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Moussa Temple No. 106 reaches out to young adults

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SAN ANTONIO – Prince Hall Shriners of the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine of North and South America and Its Jurisdictions, Inc., Prince Hall Affiliation, visited the Eastside Branch Boys and Girls Club located on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, July 30.

The visit, sponsored by Moussa Temple No. 106, was the preliminary session for Shriners to take part in the Shriners as Mentors Program sanctioned by the Imperial Council.

Four Shriners were available to meet with over 30 young male ranging from 13 – 18 years old for two hours at the club headquarters.

Noble Dr. Ron Kelley explained why he was in attendance.

“I am a former school principal and college professor and currently the owner of Konfident Enterprises, a national education consulting company. I train teachers and principals on how to improve student test scores. I also work directly with students nationwide on improving their test scores. Since speaking to students is what I do for a living, participating in the Shriners as Mentors program was a natural fit for me.”

Not only did the young men have opportunity to meet Prince Hall Shriners, they also were



Noble Dr. Ron Kelley speaks to young men of the Eastside Branch Boys and Girls Club during a visit by Prince Hall Shriners, July 30.

treated to snacks and prizes.

Kevin Shandy, a teen coordinator for the Eastside Branch Boys and Girls Club provided over watch for the children.

“We had a speaker come out earlier in the day to speak to the children,” said Shandy. “To have men talk to the young men is exactly what they need.”

Shandy expanded.

“All walks of life come through our center. We have kids as far away from Cibolo and Bulverde; there is a lot of diversity here.”

Noble Kelley, a native of San Antonio, who possesses a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Texas, a Master's Degree from Texas State University, and a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University, relayed his thoughts on the visit.

“I connect with students because I am familiar with their culture. I was very surprised at how attentive and well-behaved these young men were. Because the session was interesting, upbeat, and fast-paced, they remained focused and interested.”

The Prince Hall Shriners plan to continue short, monthly sessions with lively speakers to provide the young men with positive figures to emulate and to keep their minds focused on the positive messages.

The mentoring program started in Washington, D.C. in February 2000 and has three major goals: Improved social skill and behavior, Educational improvement and Wider horizons.

This article is a representation of my personal observations and opinions and does not imply endorsement by any Masonic, federal or private organization. For any comments, I can be contacted at parmermasonictraveler@hotmail.com.

