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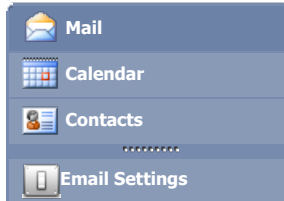


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This Gentleman build a GardHouse for students' success. 🏠

Profound Gentlemen [profoundgentlemen@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 11:29 AM

To: Steve Johnston

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Jonathan Gardner believes that every student's dream should have a home to help foster it into reality. He recently launched the Charlotte nonprofit, [GardHouse](#), to make sure that students of color enrolled in college have such a home for their dreams.

Profound Gentlemen played a major role in supporting this nonprofit leader and his vision. Jonathan participated in many of PG's retreats, including the Go! Nonprofit retreat, which helps educators develop their nonprofit concept into a reality.

PG's Co-Founder and Chief Impact Officer, Mario Jovan Shaw, mentored Jonathan and helped him to understand the power of owning his story and sharing it. He discovered how our stories empower others to rise to the occasion and assist with bringing about the impact required.

Jonathan's experiences with PG inspired him to learn more about how to tell his story and to take steps in helping others to find success. After analyzing his obstacles entering the workforce, Jonathan created [GardHouse](#) to provide resources for students just like himself. Today, we are sharing Jonathan's story of success and more on him.

What are you currently reading?

"What Doesn't Kill You Makes You Blacker" by Damon Young.

Who/ what inspires you?

What inspires me is watching performances from entertainers around the world. The

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majority of youth, I've watched the greatest entertainment professionals (i.e., Michael Jackson and Beyonce) draw in audiences of all demographics. They are using their gifts to prompt those to put aside their troubles and differences to fully understand what's being presented. These entertainers thrive off the ability to connect with the audience to increase their chances of subduing differences. Often, I look at these performances to learn how to utilize space, sound, and imagery to increase the connection with our students. Mastering this will allow me to provide experiences for all current and future stakeholders to best digest why GardHouse is so impactful.

What do you do to feel connected to others and feel as though you are part of a larger community?

I feel most connected to my community when I take the time to listen to what is being said. As mentioned, I strive to make a connection. It's the only way that I know how to build a true relationship. A lot of the stories that our community members have told me have helped me to empathize with those who we serve. Knowing that they, too, are going through what I've experienced assures me that they are all in this together.

What about Profound Gentlemen's work resonates most with you?

What resonates most with me about PG's work is its ability to harness the stories of others to influence change in communities of color. This pillar is why I give, serve, and exalt PG in all of my doing. Without this basic yet transformative principle, the work that we do as leaders would not be possible.

What is something that you wish to be true for future generations?

I hope that future generations can accept where they are in their own stories. That they allow for grace as they continue their development journey.

In what ways is your vision/nonprofit helping to make a global impact?

Through [GardHouse](#), we are working to eliminate the systemic barriers that college students of color face when seeking post-grad employment. With the assistance of minority-owned businesses, students of color are being developed in our paid internship programs to become the next generation of leaders.

Learn more about GardHouse and its impact on students of color at www.gardhouse.org.

[Help us to support male educators of color as they develop into innovative change-makers and community leaders. Donate to Profound Gentlemen today.](#)

More PG Updates

- **We are hiring** a [Community Development Manager](#) to support our data, grants, special campaigns, and overall strategy. Please pass this opportunity on to your network.
- **Save the Date:** Our annual Soiree event will be held in Charlotte on the evening of November 12th, 2020.
- **Sponsorship Opportunities:** Bank of America is joining us as a sponsor of

this year's Soiree event. If your business or organization is interested in becoming a sponsor, reach out to [Crystal Collins](#).

[Donate to PG](#)



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