

About Us



About The BASE

Housed in the heart of Boston's Roxbury, Dorchester and Mattapan neighborhoods, The BASE provides comprehensive athletic and educational advancement opportunities for prominent student athletes on three distinct principles for success: (1) superior baseball training, conditioning and competition; (2) personalized educational resources and support; and (3) the development of a 'Winning Game Plan for Life.' Born out of The Boston Astros' culture and methodology, The BASE will be a model, leveraging sports as a vehicle to engage youth in a positive, rigorous, passionate and success-driven environment with the goal of excellence—both on and off the field.

About The Boston Astros

Back in the late 1970's, Robert Lewis, Jr. and Jose Ruiz had a bold vision to establish The Boston Astros program as a way to keep young people out of trouble, while providing them with opportunities to engage in forms of healthy competition and athletic activity. To date, The Astros have served over 8,000 boys and girls on more than 600 teams, playing not just at home in Boston, but in tournaments across the country—from Florida to Nevada and in between.

In the three decades since its inception at The Villa Victoria Housing Development in the South End neighborhood of Boston, The Astros have achieved immense success. From famed *Sports Illustrated* sportswriter Peter Gammons calling the Astros "hands down, the best urban baseball team in America" to having just been named Triple Crown Sports' "2012 Team of The Year" (besting 40,000 other teams across the country), The Astros' star has never shined brighter. Three former Astros are currently competing at The Major League Baseball level: Manny Delcarmen of The Boston Red Sox, Juan Carlos Portes of The Minnesota Twins and Nelfi Zapata of The New York Mets. Best of all, over 30 former players are currently attending and playing baseball at a junior college, community college, or four-year college or university—having a winning game plan for life.

About Robert Lewis, Jr.

As President & Founder of both The BASE and The Boston Astros, Robert Lewis, Jr. is a seasoned civic, community and non-profit leader who has dedicated his life to making a difference in his hometown, the city of Boston. Known as a bridge-builder between Boston's diverse business, civic and public sectors, Robert has deep experience with community-based organizations throughout Greater Boston, holding important leadership positions at The Boston Centers for Youth and Families (under Mayor Thomas M. Menino), The National Conference for Community & Justice (NCCJ), City Year, The Boston Housing Authority and The Boston Community Centers. Most recently, Robert was Vice President for Program at The Boston Foundation where he directed the distribution of \$16 million+ in discretionary grants. While there, Robert was chief architect of two important initiatives: StreetSafe Boston which has a mission to dramatically reduce gun violence and CHAMPS Boston which promotes positive youth development through sports.

Robert is a highly-sought after public speaker and facilitator on the topic of urban issues, working with foundations, non-profits and government and civic leaders in cities such as Los Angeles, New Orleans, Chicago, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh and New York. His reach extends beyond the U.S. as well: Robert has advised The Minister of Defense of Bermuda as well as Prime Minister David Cameron during the tumultuous riots in the United Kingdom in 2011. Robert has also been profiled in two books which celebrate leadership: *10 Who Mentor* and *Men Who Dare*.

