

# PROJECT PROFILE

**Children and teens need a safe place to go when they are not in school.** Aside from the obvious safety risks of young children being unsupervised, preteens and teens face their own risks when left alone for long periods during out-of-school time in the form of increased likelihood of engaging in risky or unhealthy behavior. Too often though, parents lack the resources to access afterschool care. And few programs even exist for children beyond the elementary years.

**MAROON 9** fills a unique gap in Fort Worth by offering a wide variety of enrichment programs specifically to middle and high school-aged youth. The teen years are a critical period of development, and we offer programming not only to keep kids safe, but to keep them engaged, curious, growing, and exploring.

To achieve this mission, we provide high-quality youth programs focused on STEM education, Fine Arts, and Life Skills. The programs provided by Maroon 9, in collaboration with our community partners, encourage creative expression, critical thinking, career exploration, and forge peer-to-peer friendships that can be so critical to a teen's well-being.

Every teen that Maroon 9 engages, whether it be through theater classes, a STEM workshop, or a gang intervention program is a teen that is safe, loved, and uplifted.

Visit our website to learn how you can support our mission. There is no better investment than in the lives of our community's youth.

**LEARN MORE AT MAROON9.ORG**

Follow us on Facebook @maroon9richment

3142 W Boyce Ave, Fort Worth, TX 76132 • 817.922.9460

**Children and teens need a safe place to go when they are not in school.** In fact, a recent community assessment of families in Tarrant County identified that the most critical areas of need related to their children were having access to safe and secure community spaces and opportunities to build good character. That's where Maroon 9 Community Enrichment Organization comes in.

**IT TAKES A VILLAGE**

Across the state of Texas, 19% of children are unsupervised after school. Aside from the obvious safety risks of young children being unsupervised, preteens and teens face their own risks when left alone for long periods during out-of-school time in the form of increased likelihood of engaging in risky or unhealthy behavior. To complicate the matter even further, an estimated 6 in 10 parents report that they are more worried about the emotional well-being of their children today than they were prior to the pandemic. Too often though, parents lack the resources to access afterschool care. And few programs even exist for children beyond the elementary years.

**WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT**

Maroon 9 fills a unique gap in Fort Worth by offering a wide variety of enrichment programs specifically to middle and high school-aged youth. The teen years are a critical period of development, and we offer programming not only to keep kids safe, but to keep them engaged, curious, growing, and exploring.

To achieve this mission, we provide high-quality youth programs focused on STEM education, Fine Arts, and Life Skills. Our Executive Director, ShaVonne Banks Davis is a Certified Theatre Arts Educator and knows firsthand the power of the arts in terms of engaging youth. The programs provided by Maroon 9, in collaboration with our community partners, encourage creative expression, critical thinking, career exploration, and forge peer-to-peer friendships that can be so critical to a teen's well-being.

Follow us on Facebook @maroon9richment

**HOW YOU CAN HELP**

Maroon 9 has been able to reach families throughout the 76104 and 76105 zip codes by partnering with Morningside Middle School in Fort Worth ISD. This partnership has been a critical element for our success thus far, providing a space to host our programs after school, on weekends, and during the summer. Additionally, we have been supported by generous funders, primarily through program-based grants and restricted gifts. However, like so many other fledgling nonprofit organizations, there is a need for us to expand our capacity as an organization in terms of infrastructure and personnel.

We know what works and are prepared to scale up our out-of-school programs for children and teens. Your gift can make this possible, shifting Maroon 9 from a primarily volunteer-driven initiative to an organization that is equipped to offer more high-quality out-of-school programs to even more kids. Every teen that Maroon 9 engages, whether it be through theater classes, a STEM workshop, or a gang intervention program is a teen that is safe, loved, and uplifted. Every hour that they spend with us may be replacing an hour when they would have been alone, or worse, being lured into risky behavior and a bleak future. Please consider a gift today that will ensure Maroon 9 can grow into an organization that will continue to support the young people and families of Fort Worth who need us the most.

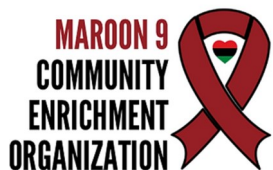
**LEARN MORE AT MAROON9.ORG**

**HELPING THE WHOLE FAMILY**

It is not just the young people who benefit from the programs offered by Maroon 9. The entire family benefits when parents can work, knowing that their children are safe. This is especially true for households headed by a single parent for whom lack of access to affordable childcare can be a major barrier to employment. By offering a variety of high-quality programs – free of charge – during the out-of-school hours, Maroon 9 is providing a critical service to parents as well as youth.

**SOURCES**

1. United Way of Tarrant County Community Assessment 2018-2019  
2. United Way of Tarrant County Community Assessment 2018-2019 Technical Report  
3. Abused Alliance, 2020, America After 9PM Survey



## CONSULTING FOR FUNDRAISING READINESS '22

Maroon 9 Community Enrichment Organization

Maroon 9 Community Enrichment Organization approached Project Partners with a request to boost their fundraising capacity, with an eye toward increasing general operating support. The organization is experiencing its most successful year yet in terms of securing program-specific grant funding, but with an expansion in programs comes a need to build the infrastructure and administrative support to effectively manage them. During our work together, Project Partners used feedback that Maroon 9 had received from local funders to help fine tune the organization's mission and messaging. We developed a package of fundraising tools that included a Case for Support, Tear Sheet, and gift table identifying local and national funders whose giving history aligns well with Maroon 9's mission and work. Additionally, we hosted a virtual training workshop for the Board of Directors on how they can use the tools we provided to identify, qualify, and solicit new gifts for the organization.

**"Thanks for a great training workshop for our Board! You are very knowledgeable and great at what you do."**

ShaVonne Davis, President and Executive Director  
Maroon 9 Community Enrichment Organization