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40 Under 40

Elexia Coleman-Moss

Dave Strupp
Staff Writer

Elexia Coleman-M



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Few people are fortunate enough to do the work they love and afford to do it without receiving a paycheck. Thankfully for Elexia Coleman-Moss and the youth in Jacksonville, that has become a reality.

As founder and executive director of Empowerment Resources Inc., Coleman-Moss, 33, aims to empower youth to become successful leaders in the community. She does it through workshops on character development, leadership development, self-awareness and giving back to the community through volunteering.

Coleman-Moss moved to Jacksonville from Orlando and found it difficult for the city to keep her interest. "I was a little bored," she said. "But I always worked with youth and I saw a void in the community."

Since starting the organization five years ago, she has made quite an impact, and has even been recognized for her efforts. In 2005, she was awarded the Making the Grade -- Heart of Gold award from Volunteer Jacksonville.

Coleman-Moss hopes to increase the impact of Empowerment on local youth and families. She'd eventually like to start a family of her own, but would still want to help the Jacksonville community.

"I plan on staying in Jacksonville," she said. "Jacksonville has a lot to offer, and the time is crucial right now to be engaged with the community and where we're headed."

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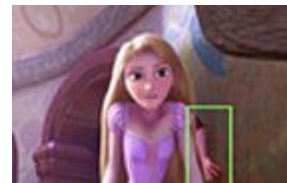
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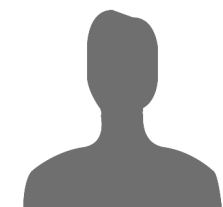
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