and show our appreciation for their continued commitment and engagement.

Second, we will continue to pursue public and private grant support and remain committed to submitting applications for funding from these sources. By leveraging our resources and coordinating with likeminded partners, we believe that we will solidify our financial base while developing critical relationships.

Monitoring & Accountability: As we move forward into the fourth year of Boys Speak Out, Inc. activities, our leadership will incorporate and maintain measurement, transparency, and regular communication between our organizational leadership, our Boards and the communities in which we work. In 2009 we will develop a strategy that enables us to evaluate our programs and implement meaningful activities that can be adjusted and improved to ensure the most significant impact on our participants.

Words from BSO Forum Program Participants

From 2008 Boys Speak Out® Forum Participants:

"I would recommend this event (BSO Forum) to my friends because it teaches things everyone needs to know but that not everyone gets a chance to learn."

"I would recommend this event (BSO Forum) to my friends because you will walk out a better, improved young man."

"Today I learned that you can achieve anything, choose good friends, and it's okay to be sensitive."

From 2008 Boys Speak Out® Forum Chaperones:

"This has been a magnificent forum. It's a grand opportunity for young men."

"Great outlet, information session and motivator for adolescents. Great to see positive men in action, modeling how to act and interact."

"I think that the students were able to see what a real man looks like. I think that many of their stereotypes were broken."

"I believe the students gained an opportunity to become better men and to be exposed to new options and good choices."

"The students gained a strong sense of self and an opportunity to be heard."

Boys Speak Out, Inc. Leadership

Officers

Anthony Webb
CEO, President & Founder

Lola Adedokun
Executive Officer, Vice President of
Business Development

Claribel Vargas
Vice President of Operations

Justin H. Alexander
Vice President of Finance

Trusted Advisor

Henrietta Antoinin

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