

RAY NELSON

Inspiring youth to live life to their fullest potential.

SPEAKER KIT 2021

ABOUT RAY

Raimon Nelson is a nationally recognized motivational speaker, youth developer, and a bold leader within our community. Hailing from our nation's capital, Washington, DC, Ray is a gifted communicator who believes in doing the good, hard work to end disparities for youth and young adults. His personal mission is to build relationships to repair communities from the inside out through innovative strategies.

In 2002, Ray encountered a devastating loss of two close friends to gun violence. This personal experience ignited a call to serve at-risk youth and under-resourced communities. As a result, Ray earned several credentials, including a certificate in conflict resolution and serves as a Certified Youth Mental Health First Aider. He is also a recent graduate of the DeVos Leadership Initiative. DeVos equips urban youth workers to become a more effective community leader. For almost 20 years, he put this call and training to work, specializing in Community Action Training, Out-of-School Time programming, and facilitating community sponsorships.

Youth and young adults throughout the city of DC have been positively impacted by Ray's work to inspire and encourage. In his current role as Ministry Director for City Life, a ministry model under Youth For Christ, (Greater Washington, DC) he recruits, trains, and develops adult leaders to disciple and mentor under-resourced teens. Ray's focus is to build the capacity of adults and youth as local leaders-in-training with a global impact.



The Approach

Innovation

There are no bounds to innovation when youth are the target audience members. Costumes and props are signature components to Ray's unique speaking style.

Passion

Ray's personal passion intensifies his focus, which strengthens the quality of his product. His passion for this work is contagious, allowing others to refine their personal practices.

Expertise

With almost 20 years of experience and several credentials, Ray has a robust wealth of best practices which are practical, theoretical, and most importantly, reflect his personal expertise.

Relationship

Ray doesn't take the value of relationships for granted. He lives by the timeless Jim Putman quote "We must earn the right to speak into the lives of others." When possible, he avails himself to secure meaningful relationships with clients.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Positive youth development (PYD) is an approach to working with youth that emphasizes building on youths' strengths and providing supports and opportunities that will help them achieve goals and transition to adulthood in a productive, healthy manner.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Engagement is the process of working collaboratively with and through groups of people who share the same community.

YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Youth programs are particular activities designed to prepare young people to meet the challenges of adolescence and adulthood and achieve his or her full potential.



SERVICES



talk

Deliver motivational speech, facilitate an interactive workshop, or serve as a guest speaker or panelist

train

Train youth leaders and youth workers on youth empowerment program best practices

tools

Share resources, curricula, and program development tools with programs, ministries, or organizations



CERTIFICATIONS AND ACCOLADES

DEVOS URBAN LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE, GRADUATE

The DeVos Urban Leadership Initiative is an intensive 15-month faith-based leadership development program for urban youth workers.

CERTIFIED YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AIDER, USA MENTAL FIRST AID

Mental Health First Aid is a national program to teach the skills to respond to the signs of mental illness and substance use.

CERTIFIED CONFLICT RESOLUTION, (HIP) HELP INCREASE THE PEACE

The Help Increase the Peace Project is a participatory, experiential program developed by AFSC in 1991 to address issues of interpersonal violence, prejudice, and injustice with participants of all ages, with a focus on middle- and high-school age youth. HIPP is currently in use in more than thirty states and in countries around the world.

WORD ON THE STREET...

"You treated our students to a high energy and fun time that was laced with a powerful message."

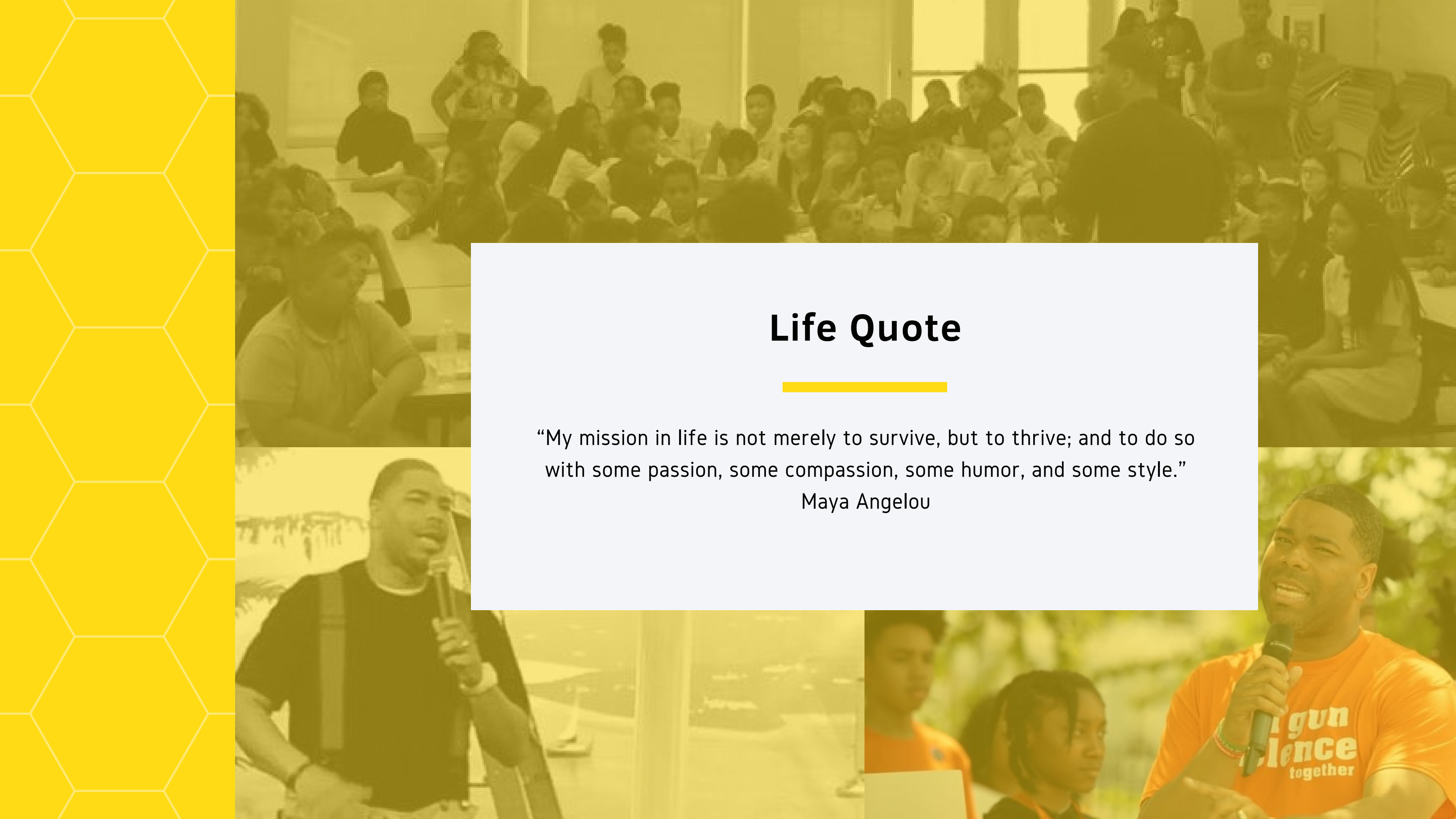
-CLINTON TURNER, PRINCIPAL

"Ray is very relatable when presenting to the students which keeps them thoroughly engaged."

-MONIQUE HUNTER, M.ED

"Ray's passion for youth is evident in everything he does. His messages are poignant, relevant, and authentic. He communicates in a way that earns respect, demands attention, and challenges his audience to truly think about the world they live. But Ray also knows the importance of humor and talking in a way that is relevant to the teens of this generation. Ray's presentations are interactive and extend beyond just a typical "talk." They often include music, dance, and skits, and he often invites audience participation, making everyone feel like part of the message."

- ANNIE GRELL, YOUTHWORKS



Life Quote

“My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style.”

Maya Angelou

Let's Work Together



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