

In memory of Marcus
By: Tiger Woods

Dear TGR Foundation Family,

As all of you know, last month we tragically lost the life of 21-year-old Marcus Edwards, one of our first D.C. students, in a senseless crime. Marcus was part of our family, he was one of us. He was on track to graduate from Baltimore's Morgan State University with plans to enter law enforcement. From speaking with his mom, it's clear Marcus was a role model to his five younger siblings and a source of great pride for his family and community. Marcus was a good kid. He was a generous, smart young man who left us way too soon—before he even had a chance to really take advantage of all the opportunity he worked so hard for.

For those of you especially close to Marcus, I know his passing has left a hole. And for those of you who didn't know him personally, but work with kids like him every day, I know Marcus' death is a too-close-to-home reminder of the challenges many of our kids face every day.

I've been planning to reach out to you for a while about the division, violence and racial tension in many of the communities where our kids live and on their college campuses – and the impact these issues have on them. I believe in everyone's civil rights and in addressing the violence and discrimination that we are facing every day. So I'm asking that you advocate for our kids more than ever, help guide them in the right direction and continue to provide them with the opportunity to do more and reach farther. It is our priority to ensure that every kid receives equal opportunity, regardless of their skin color or the neighborhood they come from.

The work you do every day is hard. It can be thankless and tough. And when we lose someone like Marcus, it can be brutal. But you're not in this alone. We - all of us at the foundation - are fighting the good fight together. Yes, the work is getting harder, but that means we have to dig deeper. Don't ever forget that with every child we help, we are also helping their family and their neighborhood. Our purpose is to equip these kids with a solid education and the mindset to persevere.

This is our stand. It's our stand against all the injustice and danger facing our kids. It isn't loud or flashy. But it is very real. And we are quietly impacting an entire generation for the better.

So thank you for joining me in my mission to do more for children who have less. Thank you for teaching our kids that their self-worth is not defined by where they come from or the color of their skin. Thank you for working tirelessly to give every kid that walks through our doors a fighting chance at a better life. Know that the work you do is life-saving and character-building.

When we were all together in September, I said we are all one family, and I meant it. And as a family, we will leave this world better than we found it. We've accomplished so much over the years, but we are only getting started. I promise to continue leading the charge, and I'm counting on you to do the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Johnnie" or similar, written in a cursive style.