

Stephen Collins

Community Member

Brooklyn Park, MN

Phone: (980) 202-9830

March 31, 2025

To Senator John Hoffman and the Honorable Members of the Minnesota State Legislature,

My name is **Stephen Collins**, and I am a proud African immigrant and resident of Brooklyn Park. I'm writing to express my strongest support for **Inner Circle**, a Minnesota-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit that is making an incredible difference in the lives of young immigrants like me.

I am a direct beneficiary of Inner Circle's youth sports and mentorship initiative—an innovative program that gave me the opportunity to play basketball in a safe, structured, and supportive environment. But it wasn't just about the game. It was about building confidence, connecting with mentors, and learning valuable life skills from professionals who understood our journeys.

This is the kind of hands-on, community-rooted programming that truly transforms lives.

As a partner in the implementation of a cultural heritage grant in collaboration with ACER, Inner Circle is also stepping into a broader leadership role—offering training, education, community forums, and culturally relevant outreach tailored to immigrant communities across Minnesota.

Inner Circle is bold in its mission, innovative in its methods, and deeply trusted by the people it serves. They are not only helping young people stay off the streets—they are helping us find our voice, our purpose, and our future.

I respectfully urge your support for this organization and the essential work it continues to do. Inner Circle represents what's possible when a community is given the opportunity to lead, grow, and thrive.

With full support and deep gratitude,

Stephen Collins

Sam Brown

Community Member
Minneapolis, MN
Phone: (763) 744-8768

March 31, 2025

To Senator John Hoffman and the Honorable Members of the Minnesota State Legislature,

My name is **Sam Brown**, and I am a first-generation African immigrant and community member in Minneapolis. I'm writing to share my full support for **Inner Circle**, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is transforming lives and empowering immigrant communities across Minnesota.

What makes Inner Circle stand out is its unique combination of cultural relevance, youth-centered programming, and real-world impact. I've seen young people—including myself—benefit from their mentorship, leadership, and empowerment efforts. At a time when many youth face violence, social disconnection, and limited access to opportunity, Inner Circle creates a safe space for hope, growth, and possibility.

Through its current collaboration with the African Career, Education & Resource (ACER), and as an implementing partner of a cultural heritage grant, Inner Circle is poised to expand its reach. They are building a structural infrastructure to deliver training, public education classes, forums, and targeted outreach that speaks directly to the needs of immigrant populations in Minnesota.

This is more than a nonprofit—it's a launchpad for the next generation of immigrant leaders.

I ask that you support Inner Circle and recognize the powerful role they play in advancing equity, education, and opportunity. Their work is not just relevant—it is **essential**.

Sincerely,

Sam Brown



On behalf of the Minnesota African Youth Initiative, I am pleased to express our strong support for House bill HF 2508, bills that would provide critical funding for ACER, aimed at expanding Cultural educational support. Bringing community together to celebrate different cultures.

ACER has demonstrated exceptional leadership and effectiveness in bringing people across many cultures. They have successfully mobilized the community through authentic engagement, education, tailored specifically to the needs of African immigrant and refugee families.

We support the house bill HF 2508 , ensuring our communities receive essential resources and supported to thrive.

Thank you for your dedication and leadership.

Sincerely,

Veronica Rotich

Executive Director

Minnesota African Youth Initiative