



What a fantastic time we've had working with the girls of Top 20 !! 2015-16 was our most successful season yet, and we really are looking forward to more good things happening in 2016-17.

Top 20, Inc. is ever so grateful for the financial support of its major funders and other outstanding individuals whose dollars significantly make it possible for our program to forge ahead. These people truly understand the critical need for organizations such as ours to focus on today's youth and strive to make them better.

### Dance



Last year we began the program by introducing the girls to their new dance instructor, Shannon Grayson, who developed a wonderful rapport with Top 20 II participants. Shannon trains and teaches hip-hop, jazz, ballet, and

tap throughout the city of Chicago as a faculty member of the Lou Conte Dance Studio, Hubbard Street Youth Dance Program, Principle Dance, The Gallery, and Dominican University. Shannon also assisted in mentoring the girls whenever there were moments to spare.

In addition to their weekly Saturday dance and mentoring sessions at West Side Middle School, Shannon made it possible for our girls to experience rehearsing at Lou Conte Dance Studio housed at the famed Hubbard Street Dance facility in Chicago, which they thoroughly enjoyed on December 12, 2015, February 20, 2016 and May 7, 2016.

What really marked the success of Top 20 II was the performance debut on January 29, 2015 during half time at a Central HS girls basketball game. Our girls could not have been more nervous as they walked onto the gym floor. Hearing the crowd cheer, they cried tears of joy afterwards. Their next performance was February 29, 2016 at the boys basketball game. Friends and relatives watched with anticipation, cheering them on until the end. It was quite gratifying and reminiscent of years gone by to witness these unfolding events and we were extremely proud.



Half-time Performance @ CHS 2/19/16

### Field Trips

Thanks to IU Bloomington Professor Iris Rosa Artis (Top 20, class of 1968), Top 20 II receives a yearly invitation to participate in the Indiana University African American Dance Company 2-Day Workshop at Neal Marshall Cultural Center. That event occurred on March 4-5, 2016. Graduating Senior Georgeann Holloway and upcoming Junior Tori Williams had the



IU Bloomington AADC Workshop

privilege of attending the workshop. This exciting event consists of hundreds of students from cities throughout the state of Indiana. Participants engage in multiple styles of dance and the rigorous training paid off when they displayed what was learned in an evening concert. Georgeann and Tori made us proud as they encountered every challenge and performed with excellence.

By the way, CONGRATULATIONS are in order to Georgeann Holloway for being accepted to Fisk University and beginning the first phase of her long-time dream of becoming a medical doctor. Georgeann joined Top 20 II as a freshman in 2012, our first year, and was a model student carrying a 4.0 GPA, National