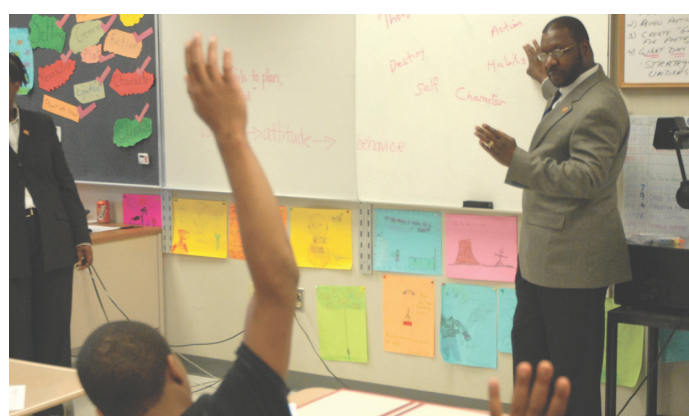


## WHO ARE THE PILLARS OF HOPE?

The Pillars of Hope are African-American adult professionals who wish to make a impact on students by presenting their own journeys from adolescence to adulthood. By sharing their stories and being available to students they show it possible to overcome life's challenges and affirm that the students too can become successful professionals. **Professionals like you.**



### Pillar of Hope Program Goals:

A Pillar Team consists of 10 members, who "adopt" a school and implements activities to assist youth to:

- Develop and/or increase a love of learning.
- Share their personal journeys in their pursuit of education.
- Share the joys of overcoming challenges.
- Impart knowledge about various careers.
- Support schools in their effort to encourage them.

## PILLAR OF HOPE SCHOOLS

**School #3:**  
Grade 7-8; RIT Team

**School #6:**  
Grade 5-6; Community Team

**School #29:**  
Grade 5-6; U of R Team

**Edison Tech High School:**  
Grade 12; Delphi Team

**UPrep Charter School:**  
Grade 8; Community Team

Become a "Pillar of Hope" today! To learn more about us, call our office at 585-428-6896.

### Pillar of Hope Initiative

City of Rochester  
Bureau of Youth Services  
25 Franklin Street, Suite B5  
Rochester, New York 14604

Ph 585-428-6896

Fax 585-428-6395

[www.cityofrochester.gov](http://www.cityofrochester.gov)



This effort is supported by the City's Bureau of Youth Services, and the City Black Heritage Committee



Thomas S. Richards, Mayor  
City of Rochester, NY



Thomas S. Richards, Mayor  
City of Rochester, NY



## PILLAR OF HOPE

Adult Role Model Program

"HOPE IS THE PILLAR OF THE WORLD"

(Kanuri Proverb)





## What is the Pillars of Hope Initiative?

The Pillar of Hope initiative began as a way to combat the loss of the traditional African-American role model from our communities by placing them in our schools. The Pillar of Hope project recruits African-American professionals who, as a group, adopt a school where they can make an impact with their presence. Pillars provide presentations to students in classrooms and in homerooms about their own personal story of success.

We've all had important role models that have impacted our lives. We can recall images of famous entertainers or athletes we admired and tried to emulate. But other role models, closer to home, have impacted our lives through a more personal connection.

These role models were teachers, pastors or neighbors in our communities who were professionals in other areas like engineering, architecture, law, mechanical repairs, medicine, business and others. They took the time to share

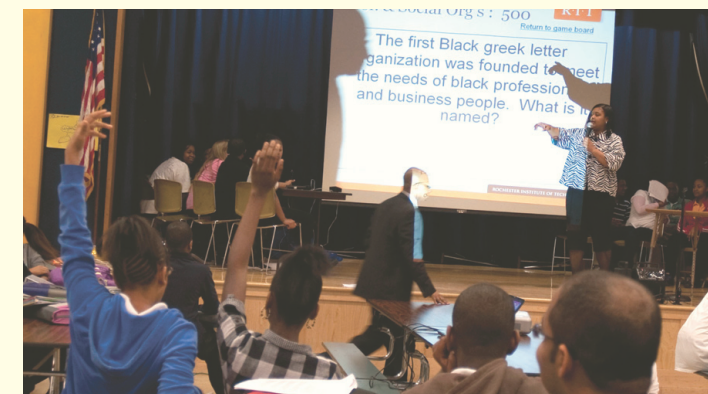
pieces of their journey with us, to talk about the attributes that helped them along the way, and they helped us see anything was possible. For African-American youth, these role models were quite often African-American adults.

Today, many children only find distant role models. Role models closer to home have no stories to share or no time to tell them. Many students come from poverty stricken neighborhoods where the role models have long since moved away. Youth now see and emulate behavior that will not help them on their journey.

Pillars share a simple message of hope: "We've done it, and so can you." Pillars are lawyers, PhDs, Engineers, IT Professionals, Government Administrators, Accountants, Athletes and Athletic Trainers and many others who are committed to making a difference in the lives of Rochester's youth.

There are still more role models needed in the community. Our goal is to help additional schools and classrooms every year until every school has a team. Pillar of Hope is in need of more Pillars to reach that goal.

The time commitment is a minimum one hour per month to participate with your team in schools. This is one initiative that will provide big dividends for a small investment of time and talent. If you are interested and able, please consider being a part of this wonderful initiative.



## HOW TO BECOME A PILLAR OF HOPE:

- Complete a Pillar of Hope Application.
- Attend a "Pillar of Hope" Orientation.
- Meet with your Pillar Team to develop your presentation schedule.
- Begin monthly sessions.
- Start making an impact on the outlook of students you present to.
- Pillar of Hope Attire: Professional Attire (Suit, Shirt & Tie, Pillar of Hope Pin). Some visits may require a different dress code or approach, but the goal is to dress in a professionally coordinated fashion for each school visit.