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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

**Young Men Share Stories of Hardship to Shine Light on Inequalities**

**Jacksonville, FL. -** The EVAC group of Lee High School are making their voices heard around the nation. Through multiple media outlets, the young men have shared stories of racism, violence, death of family members, the circular nature of poverty, and the inequality within their communities. Their stories have been heard by the senate, Harvard, President Barack Obama, and officials in their state. In one article, The New York Times focused on their message of circular poverty, and how court costs further exacerbated his family’s financial hardships.

In order to spread their message, the young men formed into a group named The EVAC Movement. The group wanted to talk about disparities, and have open conversations with officials who shape their communities. For their first scheduled round table, the boys brought in the Sheriff’s department. From there, they invited other influencers, and searched for new platforms to share their concerns on.

Amy Donofrio, sponsor of the movement, talked about the student’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.” Donofrio believes that EVAC is more of a movement, than a club or organization. “These youth have a story. Giving them a way to share their voice, support each other, and fight to change perceptions will make an impact in their community”.

The boys are hoping to continue sharing their stories around the nation. 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. If you would like to invite EVAC to a discussion, or would like to hear more about their experiences, please reach out to their media contacts included in this press release.

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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 EVAC’s 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)*.*

*If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Sarah Lux at (407) 383-8602, or* [*EVACMovement@gmail.com*](mailto:EVACMovement@gmail.com)*.*