

HASAN STEPHENS

Founder and CEO

Good Life Youth Foundation



Hasan A. Stephens long dreamed of using his talents in hip-hop culture to help shift youth culture and its perspectives. For him, the Good Life Youth Foundation is that culture change agent.

During his career and work as a leading youth advocate, mentor, entrepreneur and educator, Stephens recognized many of the same people continued to revisit youth detention facilities. In response, he started the Good Life Youth Foundation to help prevent youth recidivism, violence, poverty and incarceration.

The Good Life model was designed based on his own life experiences as an impoverished youth growing up in the inner city of Bronx, New York. He also fashioned the model after personal mentoring work he did with the first Good Life success story, Ron Funderberg. After seeing what worked with Funderberg, Stephens knew it needed to be scaled larger.

An educator and co-contributor to the book *Rebel Music: Resistance Through Hip-Hop and Punk*, Stephens currently serves as a professor of Africana studies and hip-hop at the State University of New York College at Cortland where one of his courses is “Evolution of Hip-Hop Culture.” He also is an active member of the Onondaga County (Syracuse, New York) Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative Steering Committee, the Central New York State Regional Youth Justice Team, the County Racial and Ethnic Disparities Work Group and the School – Arrest Diversion Work Group for Onondaga County. In addition, Stephens is a leadership consultant for the Central New York Community Foundation, Inc., The Leadership Classroom.

Before establishing the Good Life Youth Foundation, Stephens began engaging youth in New York state through his career as “DJ Maestro,” a radio personality with Clear Channel Communications (Power 106.9 FM and Hot 107.9 FM), now known as iHeartMedia, Inc. and an Emmy Award-nominated TV commentator with News Channel 9’s “Coming Together for a Safer Syracuse.” More recently, he was the official DJ for Syracuse University (“New York’s College Team”) basketball and athletics. Stephens also has worked on MTV and has made national appearances as a guest host on BET’s “Rap City.”