development through experience expansion, our term for the process of engaging the male community in the multi-environments accessible from the inner city. Learning community history from the Elders (we have an Elder’s Council of six men over 65 who are the final authority on issues), taking field trips to public and private institutions (i.e., museums, businesses, government centers, universities), and the practice of crafts and technical skills are some of the activities that comprise the agenda for our 16-week seasons. Our primary goal is to build a sense of what the community needs into the structure of the masculine/manhood self-concept that functions in every male, in varying degrees. The young man who completes the process will have a definite array of skills, knowledge, abilities, and appropriate attitudes through which he can construct his life as a man in East Baltimore. The most important point we make repeatedly is this, “Rites of Passage is for people who love themselves. Take the journey through the passage to discover how much of you there is to love in our community.”

Health Awareness & Prevention

A Physician and a Nurse Practitioner facilitate health and wellness workshops. Weekly sessions have been conducted on topics including: chemical dependency and its related problems to the individual and community, mental health problems related to substance abuse, self/family care, STDs, HIV/AIDS, nutrition, exercise/weight control, and prostate cancer. Healthy snacks (and even nutritious, low cost crock-pot meals) have been served during the sessions.

Free health screenings are held monthly and plans are underway to include immunizations for children as well as preventive health screenings.
The Men’s Center is a community-based provider of life skills training. The program is designed to help men develop skills necessary for independent living and functioning in society.

The program focuses on life-skills training, which includes job readiness, money management, and personal development. Participants engage in activities that help them develop the skills needed to succeed in everyday life.

Missions Statement

The Men’s Center works to improve the quality of relationships between fathers and their children, while enhancing the perception of fathers and their roles in family life. The program seeks to provide educational opportunities and support to men in the process of changing their lives for the better.