

RISE & SHINE 2020 PROGRAM REPORT

Congratulations to our second class of graduates: Naashia Bettis, Tamara Foster, Shamara Kelley, Tiye McAllister, Tenisha Sanders, Yvonne Smith, Maria Spinner, Nicole White, Imani Worthy. And to the Rise & Shine team: Teresa Bachiller, Robbyne Wiley, Bianca Shaw, Nancy Fortunato, Ashanti Bryant, Tracy Serdjenian and Keyna Franklin.

Q: How did Rise & Shine prepare you to lead change?

- *"It has prepared me to be able to share knowledge about the child welfare system and to help others."*
- *"The lessons gave me a better outlook of how we will want to build our communities. It gave me the willpower to be where I live now. It prepared me to be a better community leader and to voice myself to the community."*
- *"Rise & Shine prepared me with resources of organizations and different people to contact and different ways to advocate in your community."*



Rise & Shine is an 18-week parent-led leadership program that prepares parents to advocate for change in the child welfare system and in their communities. Rise & Shine:

- Builds peer connections that enable parents to cope with the emotional demands of advocacy
- Offers a writing and public speaking process to support parents in speaking up for justice
- Educates parents about child welfare's roots in separating African-American and Native American families and "saving" poor children from their families
- Connects participants to parent advocacy within the child welfare system and in impacted communities
- Prepares parents to educate peers about facing child welfare involvement and about trauma, stress and self-care as parents

Q: What was most important to you about your experience?

“The beautiful thing about Rise is that a diverse group of women can come together in solidarity. We contradict what our persecutors want to accuse us of: We love our children, we are not monsters or abusers. We are peaceful.”



“The writing was an eye opening. It put a new perspective and helped release negative energy.”

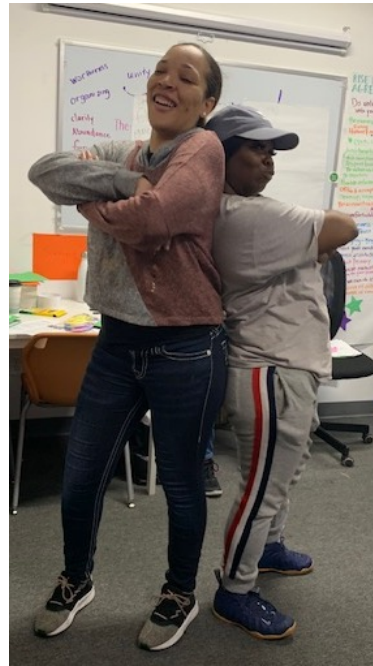
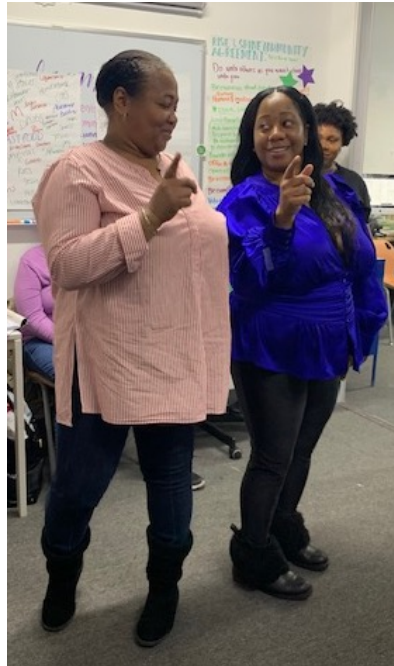


“The parent advocates were the most powerful women. What inspired me was hearing where they started and where they are now.”

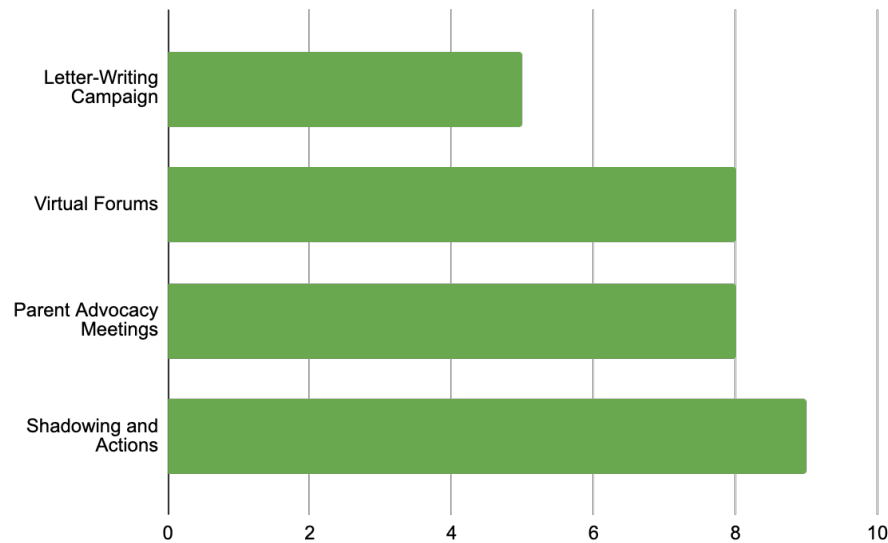


Q: What did you learn through Rise & Shine?

Give Back to My Communities * Self-Care * Relationship Building * Our Legal Rights * How to Voice My Story * How Unjust Systems Are * How to Advocate * I'm Not Alone * Places Where I Can Go to Get Help for Myself and the People in My Community * How Real Trauma Is * I'm Not Alone * The History of Racism Within Systems * How to Organize * Women Coming Together and Building Relationships * Not to Give Up * Finding My Voice * My Experience Matters * Confidence * The History of Racism in Child Welfare * How Working Together Can Make a Change * I'm Not Alone * How Powerful Parent Advocates Can Be in Making Change * There Is a Way for Justice * I Am Enough * Make Sure You Advocate for Yourself * You Have to Be the Change You Want to See



What have you done to advocate so far?



8/9 parents reported continuing involvement with aligned organizations in addition to Rise, such as Movement for Family Power, VOW and Community Voices Heard

Program Outcomes

Based on participant surveys on program quality

Please rate the R&S Program on a scale of 1-5	"Yes, very much!" (5)
Did you feel supported by your peers?	100%
Did the activities we did (such as circles, values, community agreements, buddy system) help build a sense of community at Rise?	100%
Were you able to make a connection between your own experience and changes you want to make in child welfare?	89%
Did you gain new information about the child welfare system from the guest speakers and from webinars you attended?	100%
Have you learned self-care strategies, healing practices and coping skills to support your advocacy?	89%
Do you feel motivated to make change in the child welfare system as a result of your participation in this program?	100%
Do you feel confident that you gained the skills to become a leader at Rise, an advocate in child welfare, and/or a community leader?	100%



100%
The group contributed positively to my life

100%
Stories from our group will have an impact

100%
I feel more confident about reaching other life goals

