



THE "SUCCESS" PROJECT

2021-2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Thank you to Board Members who have rolled off, including:

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DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

It is an honor to write to you as I finish my second year as the Chairman of the Board at The Neighborhood Academy. The inside view I have of this magnificent school is truly a privilege. Whether it is meetings with Anthony Williams and his amazing administration, to interactions with our unsurpassed faculty, or spontaneous interactions with students in the hallways, a trip to campus never fails to leave me uplifted, inspired, and excited for our future. If you have not been to the school lately, I highly recommend you stop by for a refresher tour to see all that is going on (and bring a friend!)

One of the updates you will see front and center is our newly installed Matt's Maker Space. The Conover family (founders of Matt's Maker Space) partnered with PPG Industries and the Children's Museum to install an impressive science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) space, the 33rd such space in Western PA. This gives our students the opportunity for experiential and hands-on learning in these fast-growing fields that will serve them well in college and beyond. As we continue to bring our students to the forefront of these fields, I cannot think of a better starting point, with more to come!

Not to be outdone, our athletes had a stellar year as well. In the fall, we began our collaboration with Shady Side Academy for boys' varsity football. The friendships that were forged on the field are only outdone by those same friendships continuing off the field. In the spring, for the first time in school history, the boys' basketball team made the WPIAL Class A quarterfinals! The gym was electric as these student athletes went on what we hope will be the first of many deep runs in the playoffs.

From a financial standpoint, I am proud to say that the school participated in a capitalization study. We engaged with independent consultants to review our past five years of financials to build a plan for the school's financial future. This was a thorough deep dive that lasted several months and included meetings with the board as well as the school administration. The results of the study have given the school a more detailed financial



path going forward, including new board/administration collaboration and oversight for how capital is managed. The study's conclusion is summed up best by the following comment: "TNA enters this period in a state of marked,

though relatively newfound financial strength." It is because of your wonderful support, and the stewardship of our dedicated administration and board, that we have overcome Covid and come out in this position of strength.

With this strength in mind, I will close this letter with exciting news: as I hope you have heard by now, the board, at the recommendation of Anthony and his team, voted unanimously to begin enrolling girls in our middle school in September 2023. Currently, the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades are all-male by design. The school will welcome its first class of middle school girls in the 6th grade. By 2025 we will have a fully coed middle school (with separate boys/girls classes). This is a win on so many levels, not the least of which is that our student body will increase by 48 students, 33%, over that three-year period.

I am amazed to reflect on all that has occurred at TNA since Anthony took over in 2019. Many organizations, and schools in particular, are still navigating the difficulties of trying to return to where they were pre-Covid. At TNA, not only have we picked up the momentum that was building to that point, but we have forged ahead to build a bigger vision, knowing that we are on the path to achieve that vision and more. This is only possible because of our selfless and generous supporters who share that vision with us and support us constantly. Thank you for your support and your trust. We look forward to showing you what we will accomplish next.

Sincerely,

H. Edwin Haller, IV
Chairman, Board of Directors



OUR MISSION

The Neighborhood Academy (TNA) is a faith-based, college preparatory, independent Middle and High School whose mission is to break the cycle of generational poverty by empowering youth and preparing them for college and citizenship.

HISTORY

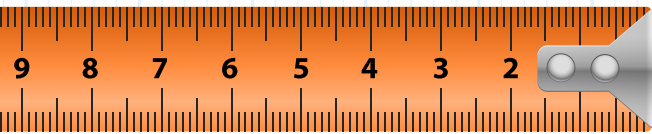
The history of the school begins in 1993, when co-founder Jodie Moore began working with at-risk adolescents in Larimer, then, and now, one of Pittsburgh's most desolate and underserved neighborhoods. What was then known as the Larimer Avenue Youth Club evolved into a nine-year summer skill-building program for at-risk 7th through 11th graders, run by The Reverend Tom Johnson in the basement of Allegheny United Church of Christ.

Ms. Moore and Reverend Johnson, who met at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, quickly realized that the psychosocial burdens of poverty weighed heavily on these students and impeded learning. They believed that if these young people could be immersed year-round in a caring environment with high expectations, they could become highly educated young people with the potential to lead fulfilling lives. With generous support from pioneering community members, this vision evolved into The Neighborhood Academy.

The college preparatory school opened its doors to its first class of 8th and 9th graders in September 2001 and has since grown to 142 students in grades 6 through 12. In 2011, the school moved to its new home at 709 N. Aiken Avenue in Pittsburgh's Stanton Heights neighborhood.



MEASURING OUR STUDENTS' CHALLENGES



70%

have a taxable family income of less than **\$30,000**

70%

live in a **single-caregiver** household

50%

live in families with a **history of drug** and/or **alcohol abuse**

46%

live in families with a **history of domestic violence**

29%

have **experienced incarceration** within their immediate family

81%

of students would otherwise be **enrolled in a school categorized as 'low-performing'** by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

YOUR IMPACT



100% college acceptance rate



Alumni boast a **76% five-year college graduation rate** - only 16% of low-income college students graduate from college (*National Center for Education Statistics, 2017*).



89% of alumni are in careers relevant to their degree



7,000 hours of counseling



Seniors awarded over **\$250,000 in scholarships** from over **35 colleges**



127 students from over 30 zip codes in grades 6-12 served year-round



Over **20 Student Life activities**



11% attrition rate – since 2019; TNA has consistently outperformed our historical 15%-26%



Built and maintained **50 partnerships** boosting offerings in academic, art, athletics, counseling/health education, and volunteer opportunities



90% of alumni return to Pittsburgh

The Neighborhood Academy celebrated its 21st Anniversary in September. Atop Mt. Washington inside of The LeMont's grand ballroom, many friends, alumni, long-time supporters, faculty, and staff listened to the powerful stories and memories shared by our speakers. We look forward to the next 21 years.

After the event, we held a **time capsule ceremony** with our students on a crisp fall morning. The capsule will be buried on campus and uncovered in 2051!



VISIT:

www.theneighborhoodacademy.org/events/21anniversary.cfm to watch a recording of the event as well as our 21st Anniversary documentary videos!

GROUND BREAKING HIGHLIGHTS



Gold Sponsor:
LeMont

Gold Sponsor:
pwc

Blue Sponsor:
smi aware

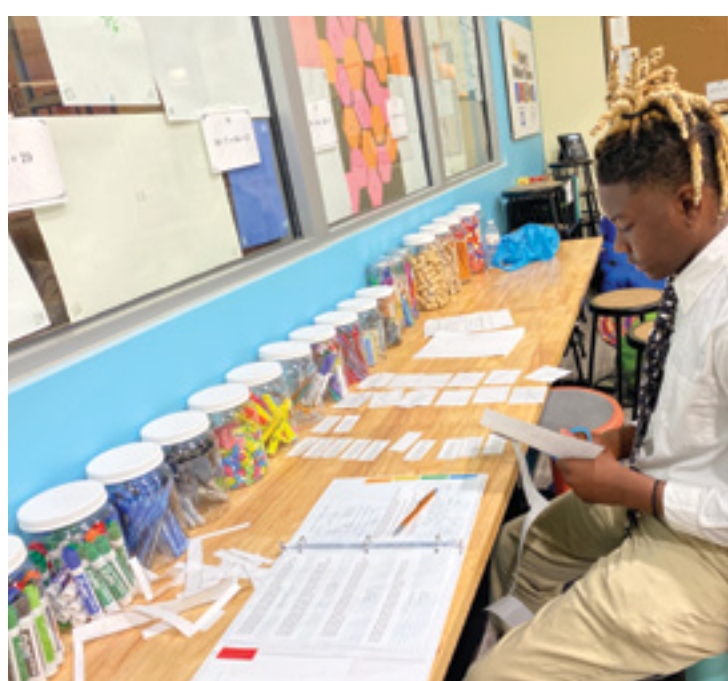
Blue Sponsor:
THE WILSON GROUP

Blue Sponsor:
TriSixty CAPITAL

Blue Sponsor:
UPMC HEALTH PLAN

Blue Sponsor:
MediaQuest





In the fall, TNA unveiled a **Matt's Maker Space** to help build the next generation of diverse and innovative leaders in STEM.

With support from co-founders, Noelle and David Conover of Matt's Maker Space and PPG Foundation, TNA renovated a space on campus where students can create, collaborate, and learn through experiential and hands-on learning.



"Students will have countless opportunities to explore the natural world and spark their imagination."

— Max Cookinham, STEM Coordinator



In May, TNA held its first **Be The Change!** event at Longue Vue Club. Guests mingled with the TNA community members including current students and alumni — all while learning about our school.

Special Thanks to our Host Committee and Corporate Sponsors:





In June, a group of **45** students, parents, faculty, and alumni, **explored the splendors of London** seeing sights such as **Big Ben**, **St. Paul's Cathedral**, and witnessed the **Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace**. The group traveled to **Paris**, viewing the majesty of the **Eiffel Tower**, and explored the famous **Louvre Museum**. The group ended their trip in **Barcelona**, visiting **Casa Mila**, and **Las Ramblas**.



ALUMNI HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

In December, we held an **Alumni Luncheon** to celebrate the holiday season. With over 30 alumni in attendance, we kicked off some awesome new initiatives related to internships and workforce development. Afterward, we watched some Bulldogs basketball!

CAREER FAIR

To **connect students and alumni with potential employers** in the Pittsburgh area, TNA held its first-ever Alumni Career Fair in the spring. The Fair, sponsored by Allegheny Technologies Incorporated (ATI) featured 21 participating companies in the professions of healthcare, social services, finance, marketing and communications, human resources, law, manufacturing, energy and construction, and real estate.

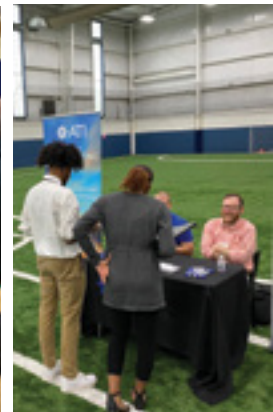
There were workshops on job interviewing, resume and cover letter creation, as well as a business attire raffle and lunch. Attendees also received a professional headshot courtesy of Denmark Studios.

FALLINGWATER SENIOR OUTING

Preserving the legacy of the late Francine Abraham, TNA supporters and friends of Francine, Sandra Burgo and Kim Aven are continuing our **traditional senior trip to Fallingwater**! Our seniors took a tour of Fallingwater, learned about legendary architect Frank Lloyd Wright, and enjoyed a lunch outing afterwards.

PYL BIKE TRIP

Over spring break, TNA students guided by Mark Rubenstein, President of Pittsburgh Youth Leadership, took a bike trip down south! The group cycled to Selma where they trekked across the historical Edmund Pettus Bridge – the site of the Bloody Sunday civil rights demonstration in the first march for voting rights in 1965. The group also visited the Brown Chapel AME church, University of Alabama, and Legacy Museum. After over 250 miles, the trip ended in Pensacola, FL!



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

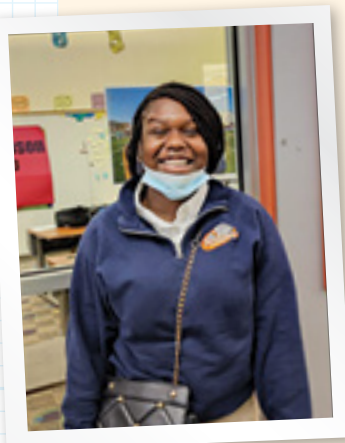
- Artificial Intelligence
- Bike Maintenance
- Boys' Basketball
- Cheerleading
- Coding/Cyber Security
- Cycling
- Flag Football
- Football
- Girls' Basketball
- Girls' Volleyball
- Golf
- Metalsmithing
- Photography
- Printmaking
- Running and Weightlifting
- Spoken Word
- Stained Glass/Mosaics
- Track
- Visual Arts
- Wrestling

CORPORATE PHILANTHROPY: ABARTA Over-the-Bridge Student Scholarship.

The Neighborhood Academy recently received its first "Over the Bridge" pledge for one exceptional student, thanks to an annual \$25,000 commitment for the next three years from ABARTA Coca-Cola Beverages.



E'Niyah is the first student at our Academy to receive a company-sponsored scholarship, and we are proud to have ABARTA Coca-Cola Beverages as our inaugural partner. ACCB fully believes in putting people, and the communities they serve, first. They have fully invested in E'Niyah's future and are committed to building a long-lasting relationship with her.



Corporate partnerships with The Neighborhood Academy build bridges that connect students with the careers that await them after graduating from college. While students are in school, investing now deepens the relationship with corporate leaders and creates wonderful life-long relationships.

Through our career exposure and workforce development program, our business partners connect with students and alumni to create a pathway to meaningful careers and shape tomorrow's workforce with homegrown talent. Partnering with The Neighborhood Academy is a proven

way to create a more diverse workforce in Pittsburgh with 89% of our college-graduated alumni returning to Pittsburgh to live and work.

Currently a sophomore, E'Niyah has good grades, a bubbly personality, and dreams of becoming an entrepreneur. With support from ABARTA Coca-Cola Beverages, E'Niyah is well on her way.

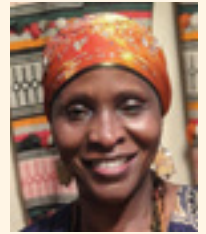
We thank ABARTA Coca-Cola Beverages for their investment and support of E'Niyah's future and the future of this region.

To learn more, contact Sheila Rawlings at 412-626-6851 or sheila.rawlings@theneighborhoodacademy.org.

REMEMBERING

"MAMA" KADIATOU CONTE FORTE

Graceful and grace-filled, for years Mama K taught our students how to connect with their African heritage through drums, dance, and choreographed storytelling. She taught them discipline, perseverance and the joy of group performance. From her, and from the drumming and dancing so deeply rooted in African culture, our students learned to know themselves in new ways.



MARY MEANS

Mary came to TNA in the early 2000's starting as a volunteer to help our students improve their Math SAT scores. She then served on our Board of Directors before transitioning to an alumni and staff support role. Mary loved baseball and loved hosting TNA Staff Nights at Pirates games which was her way of giving TNA faculty and staff a much-needed night out with each other.



THOMAS JAMES TAYLOR

Tom's life and career took him to the Navy, California, Indiana, Georgia, and Germany. His last stop was Pittsburgh, where he became a founding Board member of TNA. People said TNA's business model "wouldn't work" and was "not sustainable". Tom and his wife, Joan, believed; and through the gifts of time, wisdom, and treasure, we continue to build year after year.



ALSO IN MEMORIAM:

Francine Abraham
Cathy Blose
Bernita Buncher
Ann Cahouet
Judith Callomon
Joanne Dapper
William Davis
Thomas Flannery

Hans Fleischner
Pat Griffin
Stephen L. Guinn
Justin Johnson
Rose Kutsenkow
Jessica McClelland
Ellen Moreland
Shirley Reineman

Jean Robinson
Joanne Rogers
Harriet R. Schach
Cecelia Sommers
Henry Suffoletta
Konrad Weis
Lu Weneker

MIDDLE SCHOOL

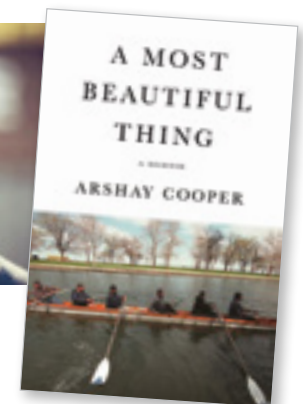
STUDENTS HAVE BEEN BUILDING UPON THEIR KNOWLEDGE, LIFE EXPERIENCES AND EXPLORING NEW ADVENTURES.



Studying how and why individuals change their minds, Ron Snyder's 6th Grade History Class analyzed the transition from the **world's Geocentric view** (where the Earth is the center of the solar system) to a Heliocentric view (where the Sun is the center of the solar system). The students were challenged to study the perspectives of Ptolemy and Aristotle, which came into sharp contrast with the discoveries of Copernicus, Galileo and Sir Issac Newton. The students then reported and presented their analyses to the class.



As part of the **Row412** and **First Row 2.0** initiatives, **Three Rivers Rowing Association** coaches have been training our middle school students in the sport of rowing. Students meet at the Millvale boathouse to practice in their training tanks and work out on rowing machines. The crew sets sail on the water to practice their technique and synchronization.



In April 2022, we had the honor of having **Arshay Cooper** visit our school to speak with our students. Arshay is a rower, motivational speaker, activist, and the star in his critically acclaimed film, **"A Most Beautiful Thing,"** – an award-winning memoir of the first all-black high school rowing team in the nation.

"Whatever comes my way, whatever opportunity presents itself, I will take it. There will be no space between my dreams and my actions... my dreams won't work unless I do."



In February, 2022 TNA's Middle School Bulldogs and their coach, Fred Underwood '19, brought home the **SWCAC Boys Middle School Championship**.



Solving the world's challenges through materials science! Thanks to **ATI - Allegheny Technologies Incorporated** for visiting our school in the spring to teach mechanical and material engineering and discussing the careers available in the field. Fifteen of our lucky middle schoolers had the opportunity to visit ATI to tour one of their facilities and try on some awesome safety gear!



The **Middle School track and field team** participated in the **RTCS Invitational Track and Field competition** at the Robert Morris University Island Sports Center!



During Summer Session, **TNA Head Cook, Alfred Diggs**, rallied a group of Middle School students to help pick fresh veggies for our meals! Al used the cherry tomatoes for salads and sauces, and incorporated the zucchinis into a wonderful stir fry served that week.



2021-2022 STATS

60%

of 8th graders tested
in Honors Geometry
for 9th grade

93.3%

Middle School Attendance

53%

Honor Roll (final grades)

87%

Retention

18%

(1 in 5) students missed
4 or fewer homework
assignments the
ENTIRE year

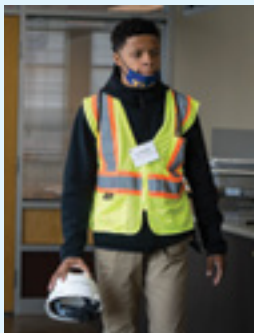
8th grade grew an
average of

2.8

grade levels in math
(7.4 to 10.2)

HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENTS PLAN,
PREPARE AND BUILD FOR
A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE.



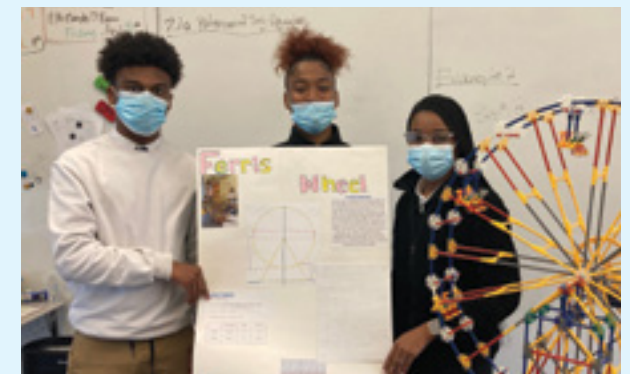
Last summer, we hosted guest speakers to give our **scholars insight into the professional world**. Special thanks to: American Eagle, UPMC, KDKA, Cosmos Technology, Duquesne Light, Trans Associates, Wabtec, Duolingo, and First National Bank.

A group of students were immersed in the world of finance and wealth management at Hefren-Tillotson, CooksonPeirce, and Hunter Associates last summer. Students took tours of each workplace, met with top executives, and learned financial planning and the “dos and don’ts” of spending and saving.

A number of high schoolers completed internships with corporate partners such as Duquesne Light, PJ Dick – Trumbull – Lindy, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center, Highmark’s Straight to Business program, and the Pittsburgh Legal Diversity & Inclusion Coalition.

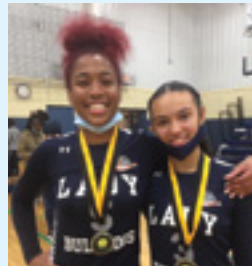


The rides of Kennywood come to The Neighborhood Academy! Math Teacher, Jason Scott, and his class **built a Ferris wheel, The Swings, and the Aero 360 using K’NEX and some impressive Trigonometry equations!** Because all the models rotate or spin, students were able to use their sinusoidal functions to model the vertical and horizontal positions of the “rider” on each ride. They also used mathematical functions to predict the future position of the rider at any given time. “I love this project because students can see a real-world application of what is often a very abstract topic. Not only is it fun, but it helps solidify why we study math in the first place.” – Jason Scott



VOLLEYBALL

- TNA and Shady Side Academy Announce Cooperative Sponsorship in Girls’ Volleyball
- Senior, **Jocelyn** and Sophomore **Isabella** were voted to the 2021 All-SWPAA Volleyball Team



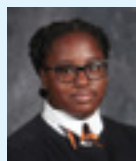
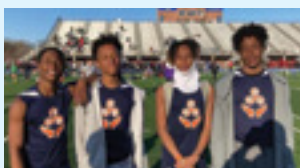
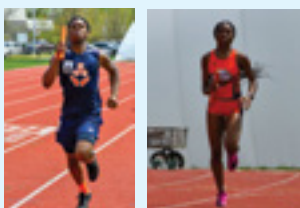


BASKETBALL

- The Boys High School Bulldogs secured their first ever **WPIAL Class A playoff** berth
- **Shamar** and **Courtney** made the list of WPIAL basketball scoring leaders
- **Courtney** secured a Division I offer from Fordham University
- Senior, **Jocelyn**, was named a co-MVP of Southwestern Pennsylvania Athletic Association's Girls Basketball All-League

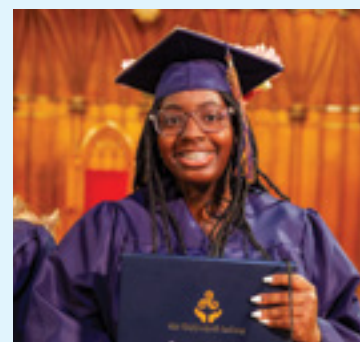
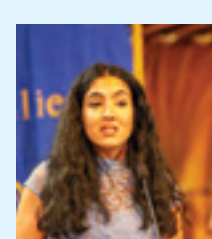
TRACK

Darrin, TJ, KeShunn, and **Delon** broke the school's 4x400 relay record in April. The previous record stood for 15 years. **KeShunn** also broke the school's Triple Jump record which has been in place since 2007.



With the guidance of **Burns White LLC**, in March 2022, **four TNA students were selected** to compete in the **Marshall Brennan National Appellate Moot Court Competition** in Washington, D.C. All four

did an excellent job and made it to the second round of competition! TNA Junior, **Joi**, made it all the way to the semi-finals where only 12 of the 42 competitors made the cut.

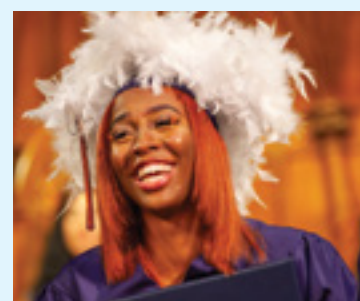


GRADUATION: In May, our Class of 2022 received their diplomas in front of friends and family at Third Presbyterian Church. This was the first time we held our graduation ceremony at the church since 2019.

This stellar class was accepted to more than 35 colleges and universities and earned more than \$250,000 in scholarship dollars!

Special congratulations to **LeNia, Class of 2022 Valedictorian**; and **Amari, recipient of the Baskin Charitable Trust Scholarship and Kurtzrock-Fogleman Scholarship**.

We were honored to have **Giselle Barreto Fetterman as our commencement speaker**. Giselle is the wife U.S. Senator-elect John Fetterman, a Brazilian-American activist, philanthropist, and nonprofit founder.



2021-2022 STATS

91.9%
Attendance

65%
Honor Roll (final grade)

90%
Retention

100%
College Acceptance

30%
1 in 3 students missed 4 or fewer homework assignments the ENTIRE year!

ALUMNI ARCHITECTURE

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS



Desmond Hargrove, TNA Class of '18

Desmond Hargrove, TNA Class of '18, is the Outreach and Impact Coordinator at the Homewood-Brushton YMCA where he oversees the YMCA's youth afterschool programs. He became involved with the YMCA through the Pittsburgh Urban Leadership Service Experience (PULSE,) an organization that cultivates a community of talented university graduates to partner with Pittsburgh nonprofits for service and leadership. Desmond graduated from Allegheny College in spring 2022 with a degree in Communications and a minor in Community Justice.

"I coordinate events and manage the YMCA's marketing efforts, creating their newsletter, posting content for their social media channels, and shooting photography... I enjoy working with the community – it has become a crucial part of who I am," said Desmond.

At TNA, Desmond's favorite memories are volunteering at the Rainbow Kitchen in Homestead, Brightside Academy in East Liberty, and senior citizen homes in the area.

In college, he was part of the Allegheny Bonner Service Leader Program – a civic engagement program where students who dedicate 8-10 hours per week working with local community organizations can earn scholarships. At 23 years old, Desmond wants to continue serving his community full-time.

"My goal is to help people get out of situations where they feel like they're just surviving. I want to lead people to a place where they can thrive. There is a common theme of people just 'getting by,' and I want to have a hand in offering motivation, giving people a chance to express themselves and enjoy life," said Desmond.

Cycling with the Pittsburgh Youth Leadership (PYL) and TNA students is a hobby that Desmond continues to participate in today. In December 2022, he completed a trip from North Carolina to Atlanta, Georgia, with the group – one of many previous excursions.

"I have been cycling with PYL since my junior year at TNA. Our first trip was cycling through Alaska! It was not as cold as I expected; the mountains, forest and wildlife were amazing... Today, I ride as a staff member/mentor on these trips, teaching the students how to ride and be more self-sufficient."

Desmond's siblings Jocelyn, TNA Class of '22, and Nathan, TNA Class of '23, are following in his footsteps, and he looks forward to seeing them flourish.

"It's great to see how they have grown and how this school has impacted them. I look forward to seeing them continue to develop themselves in the next chapters of their lives."

Shataya Taylor, TNA Class of '18

Shataya Taylor, TNA class of 2018, is good to the people in her life – big or small. Having earned her bachelor's degree in Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh in May 2022, Shataya is aiming to achieve her Masters in fall 2023. Social Work blends the disciplines of counseling, psychology, and sociology, but Shataya is a believer in a few other passions that allow her to be the best in the field: family, networking, and hard work.

"I am currently doing my second internship at Children, Youth, and Families Services as part of the Masters program. On top of that, I am a Research Assistant at Pitt studying how black parents raise children with autism. When this study is completed, I will be studying black fatherhood and early childhood programs and the challenges they face," said Shataya. "I really enjoy working with children and youth, and want to pursue that area the most."

Shataya is also a part-time building cleaner and is a student mentor at TNA. Although she is extremely busy with her career, Shataya always finds time for family – especially being an inspiration to her "little people:" a brother, age 3, and two sisters, ages 5 and 8.

"The three don't care how old I am, and they encourage me in the littlest of ways. They came to my graduation, and were so proud of me. Sometimes they come and visit the university with my dad! It's in our family nature to cheer on family," said Shataya.

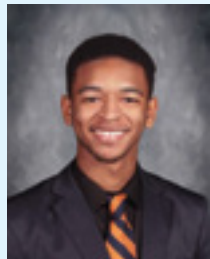
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SKY-SCRAPING SENIOR

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT –

Antonio, Class of 2023



The Neighborhood Academy senior **Antonio** lives with his head in the clouds. After a rigorous school day, you can find Antonio in one of two places: either

performing on stage with Alumni Theater Company or in Aviation and Flight Training at the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC). Graduating in May 2023, this 18-year-old is ready to spread his wings.

“I take a Private Pilot Theory course and an Air Traffic Control course at CCAC for roughly seven hours a week,” he said. “I already have two flight lessons down!”

Antonio has a few options for plans after graduation – both involve serving his country. Having traveled with TNA’s students and faculty to Europe, he sees himself catching the Travel Bug.

“My plan is to be in active duty in the Air Force for 10-15 years and maybe become a commercial pilot. It is a lucrative career, plus I would get to travel a lot. I feel that it would be a good lifestyle for me.”

Antonio lives by Martin Luther King, Jr.’s quote, “If you can’t fly, then run; if you can’t run, then walk; if you can’t walk, then crawl; but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward.”

It goes without saying, Antonio definitely stays in constant motion.

While he attends his classes at CCAC two days a week, Antonio is also an active member in the Alumni Theater Company where he performs, writes, sings, raps, and dances. He enjoys performing show tunes from *Moulin Rouge* and *The Addams Family* musical, but his favorite role to date is everyone’s favorite cartoon beagle (who’s also a pilot).

“The stage has been my creative outlet since second grade. My favorite role was playing Snoopy in *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. I was the lead in this show, had two solos, and it took me out of my comfort zone. Plus, the small crew I performed with is like my family. Once I know we have a production together, I know it will be fire,” said Antonio.

Antonio credits The Neighborhood Academy for setting the stage for his future.

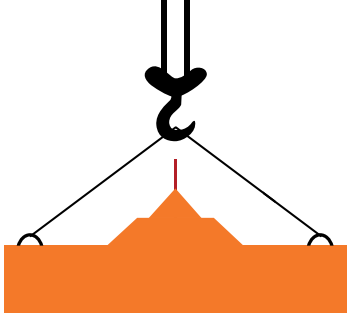
“The Neighborhood Academy had me thinking about what I want my future to look like. The school is a gateway,” he said. Soon I’ll be walking out one door and walking through another one.”

Shataya’s parents are her inspiration in life, and she credits them for her desire to help others. She has unintentionally followed in her father’s footsteps with her passion for Social Work.

“My dad works as a Social Worker at Pitt, and believe it or not, he didn’t want me to get into the field,” she laughed. “It’s not that he didn’t believe in me. You have to have a big heart and a strong mind to be in the field...”

I’m being an ‘open ear’ for children, and it can be difficult hearing what they are going through. I am prepared for anything, and I’m here to help them. I can’t see myself being comfortable in any other field other than Social Work.”

Shataya also enjoys hanging out with her friends, hitting the gym, doing yoga, and going for walks (during the warmer months). She also enjoys networking and meeting people in her field.



BUILDING SOMETHING **BIGGER**

“The Neighborhood Academy reinforces the importance of a well-rounded education...”

“Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.”

James 1:27

“I am driven to help people; it’s the way I’m wired.”

Sheran Zellous White, Founder and Executive Director of the Five James Foundation, has found that being a guiding light to widows, orphans, and struggling women in Pittsburgh is her own special way of healing from personal tragedy. Sheran started the Five James Foundation after the tragic losses of five loved ones: husband, William James White Jr.; son, William James White III; two grandsons, William James White IV and Jordan James White (both sons of her deceased son); and nephew, James Dwaine Zellous. **Thus the name: Five James Foundation.**

Broken, but deeply rooted in her faith, Sheran needed a way to find solace from her grieving after these few years of heartbreaking losses.

“I spoke with my pastor at Allegheny Center Alliance Church. He would take short term mission trips to Africa, and told me that the Lord was speaking to him and wanted me to go to Kenya with him,” Sheran said. “I went kicking and screaming.”

There in Kenya, Sheran met five widows, with whom she built a relationship. The camaraderie between the women was strong and comforting. Through the Five James Foundation, these women launched businesses and became self-sufficient. From this point, Sheran realized that giving comfort to fellow widows and those grieving was her calling.

“I know what it’s like to hurt. I know what deep grief does to a person. I trusted in the Lord’s timing and realized my spiritual gift,” said Sheran. “I am driven to help people; it’s the way I’m wired... Today, the Five James Foundation supports 110 widows, and I give comfort by personally reaching out to each and every one of them.”

She was introduced to The Neighborhood Academy by former Board Member, Brenda Frazier, and has been an active supporter of TNA’s mission and vision ever since. The Five James Foundation has a scholarship for students living with single parents, and TNA students have been recipients of this generous scholarship.

“Not having an education can be a route to destruction and lack of productivity in society. The Neighborhood Academy reinforces the importance of a well-rounded education for these young people. Saving youth who otherwise would be overlooked is an amazing task,” Sheran said.

Today, Sheran works as the Community Care Director at Allegheny Center Alliance Church and spends Wednesday nights facilitating the church’s grief recovery support meetings.



A STRONG FOUNDATION OF SUPPORT

Lucy and John Douglas Jr., their son, and even their dogs have been involved in the inner and outer workings of The Neighborhood Academy since its inception.

When they were approached by TNA co-founder Jodie Moore about her plans to start a school, the Douglases offered advice and insight on how to build its Board of Directors.

“John and I hosted a get-together with about 15-20 people at our house to discuss the vision of the school,” Lucy said. “It was the first time I met Joe Massaro, TNA’s first Board Chair, and I specifically remember Mernie Berger and what a force she was from the get-go... Our Board was a wonderful group of people who represented many different constituencies. They all felt strongly about education.”

Mernie passed in December 2022 and is remembered for her unwavering support and belief in TNA.

Lucy, who became a Board Member herself, joined Jodie on road trips to five different cities to visit schools working from the same model TNA would eventually use. Many of the schools were just starting up, themselves. After enough support, TNA was up and running out of the third floor of a renovated warehouse on Penn Avenue.

“I’ll never forget a time I was visiting the school. I was walking through a busy hallway of lockers slamming while students were getting their books. A younger student was complaining to others about why they had to wear ties and have their shirts tucked in. An older student replied, ‘They’re not going to stop this, so get on with it and go to class!’ At that point I thought, ‘Okay, we’re making progress!’” Lucy said laughing.

In 2011 after the new building opened, John Douglas became the Interim Head of School for a few months and his Springer Spaniel, Moose, served as an honorary VP of Security.

The Douglas’ son, John Douglas III, also worked at the school as a receptionist and librarian.

John’s favorite memory was when First Tee – Pittsburgh, a youth development organization that empowers kids and teens through the game of golf, invited TNA scholar Ashlee Philyaw (now Ashlee Johnson) to speak in Washington, D.C.

“She spoke at a congressional breakfast about how the First Tee program and TNA partnership helped her,” John said. “Her mother and I were so nervous about the speech. She was talking to members of Congress and professional golfer, Hale Irwin. Ashlee nailed it and got a standing ovation.”

Through it all, the Douglases are proud of the direction in which TNA is heading.

“We’re thrilled to see the Middle School for Girls opening, the partnerships being built, and all the new and important subjects being added to the curriculum,” said John.



DEAR FRIENDS,



There is so much that goes into constructing anything built to last: blueprints, sturdy materials, right tools, solid foundation, nuts and bolts – the list goes on...

The Neighborhood Academy is built to last.

Our Strategic Plan for the future is our blueprint guiding our leadership. Our solid foundation will always be our generous donors. And those nuts and bolts? Those are our faculty and staff holding it all together. The final product is not just a school, but a launchpad for our students to their futures.

We understand that building partnerships is vital to our school's 'structural integrity.' Sound partnerships multiply our impact. As a result, opportunities for our students grow.

In a recent study by the National Center for Education Statistics, African American teachers represent just 7% of the field while white teachers comprise 79%. To address this statistic, a three-way partnership between **TNA**, **DePaul School for Hearing and Speech**, and **Robert Morris University** has been formed. TNA students are being immersed in the field of Education through 1:1 mentoring, panel discussions, and interactions with professionals.

I had the honor of co-presenting at the "A Dream Deferred: The Future of African American Education" conference in Washington, D.C. highlighting the **Pittsburgh College Access Alliance (PCAA)** – a collaboration of **TNA**, **Crossroads Foundation**, **FAME**, and **NEED**, dedicated to increasing access to higher education pathways for Black students in Pittsburgh.

Professor, David Herring, of the **University of Pittsburgh's School of Law** and seven of his law students, are in their

third year of teaching Constitutional Law to our Juniors. With their help and the guidance of law firm **Burns White**, four TNA students were selected to compete in the Marshall Brennan National Appellate Moot Court Competition in spring 2022.

These partnerships are some of the building materials we use to galvanize our curriculum. Sports and outdoor activities are also vital to a well-rounded learning experience...

This summer, **Three Rivers Rowing Association** continued to train our Middle Schoolers in the skill of rowing, and ventured out on the Allegheny River to practice technique and synchronization.

TNA and **Shady Side Academy** announced a collaboration in girls' volleyball, giving Shady Side Academy girls the opportunity to play on TNA's Lady Bulldogs team. Through our ongoing collaboration with Shady Side Academy in football, the high school Bulldogs lowered their shoulder and fought their way to the WPIAL semifinals.

First Tee Pittsburgh seamlessly integrates the game of golf with character-building during the summer, and **Pittsburgh Youth Leadership** has guided students on countless biking excursions throughout the nation.

Although many of our partnerships revolve around athletics, we believe in putting the 'student' before the 'athlete.' Last year, one of our seniors was accepted to Duke University. A 6th grader said to our Assistant Head of School, Brent Jernigan, that he did not know that the senior was such a good basketball player since Duke is an elite school for athletics. When Brent told the student that the senior was accepted for her academics – not athletics – he responded "Wow... We can get there from here?"

Yes. Academic excellence is a Power tool.

TNA math instructors, Maleita Moffitt and Erin Simpson will introduce an innovative way of teaching in 2023. Using meetamathematician.com, the two teachers will be rolling out a curriculum that will give students an inside look at how math is utilized by professionals. [Meetamathematician.com](https://meetamathematician.com) is a website where mathematicians from different backgrounds – especially from historically excluded groups – record videos explaining how they use math to change the world. These videos will inspire students to pursue math as a career and understand how math is critical in everyday life.

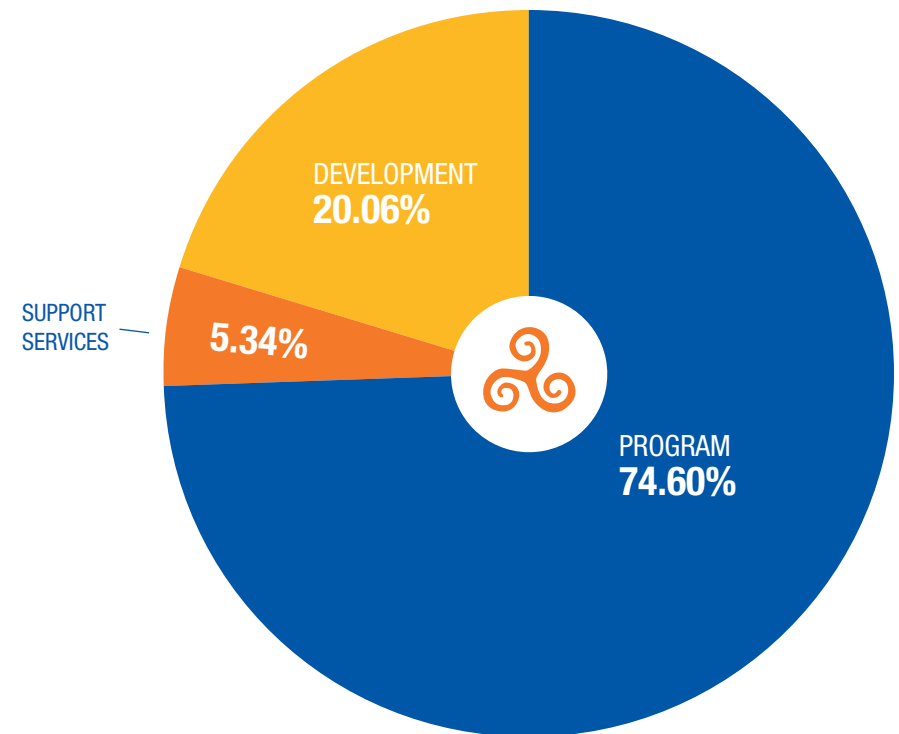
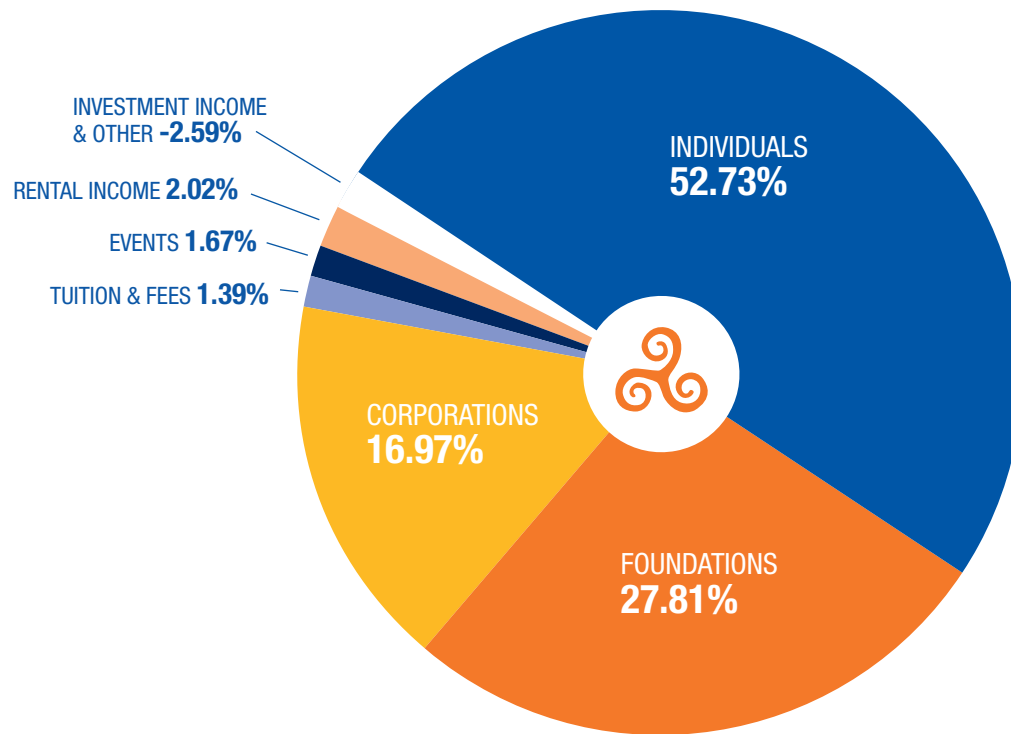
Now, I may not be an expert in the realm of construction, but one thing I do know is that a structure built to last a lifetime is all for naught without a solid foundation. You, as our supporters have always answered the call, and for that we are grateful. Because of your belief in our mission, you have empowered TNA to evolve, retrofit to a changing world, weather storms, and above all, keep our school moving forward. The investment you make has a profound impact on the lives of our students, who will, in return, make Pittsburgh a better place to live, flourish, and succeed.

Anthony Williams



FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

(9/1/2021 – 8/31/22)



SUPPORT AND REVENUE

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Contributions Operations..... | 2,989,660 |
| Foundations..... | 1,576,625 |
| Corporations..... | 962,324 |
| Tuition and Fees..... | 78,545 |
| Events..... | 94,806 |
| Rental Income..... | 114,623 |
| Investment Income and other..... | (147,048) |
| TOTAL | 5,669,535 |

EXPENSES

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Program | 3,360,229 |
| Support Services | 240,550 |
| Development | 903,655 |
| TOTAL | 4,504,434 |
| CHANGE IN NET ASSETS | 1,165,101 |

NET ASSET

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Beginning of the Year | 11,879,473 |
| End of the Year..... | 13,044,574 |
| CHANGE IN NET ASSETS | 1,165,101 |

ANNUAL FUND GIFTS

BETWEEN 1/1/2022 - 12/31/2022

KEY:

* Board

Deceased

\$ Staff

(OTB) Over the Bridge -

These donors support the cost of educating a student for three or more years at a cost of \$25,000 per student per year.

(B&O) Blue &

Orange Society -

(\$24,999-\$20,000; three-year pledge)

(BDS) Bull Dog Society -

(\$19,999-\$1,000; three-year pledge)

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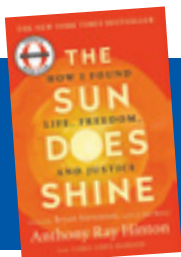
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