

Mr. Ricky Waddell  
Agape Scholar 2005 – 2014

2014 Recipient of a Posse Foundation Four-Year Scholarship to Bard College

The word Agape means “unconditional love” and I can truly say that is what the Agape has shown me!

My name is Rickey Waddell and I am a part of the 2014 graduating class of North Atlanta High School and I have been a part of Agape since I was in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

My family and I are so grateful for Agape. I asked my mom what Agape means to her and she said, “Agape is a gift from God.” Agape is her rock and she has always been able to depend on them to get our family through tough times.

My mother found out about Agape when we were having a hard time when we just moved to Hollywood Road. We didn’t know what to do, so my mom’s friend recommended we contact Agape. She told my mom how helpful and how determined Agape was to provide guidance in the community. I then enrolled in the Agape and I can truly say my life changed for the better.



Ricky Waddell accepts the Posse Foundation Scholarship at Agape’s Spring Benefit.

When I first joined the center I was a child that was struggling and I could not get my act together. I didn’t have a lot of positive role models in my community or family, but throughout the years, Agape has taught me to be more responsible, respectful, and how to become a leader.

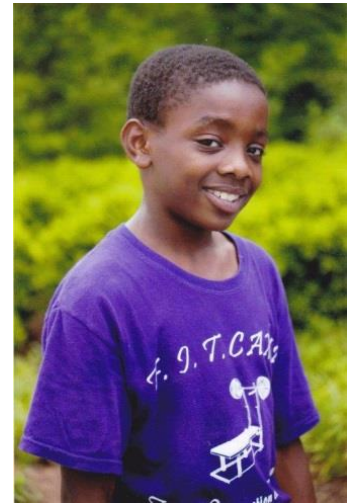
Those skills were developed through their summer Fit Camp program. The coaches taught me how to play and how to improve my basketball game, and I actually became a part of the basketball team in 2011. And last summer, I had the opportunity to be a counselor at Fit Camp, to be able to give back and work at the program that began my journey was priceless.

I value my time at Agape, especially with the staff, because my father has not been a part of my life, and I was never taught the essentials of being a well groomed gentleman. Agape staff

members stepped up and have been great role models and father figures in my life! They have given me great advice and wisdom about growing up as a young man. They have even been there to help me with getting haircuts and taking me shopping to purchase socks and ties for some of the most memorable events of my life!

This leads me to this moment of why I am here today. This year was going to either make or break the outcome of my life. I never knew that college was even an option for me until my Agape counselor told me that I did not have an option, and that I was going to college no matter what!

At the beginning of the year, Agape nominated me for the Posse Scholarship. Posse identifies public high school students with extraordinary academic and leadership potential. The application process started out with more than 1,200 applicants, and I was unsure about being selected and competing with the other students, but with the daily guidance of my Agape counselor, I made it through the rigorous, competitive Posse process and I stand today as a Posse Scholar! I was awarded a \$200,000 scholarship to Bard College New York.



Ricky Waddell's first year with Agape as a 4th grader in Agape's summer fitness camp.

Agape has changed the course of my entire life, and I am so grateful to everyone that has ever donated, volunteered or worked at Agape.

I don't know where I would be today without your support! I now feel invincible with Agape right by my side! Thank you for showing me that there are people in the world that are not blood related, that you can call family.

Thank you for pulling me out of the negativity with my community and showing me a better way of life! Thank you for being that guiding parent that nagged me every 5 seconds. Thank you for being that supportive role model, and thank you for grooming me into the young man that I am today-ready and equipped to take on this new season of my life as I start my journey as a college student at Bard College!

I know for a fact, this would not have been possible without Agape.