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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**From At-Risk to At-Hope:**

**Youth-Led Movement Hopes to Turn Tragedy into Change**

**Jacksonville, FL. -** The EVAC Movement is a youth-led program that challenges communities to eliminate the “at-risk” label, and instead, view youth as irrevocably “at-hope.” More of a movement than an organization, EVAC consists of a group of “at-hope” African-American young men from Jacksonville, Florida. They group has dedicated themselves to channeling personal tragedies into positive change, and needed hope for their classmates and the community. With no formal funding or curriculum, EVAC began their efforts as a regularly scheduled class at a public high school in Duval County. They began by inviting local officials to their class for roundtable discussions on issues and policies impacting their community. After some resistance, they adapted, and continued their efforts through The Ministry of The Ville church in Jacksonville, Florida.

Founded only a few years ago, EVAC has already accomplished many of the things they were told was impossible. They have presented their case to Senate Judiciary Committees, the U.S. Department of Justice Youth-Police Roundtable, and met Government Officials such as Corey Booker, and President Barack Obama. They have spread their message through numerous articles, including in a front-page article in the New York Times. They have presented their concern, and message to diverse crowds, including audiences at Harvard and TedX.

Amy Donofrio, sponsor of the movement, talked about the movement’s passion and how they hope to move forward. “We want to insert the youth voice into civic decisions and media spaces that previously excluded them. We believe all youth can do what we’ve done and strive to empower others with the knowledge to do so.”

To learn more about the movement, and get involved with their cause, visit their website at: [www.evacmovement.com](http://www.evacmovement.com/). You can also find them on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram using the handle @EVACMovement.

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*The EVAC Movement is a non-for-profit organization and movement based in Jacksonville, FL. Their focus is to spread awareness on the effects of racism, police brutality, juvenile justice, authentic youth empowerment, and equitable media representation. For updates on EVACs upcoming efforts, please find The EVAC Movement on* [*Facebook*](http://www.facebook.com/evacmovement)*,* [*Instagram*](https://www.instagram.com/evacmovement/)*, and their website:* [*www.evacmovement.com*](http://www.evacmovement.com)*.*

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