

SUPERHEROES of
The Neighborhood Academy!

WOW!



September 1, 2020 - December 31, 2021
ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,



IT IS A GREAT PRIVILEGE THAT I HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WRITE TO YOU AS THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD ACADEMY.

I remember fondly being at the very first graduation for the school in 2005 and feeling something special in the air. Education has always been a priority of mine, and in TNA I saw what every school should strive for: giving great kids not only a path to success, but also a vision for that success and a belief that it is possible. When Reverend Tom Johnson and Jodie Moore started TNA in 2001, they may have been the only ones with a clear vision of what this school could accomplish, but now we all can see that just as clearly. I am honored to play a part in continuing their legacy.

The 2020-2021 school year was not an easy one, but it was a success. We started the year giving our families the option of an all-virtual or hybrid learning experience. Whether students opted to remain virtual or come into the building two days a week, they were all held

accountable to their studies, and they did not disappoint. We have many groups to thank for this success such as our corporate sponsors, including Comcast (who donated laptops for all our students prior to the pandemic), our wonderful faculty and staff (we had a 100% retention rate to start the school year), and of course our students who took this adversity in stride.

One group in particular who deserves mentioning is our senior class, which was compromised of 26 young men and women; our largest graduating class to date. This was not the senior year that they envisioned, but that did not deter them from stepping up to the challenge. The proof of their hard work can be seen in the results: acceptance of all students to multiple schools each – bringing the list to 50 in total, including nine Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and two Ivy League Schools (our first ever.) On top of this, they earned a cumulative \$1.3 MILLION in scholarships. Not to mention, getting back to an in-person graduation was icing on the cake.

These current college freshmen have a lot to look forward to. As our alumni pool grows, we are seeing the success of this work. 75% of our students are graduating from college in five years or less and entering the workforce. We have alumni in careers at major Pittsburgh companies such as BNY Mellon, UPMC, PJ Dick, and the City of Pittsburgh Police just to name a few. 89% of our college graduates are currently in a career that is relevant to their degree. We continue working with local companies for internships and career opportunities to ensure that we will keep the talent that we are cultivating here in the Pittsburgh region.

We have all heard horror stories from friends or have seen news segments of schools struggling significantly during COVID-19. My belief is that if a school is strong enough as a community, it will rise up to defeat any challenge, including COVID-19. The faculty, staff, administration, board, and of course students, are only part of that community. We all know that there is a much larger community that includes all of you, the supporters of the school. I want you all to know that our school strives for this level of success because we know you are with us, and we will not let you down. Tom Johnson always said your support can be time, treasure, or talent. Please know your gift goes far beyond that and provides inspiration. Thank you for your continued support of the mission and vision of The Neighborhood Academy.

Sincerely,

H. Edwin Haller, IV
Chairman, Board of Directors

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MEMBERS WHO HAVE
ROLLED OFF, INCLUDING:**
Katherine E. Koop-Irwin, Esq.

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.

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 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.

STUDENT CHALLENGES

70% have a taxable family income of less than \$30k

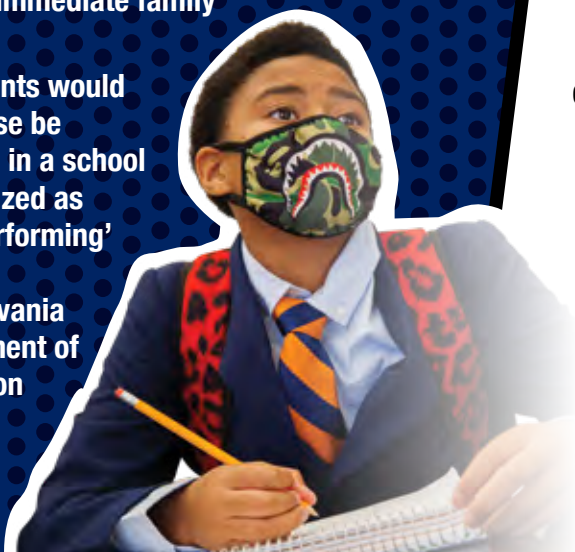
70% live in a single-caregiver household

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 in their immediate family

84% of students would otherwise be enrolled in a school categorized as 'low-performing' by the Pennsylvania Department of Education



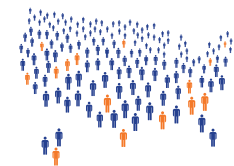
YOUR IMPACT



Largest class of Seniors, 26, graduated in May 2021



Alumni boast a **75% five-year college graduation rate** (three-year average)



Nationally, **16%** of low-income college students graduate from college (National Center for Education Statistics, 2017)



100% college acceptance rate



Over 24,500 hours of counseling



89% of alumni are in careers relevant to their degree



Awarded **\$1.3 million in scholarship money** from over 50 colleges



First graduating class to have received **acceptance to Ivy League institutions**, including Yale University and the University of Pennsylvania



141 students in grades 6-12 served throughout the year



Maintained and created **partnerships with 49 organizations** in areas such as Academics, Arts, Athletics, Counseling, and Volunteering

61%

have a master's degree or higher

9

average years employed at The Neighborhood Academy

FEARLESS FACULTY



8

teachers employed at The Neighborhood Academy for over a decade

12

years of average teaching experience (Over 215 years collective teaching experience)

2

faculty members will be obtaining master's degree in summer 2022

HEROIC HIGHLIGHTS



TNA was one of the 13 organizations nationally to receive a Community Change Grant from **America Walks!**

Through this grant funding, TNA created the "TNA Carol Cameron Trail" allowing students to safely enjoy nature.



Thanks to the generous challenge grant from **The Burke Family Foundation**. Donations to

our school were matched during the months of July and August 2021 so our school could finish the academic and fiscal year strong!



We were honored to be one of the two beneficiaries of the **Women's Board of Pittsburgh's** annual "Creating Safe Havens" virtual event in January 2021. WBPBGH organized a student art event featuring Pittsburgh artist, Cody Sabol. Our students finger-painted an image that symbolized a "Safe Haven" to them titled "Elephants are stronger in numbers."



TNA paraprofessional, **Fred Underwood**, '09, was the recipient of State of Black Learning's "Black Excellence in Education New Educator of the Year" Award for investing countless hours helping African American youth throughout Pittsburgh's inner city.



The Rob Bell Fund generously donated TNA sweatshirts, stickers, and reusable water bottles, and stickers to the entire TNA student body as part of their orientation experience. We are also deeply appreciative of **St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Highland Park**, and **St. Michael's of the Valley Episcopal Church, Ligonier**, for assembling amazing back-to-school backpacks for our students!

TNA was selected to receive seed funding from the **University of Pittsburgh** for a Social Justice Education Initiative. Pitt Law students are currently working with faculty to develop and teach a social justice course focused on constitutional law and Black history for TNA juniors and seniors.



In September 2021, The Neighborhood Academy invited **Wes Moore** to speak with our students and answer their thought-provoking questions. Facilitated by English Instructor Jennifer Kane, the students had the chance to delve into Wes' book, "The Other Wes Moore," and explore the bestselling author's mind and influences.

Wes Moore was the former Chief Executive Officer of Robin Hood, a bestselling author, combat veteran, and social entrepreneur. Moore recently announced his run for governor of Maryland in the 2022 elections.

That evening, Wes presented to the 300+ people in attendance at the **Nancy & Paul O'Neill Speaker Series** event held within our very own Hans and Leslie Fleischner Indoor Soccer Field. The guests enjoyed a safe, spacious environment to mingle and eat dinner, while listening to Wes' powerful message.

TNA Head of School, Anthony Williams, Paul O'Neill, Jr. and President of Robert Morris University, Dr. Christopher B. Howard welcomed the audience. TNA students Shamar Simpson and Jocelyn Hargrove shared a few words with the crowd as well.

PRESENTING SPONSOR

The Nancy & Paul O'Neill Family

GOLD SPONSOR
The Gockley Family

STEEL SPONSOR
UPMC HEALTH PLAN

SILVER SPONSORS



BRONZE SPONSORS



Use your tax dollars to provide scholarships for our students
Just like businesses, YOU, as an individual, can receive up to a 90% tax credit against your personal PA state taxes by contributing to The Neighborhood Academy.



For more information on this program, call Carolyn Sanford at 412-362-2021 or Sheila Rawlings at 412-626-6851.



CORPORATE COURAGE

Established in 2011, TNA's Writing Center provides one-on-one instruction to bolster student's ability to, as Reverend Tom often put it, "Read well, write well, speak well." The Writing Center, run by Jennifer Kane, is composed of 10 volunteer tutors who provide more than 1,000 hours annually of one-on-one instruction in grammar and composition. Since 2018, the **American Eagle Outfitters Foundation** has supported our Writing Center, increasing students' access to laptops and drastically increasing their access to the Internet and digital instruction.

AEO
FOUNDATION

TNA now works with the **Hill District Federal Credit Union**. We purchase Visa cards from the Credit Union when donors wish to distribute gifts directly to our families. We inform our community of the Credit Union's Family Protection Program – a path to creating emergency savings, and other financial literacy programs.

HILL DISTRICT
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION



Through a generous grant and referral from our friends at the **PNC Foundation**, **Pittsburgh Hardball Academy** established a training hub within TNA's athletic facility. PHA's BASEPATH PROGRAM is a fulfilling social enrichment program for both TNA and the community using baseball to grow interest and promote diversity in sports.



FemaleF^oCUS

Starting in April 2021, our 14-week **Female Focus program**, supported by PPG, provided TNA girls hands-on activities, as well as career exploration in the world of STEM. The program is in direct response to the need for STEM opportunities for girls of color and to address the mindsets rooted in stereotypes that girls should not pursue careers dominated by men.

SUMMER 2021 PROGRAMS

Summer
programs
combatting
learning loss
due to the
COVID-19
pandemic



CARLOW
UNIVERSITY

Foundations of Molecular and Cellular Biology Course

Introduced TNA students to a college-level introductory course in Biology. Participating students learned about the chemical basis of life, cell structure, function, cellular metabolism, inheritance, and evolution.

Carnegie Mellon University

Summer Academy for Math and Science (SAMS)

Engaged nine TNA students in a rigorous Pre-Calculus curriculum taught by CMU's renowned faculty.



FUND FOR ADVANCEMENT OF MINORITIES THROUGH EDUCATION

Community Success Academy program

Offered at St. Edmund's Academy and The Neighborhood Academy for Grades 5 – 8. The program provided academic support in the areas of math and reading, and promoted physical, artistic, and social enrichment.

REMEMBERING

Francine Abraham

Francine was a philanthropist in the broadest and deepest sense. It was the gift of her time, her talent, and her heart that gave power to the gift of treasure. Francine truly enjoyed our students, and she took our seniors on a yearly field trip to Fallingwater — a tradition that will be continued by her family. She enjoyed advocating for them, hoping for them, and celebrating all that they could, and did become.



Hans Fleischner

Hans Fleischner believed in our school and in the community that God called into being. He believed in our teachers and their skill. He saw and celebrated the growth of our students and their accomplishments. For Jodie Moore and Reverend Tom Johnson, he was a source of encouragement, humor, and joy when the road was difficult. Hans had an unwavering belief in TNA's vision, hopes, and mission, and we will remember him always in our hearts.



Also In memoriam:

William Bissell	Susan Kopf
Cathy Blose	Robert Lheron
Alice Buchanan	Jessica McClelland
Bernita Buncher	Richard P. Mellon
Aimes Coney	Joann Queenan
Aims Coney	Jean Robinson
David Curry	Thomas Taylor
Joanne Dapper	Richard Thornburgh
Aura Hulme	James M. Walton
Natalie Hulme Curry	Konrad Weis
Emily Jarrett	Lu Wennekur

HANS AND LESLIE: THE DYNAMIC DUO

Leslie and her late husband, Hans Fleischner, have been stalwart advocates for Pittsburgh's arts and education institutions, one particular school being The Neighborhood Academy.



"Education has always been a priority for our family," said Leslie. "Hans always looked at supporting education as 'payback.' He would say, 'Someone helped me through school when I needed it, so it's important for me to help others.'"

Hans was born in Vienna, Austria in 1927. His family left Vienna in 1938, and Hans attended Downside School in Stratton-on-the-Fosse, United Kingdom. Upon completion of school, he immigrated to the United States – joining his family – and enrolling at Harvard University, graduating in 1949.

Leslie attended Bryn Athyn Church School in Philadelphia from prekindergarten through her first year of college. She moved to Pittsburgh to continue her college education at Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon University,) and she and Hans met through the Pittsburgh Ski Club.

Hans and co-founder, Jodie Moore, met before The Neighborhood Academy opened its doors in 2001. Hans donated \$100 and said, "Let's see how this goes." As the school began to outgrow the rented warehouse space, it presented an opportunity for the Fleischners to invest in its growth.

"Hans picked up very positive vibes from both Jodie and Reverend Tom Johnson. Hans, himself, had a very positive attitude and quickly saw the good in others. We became strong believers in The Neighborhood Academy's mission and vision," Leslie said. "I remember when The Neighborhood Academy introduced sports, we caught word that the students were embarrassed they had to play another school without proper jerseys. Hans and I were happy to purchase the uniforms."

Years later in 2013, through the generosity of the Fleischners, The Neighborhood Academy's indoor soccer field was constructed and named after them.

"We have been fortunate to have the opportunity that when we see something we want to support, we have the supportable funds to do it," said Leslie. "When our grandson was six years old, he would listen to PBS radio. One day they were having a fundraiser, and knowing how Hans and I loved to donate to the arts and education, our grandson called Hans and asked, 'What are you going to do, Bubble?' We then had to make a donation!"

Hans passed away in November of 2021, but Leslie continues their legacy of giving.

"Hans and I loved to see the reaction from the students when we would make a gift impacting them directly. When I'm gone, I can't see their reactions, so it's important for me to give with a warm hand. I encourage everyone to come, take a tour, and meet the students, faculty, and leadership."



MOFFITT'S MARSHMALLOW TOWER

In Ms. Maleita Moffitt's Math Class, students were asked to engineer the highest tower using the least number of resources in 45 minutes using only spaghetti, marshmallows, and wax paper. The towers needed to be constructed with a strong foundation to withstand the weight of the marshmallows. The students learned how to manipulate the resources provided to build their towers.

The winning teams were sixth graders: Zosha Nowe, Naier Johnson, and Eric Swan; and seventh graders: Amari Grant and Justin Dyer who all realized that doubling the number of toothpicks helped create a thicker and sturdier structure.

ADVENTURES OF THE MIGHTY Middle School



SHARK TANK

In March, ninth grade students spent a week swimming with the sharks. Ms. Jennifer Kane's English class pitched their innovative ideas to a panel of judges from various companies in the Pittsburgh region. While this Shark Tank did not take place in-person, the students still presented virtually via Zoom. Diamond Washington, Josh Freeman, and Carynn Richards all received the top award (\$5,000 in virtual cash) from the judges.

Nathaniel Shelton was a top finisher at Penn Hills Charter School of Entrepreneurship's fourth-annual "Soaring Shark Tank" business pitch competition. Nathaniel's business revolved around an app designed to connect parents to resources and reviews of schools with special-needs services.



In July, TNA welcomed the **Three Rivers Rowing Association** to teach our students about the sport of rowing and its many benefits. Students engaged in some friendly competition using rowing ergometers.



HOLIDAY CELEBRATION EXPLORATION

In Mr. Gary Shawley's English class, students completed a 6-page MLA research project on a country (other than the United States) and how their culture celebrates the holidays. The students picked a country of their choice, researched and drafted a paper and final copy. Studies included customs, traditions, ways of decorating, songs, foods, and even their versions of special visitors like Santa Claus. Students then gave a 4-minute oral presentation with accompanying PowerPoint. The project ended with the students creating a dish that the inhabitants of their country eat during their holiday celebration.



57%

of students were at grade level or above in Math

92%

attendance (all year)

51%

51% honor roll (final grades)

90%

retention



Guided by **Pittsburgh Youth Leadership**, seven of TNA's middle school boys completed a **200+ mile bike ride to Washington, D.C.** in 2019, the group attempted to cycle from Pittsburgh to D.C., however, it turned out to be quite a difficult task. With redemption in mind, the group picked up right where they left off in Cumberland, MD. After a four-day ride, they found themselves visiting the U.S. Capital, Washington Monument, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and more.



HEROIC HIGH SCHOOL

The **Juniors** completed their Capstone Projects in American History with a Pittsburgh focus. Capstone Projects in Chemistry, focused on spectrometry and identifying concentrations of dyes in food.



Through a new PIAA-approved cooperative sponsorship, **11 TNA students joined Shady Side Academy Bulldogs football team!** When the TNA students joined Shady Side Academy's summer workouts, they received a warm, enthusiastic welcome from their new teammates and coaches.

"This partnership has been the best. People from my school have always wanted a football team, so I bet those people are even more excited now."
- TNA sophomore Brent Manns.

"This is historically amazing... We took two groups of kids who didn't know each other and found a new, little family."
- Bulldogs coach Chuck DiNardo



SUPER SENIORS

A handful of TNA's rising seniors spent time getting their hands dirty gardening and revitalizing the campus. We thank long-time TNA volunteer, Dr. Tom Antos, for planting bushes and installing an irrigation system.



56%

of students were
at grade level or
above in Math

97%

attendance
(all year)

54%

honor roll
(final grades)

92%

retention

100%

college
acceptance



Congratulations to **Amarie Hempfield** for having her Senior Seminar paper published by *The Journal of Emerging Investigators*.



Visit theneighborhoodacademy.org/academics/senior-seminar.cfm to read through the 2021 thesis papers!

Our year-long independent Senior Seminar projects replicate the demands of a college-level seminar requiring the student to develop a 15+ page thesis as well as an oral hour-long defense. For our students it is the culmination of years of work, and it is a shining example of the academic excellence of which they are capable.

TNA's largest graduating class of **26 seniors** has **shattered records**. They were admitted to 50 colleges and universities and earned **\$1.3 million in scholarship dollars**.

Allegheny College (1)

Carlow University (2)

Central State University (1)

Clark Atlanta University (1)

CCAC (2)

Elizabeth City State University (1)

Howard University (1)

Kent State University (1)

Lincoln University (2)

Norfolk State University (2)

Point Park University (1)

Slippery Rock University (4)

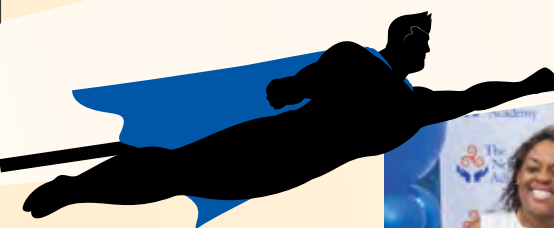
University of Pennsylvania (1)

University of Pittsburgh (5)

Virginia State University (1)

In the summer, TNA Visual Arts Teacher, Joe Roenker, took a group of seniors to see the works of artist, **Jean-Michel Basquiat**, at **The Andy Warhol Museum**! The students explored Basquiat's ideology of Art and his experiences growing up in NYC in the seventies. Andy Warhol and Basquiat were close friends and even collaborated on a few projects.

OUR GRADUATES SOAR TO THEIR FUTURES



THE LEGACY SOCIETY



LEGACY LEADER: JUDIE COMPHER

‘What should I do with this life I’ve been given?’ is what Judie asked herself after suffering an aortic aneurysm at the age of 35. She realized at this young age how precious life truly is. What legacy could she leave with the time she was given?

Judie has used her years to the fullest, serving as Vice President and President of the Board for the Pittsburgh Aids Task Force, being actively involved with Calvary Episcopal Church, and working for H.J. Heinz Company for 34 years. After retiring at the age of 56, Judie went on to earn her Bachelor’s Degree in English from Westminster College at the age of 62 (graduating summa cum laude.)

Now-a-days, if it’s Thursday, you can bet Judie is at The Neighborhood Academy tutoring students.

Before becoming a regular TNA volunteer, Judie was involved at The Neighborhood Academy during Calvary Episcopal Church and Rodef Shalom Congregation’s Mitzvah Days. The Hebrew word “mitzvah” means “good deed,” and the day revolves around local volunteer work.

“I was familiar with The Neighborhood Academy. I clearly remember scrubbing lockers during the Mitzvah Day,” said Judie. “Not only that, but I am friends with Dr. Beverly Harris Schenz and contributed to her Mary Martin Tinsley (MMT) Scholarship Fund.” The MMT Scholarship fund is an endowed scholarship that helps outstanding TNA students in their pursuit of higher education.



Judie decided to further her volunteering efforts with TNA back in 2019 after attending The Nancy & Paul O’Neill Speaker Series featuring Mark Whitaker.

“I noticed in the event program that TNA was looking for tutors, and I knew I was ready to commit my time to helping students... plus I was able to put my English degree to good use!” said Judie. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic halted volunteering soon after the event, but Judie was able to begin her in-person tutoring in September 2021. “When I see the school—the model— and what it does for the students, I’m happy to be a part of it,” she continued.


Judie attended TNA’s latest Speaker Series event in September 2021 that featured Wes Moore: bestselling author, combat veteran, former CEO of Robin Hood, and current candidate for Governor of Maryland. After attending this event, Judie decided it was time to become a member of TNA’s Legacy Society to make a long and lasting impact on the school.

“For some time, I have been flirting with the idea of changing my will to add The Neighborhood Academy. Listening to Wes Moore speak and being part of the benefit really sealed the deal for me... My husband, Keen, was a professor at Westminster College, and education meant so much to him... He passed away over three years ago of ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease. This donation will keep Keen’s legacy alive by giving others the gift of education.”

LEGACY LEADER: SUPERHERO

The latest member of The Neighborhood Academy’s Legacy Society is currently employed as an educator in New Jersey. He has had TNA in his DNA since before the school opened its doors in 2001—even from 350 miles away.

“I knew Reverend Tom Johnson and supported TNA back when it began as a summer program in the basement of Allegheny United Church of Christ on Avery Street in the North Side of Pittsburgh in the 90’s. I’m so impressed by today’s campus. It’s beautifully designed, and the moment I entered it struck me as a place

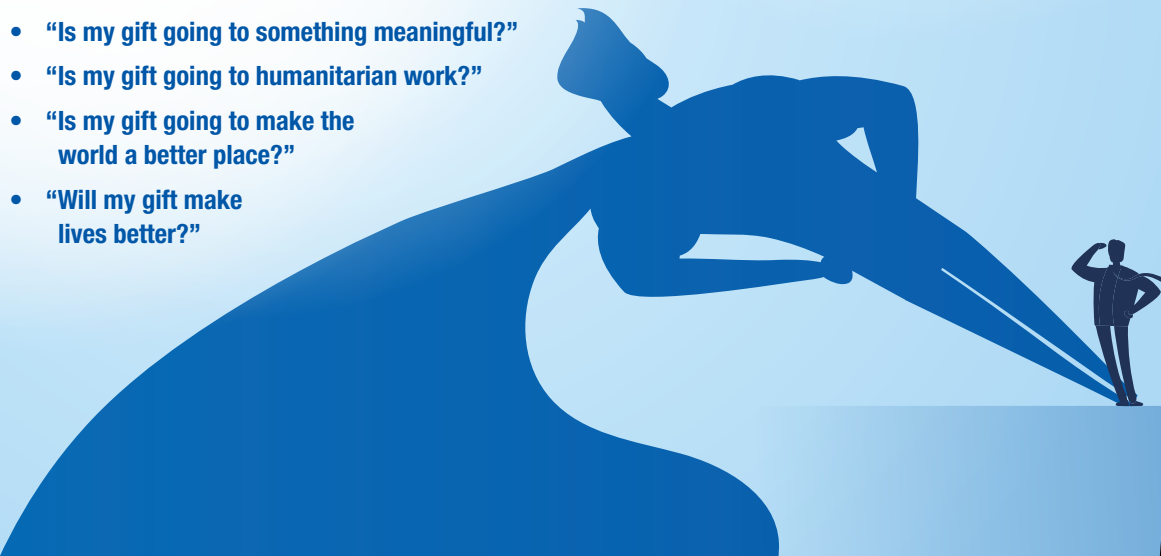


that fosters a stimulating learning environment of which these students are worthy.”

TNA’s Planned Giving program allows anyone to make a substantial contribution to the school — regardless of income or financial status. This supporter looks at his gift as something he and his late spouse forged together.

“Of course, it’s nice to give to family when you pass away, but for me, it’s impactful to give to something bigger... My spouse passed away seven years ago, and education was always important to both of us. In being able to leave a legacy that supports the educational, physical, and emotional needs for the students of TNA, I can truly say, ‘We built this together. We made a difference.’”

It goes without saying that taking part in a planned-giving program takes a lot of thought and reflection. Before committing to be a Legacy Society donor, this supporter asked himself four important questions:

- “Is my gift going to something meaningful?”
 - “Is my gift going to humanitarian work?”
 - “Is my gift going to make the world a better place?”
 - “Will my gift make lives better?”
- 

“The Neighborhood Academy checked all the boxes... I am an educator, and I recognize a fine environment for growth when I see it. TNA has a clear sense of mission, and I love that the school sees its students throughout their educational journey — even long after graduation.”

“Even though I moved to another state years ago, I’ve watched this amazing school grow from afar, and I am proud to be taking part in something that nurtures students’ futures.”

The Neighborhood Academy Legacy Society recognizes and honors those who have included The Neighborhood Academy in their estate plans—those who have chosen to make an enduring impact and support our mission to break the cycle of generational poverty by preparing low-income youth for college and citizenship.

**READY TO JOIN
THE LEGACY SOCIETY?**
Visit theneighborhoodacademy.planned.gifts

For personal, confidential, no-obligation assistance in planning your gift, please contact:

Sheila Rawlings, Director of Development
412.626.6851 | Sheila.rawlings@theneighborhoodacademy.org

Carolyn Sanford, Assistant Head of School for Development
412.362.2021 | Carolyn.sanford@theneighborhoodacademy.org

Consult a professional financial advisor before making any investment decisions.


LEGACY SOCIETY

A planned-giving program that supports and nurtures our students’ futures.

The Neighborhood Academy Legacy Society recognizes and honors those who have included The Neighborhood Academy in their estate plans—those who have chosen to make an enduring impact and support our mission.

WAYS TO GIVE

- Bequests
- Cash
- Closely Held Stock
- Life Insurance
- Memorial and Honorary Gifts
- Retirement Plan Assets
- Savings Bonds
- Securities



SUPER-POWERED SENIOR



NICKOLETT DONOUGHE TNA Class of 2021

TNA senior Nickolett Donoughe will set sail for an Ivy League education. Having been accepted to impressive colleges such as Carnegie Mellon University and Howard University, Nikki has decided to pursue excellence at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn). She came to Pittsburgh from Colorado in 2017, and it's easy to say she's come a long way, geographically and academically.

"I was not a good student, believe it or not! Some circumstances made it hard for me to care about school. It was not that I didn't have the ability or that I wasn't 'smart' enough... At one point, I was even struggling with truancy," said Nikki. "I'm experiencing a see-saw of feelings being accepted to such great universities! There are a lot of times where I doubt myself – mainly because of my previous academics. I ask myself, 'Did they make a mistake? Am I going to get an email that says they sent the acceptance letter to the wrong person?' and now I'm finding pride in myself."

The COVID-19 pandemic made it hard for Nikki to tour the Penn campus, but she's managed to find a way to explore and research her future home of Philadelphia from Pittsburgh. "I did a lot of research on the university before I submitted my application, so I'm not too concerned.

Between taking an interactive tour of the campus and even watching YouTube videos of the school, I can tell it's the right place for me," said Nikki.

Nikki has a tremendous respect for art, and she loves to dabble in all forms of artistic expression whether it be painting, dancing, drawing, music, or theater. However, her favorite expressive outlet is creative writing.

"I currently have over 30 different stories plotted and planned in my Google Docs. I absolutely love the adventure and fantasy genre stories, and I am fascinated by authors creating different worlds, cultures, and norms," she said.

With this passion for writing, Nikki intends to major in English and minor in Spanish or Korean. "I've chosen to study English because there is so much I can do with it and so many different career paths I can take. I'm deciding between becoming a teacher, a college professor, going into journalism, or even becoming a doctor," said Nikki.

Nikki credits TNA for preparing her for this leap into higher education. "TNA most definitely lives up to its name as a college prep school. The school day functions much like a day in college," she said. "TNA is a place where you can find many things: home, friends, or connections. You're going to find them if you look for them."

ALUMNI, ASSEMBLE!

CHARLES COLEMAN TNA Graduate Class of 2018

A senior at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), Charles Coleman, 22, is poised to major in Public Health with concentrations in the fields of mental and behavioral health – not to mention a minor in Economics. Charles has been involved in an on-campus Health and Wellness Promotion work study for the past three years, and currently dedicates his time to helping others as an active member of IUP's Public Health Club.

"I joined the Public Health field with the expectation to change the world and improve people's well-being," said Charles. "I enjoy tutoring and mentoring students during the summer. I relate a lot to their struggles when I speak with them and listen to their stories. During my involvement with IUP's Health and Wellness Promotion work study, my job was to explain the importance of good mental and physical health to the students. I also helped with various projects,

events, and presentations focused on everything from sexual health to stress overload, and nutrition basics to suicide awareness."

Charles is currently interviewing for an internship for summer 2022 and plans to pursue a master's degree in Health Service Administration.

"I have many dreams, but I have realized that it's important to focus on the 'now'... I used to worry so much about my future and the what-ifs. I am now finally trying to take things day by day," said Charles.

To help cope with the COVID-19 pandemic, Charles explored new genres of music – such as pop, country, rap, R&B, and Christian – focusing on the messages they provide within the lyrics.

"I listen to R&B for the love songs, but I also enjoy songs about loving yourself and the space around you. I enjoy Christian music because it not only speaks to the artist's faith, but to the artist's failures and pain in life that they have overcome. Christian

music helps me realize life is not easy and many things will happen outside our control, but we must move forward and use things that happen to us as fuel to succeed," said Charles.

Even today, Charles has TNA coded within his DNA and, much like his taste in music, has taken important messages with him to get him to where he is in life.

"The most important thing I learned from TNA is that if something is not right or if something does not fit well with you, it's okay to disagree," said Charles. "Leaving something for the better is not quitting. Leaving something for another opportunity that fits who you are and elevates you only betters yourself. Reverend Thomas Johnson always said 'You must leave Location A to get to Location B.'"

Charles has goals far beyond a fulfilling career in healthcare or hospitals. "My ultimate goal is to create an after-school program that opens doors and adds value to students' lives by encouraging them to become more than what they may see on a daily basis."



MICAH ARNOLD TNA Graduate Class of 2018

Micah Arnold '18, a senior at Denison University in Granville, OH, understands the value of internships and getting 'real world' hands-on experience. Micah is currently triple majoring in Political Science, Philosophy, and Economics, and will graduate in May 2022. Hungry for as much professional experience as possible, Micah is currently enrolled in two post-graduation internships and is currently honing his skills at The Benefactor Group, a nonprofit consulting company. During summer 2021, Micah worked as a research intern for start-up incubator, The Pittsburgh Minority Business Accelerator.

Micah is involved in many extra-curricular activities at Denison. He is a member of the Black Student Union, a fraternity member of Alpha

Phi Alpha, and he is involved as the Grant Manager for Denison Venture Philanthropy – which is responsible for donating \$10,000 and serves over 200 community service hours to local counties.

Micah is not "all work and no play," though. He enjoys nature and regularly hikes the Denison's Biological Reserve – a 50-acre plot of land including a forest, orchards, ponds, and more. He even finds his inner peace taking care of bonsai trees!

"I used to run cross country for TNA, and it really ignited my love for nature and my appreciation for the outdoors. I also learned that I enjoy pushing my body to its limits whether it be hiking, running, or even playing volleyball," said Micah.

TNA runs in Micah's DNA through his love of exploration and diving into the unknown. Searching for the right college – let alone pursuing higher education in the first place – can be a

daunting thing, but Micah took the leap and found that it has been life-changing for him.

"During my junior year, our history teacher, Kathryn Hardy, took us to Denison for a tour, and it really showed me an area of higher education that I never thought of... I really enjoy exploring the unknown, and TNA opened my eyes to exploring things I wasn't used to," said Micah. "I've taken all of the skills that I learned at TNA and applied them in college, and it's been really impactful for me," he continued.

Micah recently brushed shoulders with a long-time supporter of TNA in the professional world! "For my work at The Pittsburgh Minority Business Accelerator, I had a meeting with Joe Massaro – President and CEO of Massaro Construction Group, and former Board Chair of The Neighborhood Academy. I was nervous about the call, but when he recognized me and told me about his connection with TNA, it made me realize that TNA is still with me today."



ACCEPTING CHALLENGES>>> TAKING ACTION!

A NOTE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL, ANTHONY WILLIAMS, Ed.D.



Over the years, I have been passionate for the work we do here at The Neighborhood Academy. We are currently celebrating our 21st academic year – our “Platinum Anniversary.” I find it fitting since we have some strong metal being tested. Our platinum coating is intact, untarnished, and only getting stronger.

Through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, I continue to be inspired every day by the individuals who devote their lives to serving our students, school, and mission. Our faculty are true champions – HEROES, rather – during this ongoing conflict.

I am still surrounded by many of the same talented faculty and staff members that I have known for most of my 20 years at The Neighborhood Academy. I have been blessed to witness many ‘firsts’ – many of which are followed by celebrations of thanksgiving, such as weddings, births, and educational milestones.

I remember Jonathan DeBor speaking with me after he walked his daughter to the bus stop on her first day of school. She is now a senior in high school and applying to college. I remember Jason Scott’s first and second children being born. Jason began as a paraprofessional and had the opportunity to move on to corporate America, but he answered his calling to educate our deserving students. I remember interviewing TNA seventh grade student, Fred Underwood. He is now married, a father, and I am now watching him forge new beginnings for himself.

I remember Kathryn Hardy’s first year at The Neighborhood Academy and how reserved she was. I have watched her flourish over the years and blossom into a phenomenal educational leader. I remember Brent Jernigan traveling from Baltimore to Pittsburgh daily so he wouldn’t miss the birth of his son. His son is now a senior at TNA and will be graduating in May. I recall Gary Shawley interviewing for his position 17 years ago wearing a key lime colored suit! Since then, he has brought his passion for reading, writing, and athletics to our community. His ability to motivate students is unmatched.

Within these walls, we have experienced both love and heartaches. We grow together, we struggle together; we laugh, we cry. We are a true family.

I remember embracing John McClelland after receiving heartbreaking news about his spouse. John’s passion and access to life-changing, meaningful experiences such as international travel for our students is his special way of continuing her legacy.

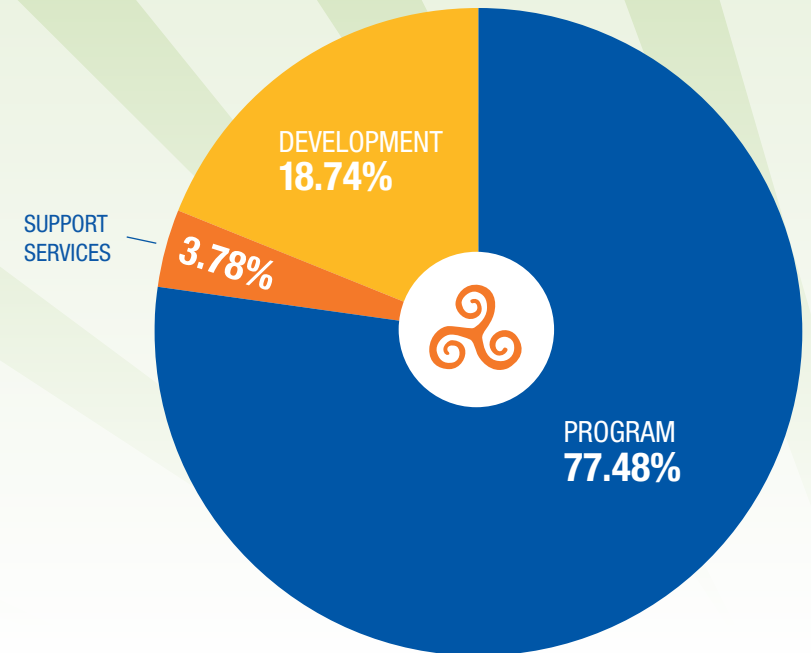
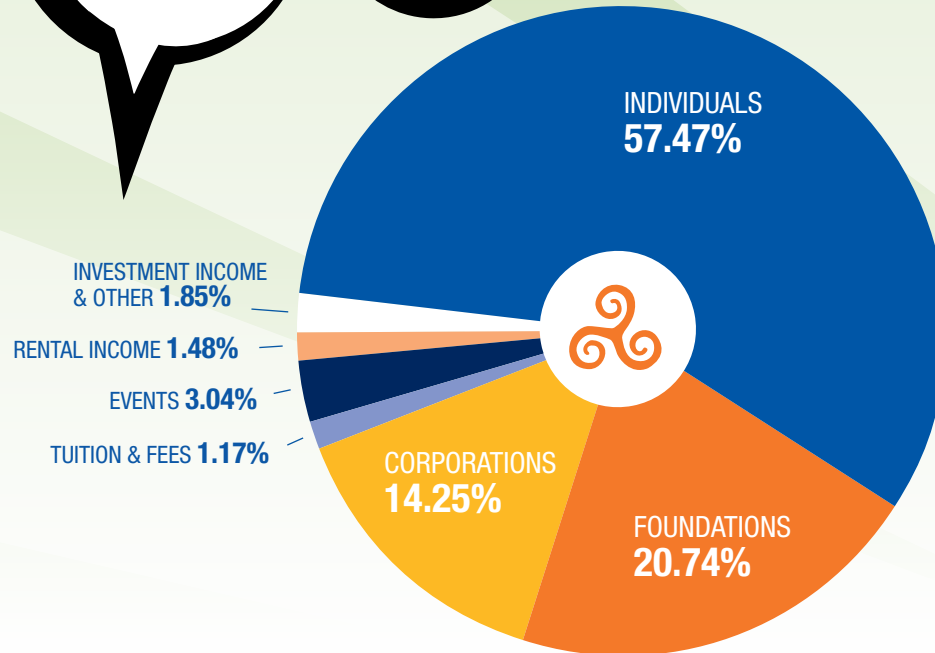
The stories within this school from Penn Avenue to our Aiken Avenue home are ingrained in my heart and coded in the DNA of our school. These challenging times only add to the stories with messages of hope, perseverance, resilience, and strength. It wouldn’t be possible without the talented and dedicated people who cross the school’s threshold every day.

Not all heroes wear capes.

Anthony Williams

FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

(9/1/2020 – 8/31/2021)



SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Individuals	3,301,714
Foundations	1,191,248
Corporations	818,400
Tuition and Fees	67,242
Events	174,917
Rental Income	84,863
Investment Income and other	106,484
TOTAL	5,744,868

EXPENSES

Program	2,978,594
Support Services	145,351
Development	720,373
TOTAL	3,844,318
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	1,900,550

NET ASSET

Beginning of the Year	9,979,514
End of the Year	11,880,064
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	1,900,550

ANNUAL FUND GIFTS

**BETWEEN
9/1/2020 - 12/31/2021**

**Note: Annual Fund Gifts will be
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