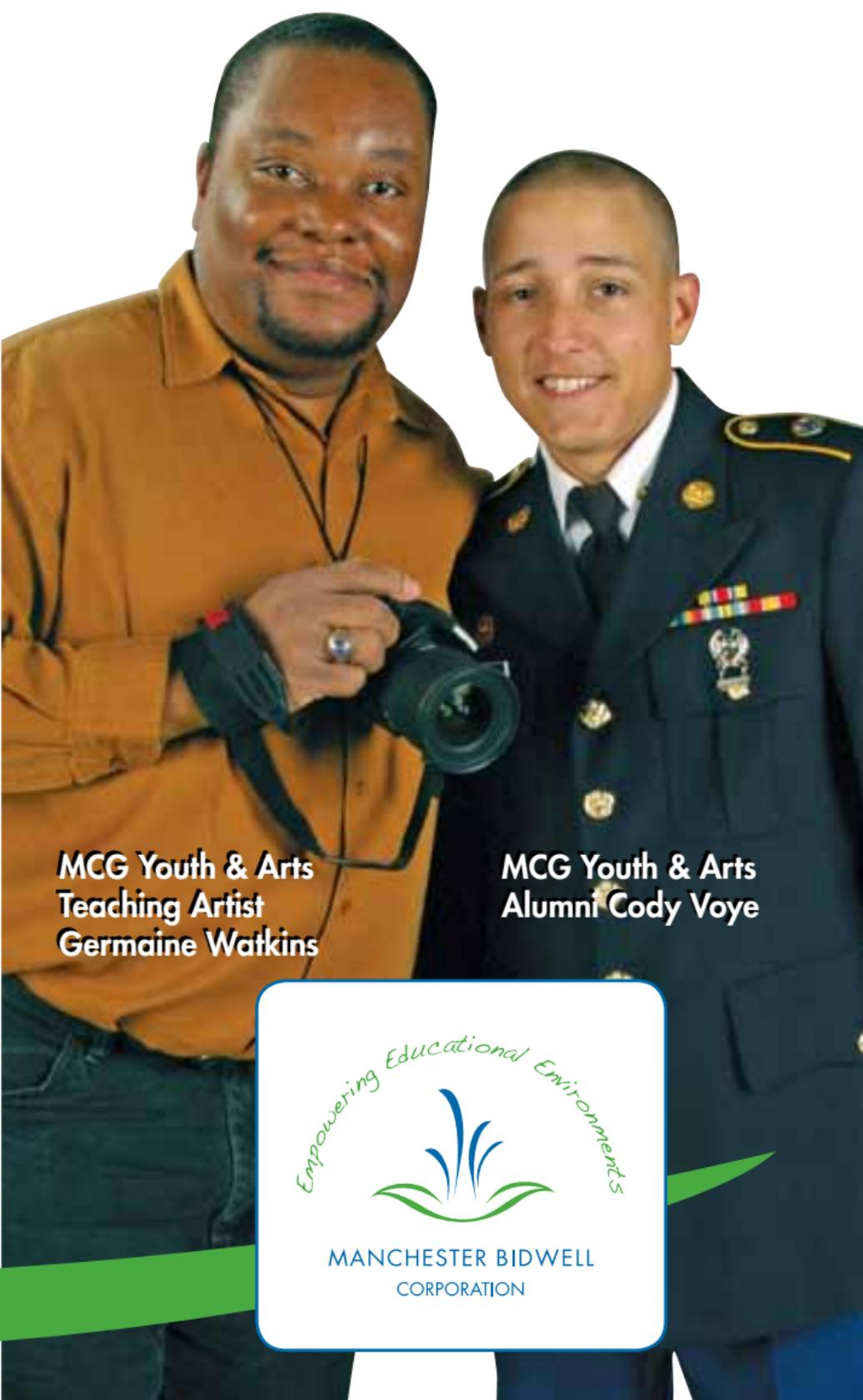


MAKE MENTORSHIP *Possible*



**MCG Youth & Arts
Teaching Artist
Germaine Watkins**

**MCG Youth & Arts
Alumni Cody Voye**



**MANCHESTER BIDWELL
CORPORATION**

Transitioning into high school is never smooth. "I didn't like it much and couldn't wait to get out," recalls Cody Voyer. It wasn't until Cody's 10th-grade art teacher told him about Manchester Craftsmen's Guild (MCG) that he realized there was a way to ease his anxieties. Cody immediately began attending classes at MCG.

Through the encouraging environment at MCG, Cody became more motivated and decided to follow his father's example and join the United States Army. His first step was enrolling in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC).

"My father was my biggest role model. After he passed away in 2010, my recruiter, Sergeant First Class Charles Jones, and my photography teacher at MCG, Germaine Watkins, both became influential role models," he says. "Germaine was patient and showed me how to express myself through art. This gave me purpose."

Germaine says, "Cody changed and matured from the time he started. He started thinking about things before just doing them. Photography was a discipline that helped him to see the world in a different way." During his three years at MCG, Cody cultivated essential life skills. "My classes at MCG taught me patience," he recalls. "The instructors at MCG cared deeply about each of their students and worked very hard to divide their time equally among students."

Cody's artistic eye was recognized when he was awarded an honorable mention in the 2011 *International Heritage Photographic Experience* contest for his photo *Descent into Pittsburgh* of Pittsburgh's Duquesne Incline, which was purchased by City of Pittsburgh officials and is on display in the incline station. "I was very proud of him," says Germaine.

Cody is still an active member of the ROTC and has joined the honor guard, a service in the military that provides funeral honors for veterans and fallen comrades. Cody is currently employed by Cauley Security Services.



Teaching artist Khalilah Shabazz mentors students in the digital arts studio.

MCG has had a great and lasting impact on my life.

— Cody Voyer

Providing people like Cody Voyer with positive role models and the soft skills needed to move toward a brighter future are just a few ways MCG benefits our community. *Your support today will help us provide a better tomorrow for individuals throughout the Pittsburgh region.*

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MANCHESTER BIDWELL CORPORATION's supportive atmosphere of art, light and music empowers our students to become productive society members. We do this through a number of initiatives:

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Our accredited and state-licensed career training for adults in transition is focused on job placement.

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MCG JAZZ

We preserve, promote and present jazz music through live concerts, archival recordings and educational programming.

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