

# Unsung Hero Project: Tim Arnold

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# The Issue that Tim Arnold Fought?

Tim Arnold fought for the issue of employment for at-risk youth in Cincinnati. He recognized that a lot of programs gave information for kids to read and they trained the kids and gave them employability skills. The programs were failing to give kids opportunities to gain employment so they could have field experiences and actually learn on the job skills. He fought for those kids to have an opportunity to work, to stay off the streets and have an opportunity to be productive so that in the future they could find other employment in the community with the skills they gained while working with him at his company LawnLife. Tim Arnold started LawnLife in Cincinnati in 2008, and he is currently the Program Director of the company.



# Fighting for the Youth

The issue of fighting to employ the at-risk youth in Cincinnati was important to him because he had a rough childhood and he grew up impoverished in the city. Tim Arnold had 27 convictions on his juvenile record and he knew firsthand how difficult it is to stay away from the streets without a job and something in your life that is positive to motivate you to stay away from the streets. His first job was what helped him understand how to make money. He worked on construction jobs and learned different trades. With the money he made he bought his first house. Mr. Arnold made home improvements to the property, sold the house, and made \$50,000 off of my first house. He continued to flip houses and started to buy houses. Mr. Arnold started to have the kids that he found off the streets that needed employment to work on the houses. He took the average kid off of the street and gave them jobs. Since 2008, he has hired 435 at-risk youths and some have been placed in jobs with construction companies across the state. Mr. Arnold states that he never had any doubts about my vision. He has had faith that he was doing the right thing ever since I started in Cincinnati in 2008. The company has grown and now he has workers in Dayton, Toledo and Cleveland.



# Support in the Community

Mr. Arnold originally didn't ask for help or support from the community. He found out that the kids he worked with had the same probation officers. The probation officers found out about the program he was running and he began to communicate with the officers about what he was doing to keep the youths employed. The probation officers supported him and spoke with the courts about what he was doing to keep the youth off of the streets in the community. Now he has the support from them to keep the program going. The mayor of Cincinnati is recently presented Mr. Arnold with the "Youth Advocate of the Year" award in February.



# Gratifying Moments

The most gratifying moments for Mr. Arnold are when kids call him back and say, “Mr. Arnold I found a job.” He also feels great about what he does when he take kids out on a Saturday. He works with the kids all day long and by the end of the day they are exhausted. At times, the kids are so tired that they fall asleep in the back of the car on the way home. During these moments he knows that nobody has to worry about those kids going out on streets and getting caught up in any violence or trouble. He knows he won’t be getting a phone call saying that they got shot or committed a crime. It’s gratifying knowing that the kids are safe.

# Life Lessons

The life lesson that Tim Arnold learned while fighting for the youth and watching them accomplish their goals is that you have to be persistent. You have to be committed 100% of the time. Mr. Arnold states that, “With your commitment comes sacrifice. At times you are going to miss out on certain things in life, but if you are 100% committed to the goals that you set for yourself then you will eventually accomplish your dreams as well as any other goals or aspirations that you set for yourself.” This is very evident in Tim Arnold’s life, as he has been a champion for the youth of Cincinnati, and an unsung hero for many teenagers who needed a second chance.

