

Men of Vision Inspires One Young Man To Help Children Get Back to School

by [Trinity Cafe](#) | Jul 24, 2018 | [Stories](#), [What's Cookin?](#) | [0 comments](#)

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With their trademark bow ties and dapper dress, Men of Vision are a group of young men who have made it their goal to learn leadership skills while making a positive impact in our community.

Time and again, they've contributed their energy and enthusiasm to volunteer at Trinity Cafe, dishing out meals, hosting tables, and sometimes going the extra step to help out our guests. One such example recently came to my attention as one young man, Devin Johnson, had setup a table at Trinity Cafe on Busch Blvd. giving away backpacks to children and teens who dined with us.



Soon to be a high school senior, Devin is the current president of the group and has been with Men of Vision since the 7th grade. At that time, he was invited in to get involved by filling the last spot on a summer trip to Virginia to assist with special needs campers. From that point on, Devin was committed to helping those in need and since joining Men of Vision, he's met lots of different kinds of people and made connections throughout the Tampa Bay area. He's also been especially pleased to get a behind the scenes perspective to understand how city governance and the school boards work. His community service has led to scholarship opportunities and during his freshman year of high school he received a 2-year prepaid scholarship from the Hillsborough Education Foundation.

Devin has big plans for his future career goals and he's hoping to attend Florida State University which offers programs in the two fields of study he's most interested in, sports management and education.



The idea for a backpack drive came from a group project that Devin leads, which considered how they might be able to give back to young children in the community. Devin and his fellow Men of Vision considered the time of year and decided that they wanted to help support kid's going back to school after the summer. They then chose Trinity Cafe's Busch Blvd. location, which happily serves families and school-age children, many of whom spend time at home and around their neighborhoods during summer break. After the first time Devin and his team gave out backpacks, they noticed that the kids wanted to take food home, so the next time, they included Tupperware and hand sanitizer. Similarly, they noticed the rainy weather that is so constant during the summer months, and they included rain ponchos in those pink and black backpacks as well.



Devin continues to lead the young men that participate in Men of Vision and has expanded on the original idea of giving away backpacks to young children. Currently, he's giving away books at Trinity Cafe and each time he gives a kid a book, he challenges them to read a number of chapters and asks them questions about their books the next time he sees them. If they show him that they're making progress, he rewards them with boxes of Girl Scout cookies to take home.

For the Men of Vision, being a man means responsibility and accountability for one's words. This also means taking the initiative to make a difference and give back without thoughts of reward. As Devin explained, the experiences itself is reward enough: "helping out is always key. It's funny because every year we have an essay contest about what defines being a real man... We have about 200 members and when I get to read the essays, I get to see the different perspectives on what it means to be a real man."

If you have a young man in your life that might benefit from getting involved in the work of [Men of Vision](#), don't hesitate to reach out to them. If you would like to get involved and give back to the community, then consider volunteering your time at Trinity Cafe. The experience of serving those in need side by side with self-motivated young people, like the Men of Vision, is itself a rewarding experience.