

THE STEWART FOUNDATION SPOTLIGHT

3rd Qtr
2025



Because of HER, We are Better, Stronger, Wiser Celebrating Legacies and Honoring Trailblazers

Written by Alleyah Kornegay
YC Membership Chair

Our recent Women's History Month event was a beautiful and inspiring celebration, dedicated to honoring the phenomenal Black women who have made, and continue to make, a major impact in our communities. This gathering reminded us of the power of history and the importance of recognizing the trailblazers who have paved the way for future generations.

We opened the event with a moving reflection on *Why Women's History Matters*, led by the incredible Courtnee Futch — former Stewart Foundation (TSF) Youth Cabinet (YC) President (2009–2010 & 2010–2011) and proud NYU graduate, holding both her bachelor's and master's degrees. Courtnee's words set the tone for the day, reminding us of the vital role women play in shaping our world and uplifting our communities.

The audience was then treated to a beautiful poem, delivered by Dr. Donna McBride (TSF Vice President) and Mrs. Sharon Stokes (TSF Registration Co-

Lead). This touching piece, accompanied by a powerful visual presentation, brought the audience together in reflection and unity.

Our event continued with an inspiring Q&A session, featuring two phenomenal speakers: Dr. Xernona Clayton and Mrs. Beverly E. Smith. Thoughtful and engaging questions were posed by our very own YC Vice President Kailey Nelson and YC Communications Chair Nina Craig, opening the floor for these trailblazing women to share their journeys, wisdom, and experiences with us.

A major highlight of the event was the recognition of several impactful women in our community. Before presenting each award, we proudly shared biographies about these phenomenal honorees, highlighting their incredible contributions and lasting legacies.

I had the honor of speaking about the phenomenal Mrs. Gloria Brooks who was represented by her daughter, Greonna Brooks. We also celebrated Mrs. Dewane Willis, with a heartfelt introduction delivered by our YC Community Chair Kennedy Jones. And last but

certainly not least, 105-year-old Ms. Annie Jewel Moore was recognized with an inspiring tribute by Khloe Deadwyler, SF Youth Member. Our trailblazing honorees were presented with The Stewart Foundation Rita Samuels Women's Champion Award. Additionally, they each received a proclamation from Mo Ivory, who serves as Fulton County Commissioner for District 4.

We were also proud to present a special tribute to all five ladies, delivered with heartfelt words by the young men from our Youth Cabinet, including Jonathan Moore (Secretary), Kameron Nelson (Parliamentarian), Kyle Nelson (Event Chair), Victor Davis (Treasurer) and Josiah Davis (SF Youth Member).

Their legacies were celebrated with deep admiration and gratitude. ***Because of each of them, we are Better, Stronger, Wiser.***

A special thank you to our Presenting Sponsor - The Minerva Foundation, Inc. Also thanks to the Auburn Avenue Research Library, Fulton County Government and Fulton County Arts & Culture for your continued support. For more coverage of our Women's History Month event, see page 4.

"My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor and some style."

~ Maya Angelou

A Message from the Co-Founders, President & Executive Director

Welcome back to *The Stewart Foundation Spotlight*! We are excited to share the impactful work we've accomplished this quarter, focusing on our core value of **Education Advocacy**.

As we stated in our inaugural letter, The Stewart Foundation is committed to strengthening our children "whole mind, body, and soul" and fostering the leadership skills of tomorrow. This quarter, our efforts have been dedicated to ensuring that young people have access to quality learning opportunities and the resources they need to succeed.

Education Advocacy in Action

This quarter, The Stewart Foundation has been deeply involved in a range of educational initiatives, demonstrating our commitment to empowering the next generation:

- **Black History Program at the King Center:** We honored the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other influential figures in Black history, providing valuable context and inspiration for our youth.
- **Women's History Program at the Auburn Research Library:** We celebrated the achievements of women throughout history, highlighting their contributions and empowering young women to become future leaders.
- **Career Day at Southwest DeKalb High School:** Building on our commitment to career development, we organized a large-scale career day, offering even more students the opportunity to connect with professionals and learn about different industries.
- **Artificial Intelligence Prompting Workshop:** In a rapidly evolving technological landscape, we equipped 80 students with essential AI skills by conducting an Artificial Intelligence Prompting Workshop and providing them with laptops. This initiative aimed to bridge the digital divide and empower young people to thrive in the future workforce.
- **DCSD TSF Spring Break Enrichment Program:** We organized a Spring Break program for students in the DeKalb County School District, providing them with enriching activities and learning experiences during their time off.

Impacting Lives

The Stewart Foundation remains dedicated to making a tangible difference in the lives of young people. We believe that education is a fundamental right and a powerful tool for social change. We are proud of the progress we have made this quarter and are committed to continuing our work to ensure that all youth have access to the resources and opportunities they need to reach their full potential.

Join Us!

We invite you to join us in our mission to empower the next generation of leaders. Your support is crucial to our success. Here's how you can get involved:

- **Become Volunteers:** Share your time and expertise to make a direct impact on the lives of young people.
- **Become Resource Partners:** Connect us with valuable resources, opportunities, and networks.
- **Become Financial Contributors:** Support our programs and initiatives through your generous donations.
- **Serve as Advocates:** Help us spread the word about The Stewart Foundation and its mission.

Together, we can create a brighter future for all.

Gwen Mason & Hank Stewart



Black History Month at Historic Ebenezer Church and The MLK Center: More than just the past, Leaning into the future

Written by Jamarcus Hill, YC President

In recognition of Black History Month, we had the opportunity to visit the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church. Ranger Marty Smith educated us on the history of the church and the surrounding neighborhood. I learned during our visit that the church, founded in 1886, has only had five pastors, with the current pastor being Senator Raphael Warnock. I learned that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was only a co-pastor under his father at the church, never the pastor. Dr. King's grandfather and father, served a total of 81 years at the church.

I also learned from Ranger Smith how they were the ones who planted the seeds for Dr. King to be the man that he became. Ranger Smith also gave us tools to break the cycles and challenged us to go learn and read all that we can.

After our time in the church, we were able to tour the Historic King Museum, which had several exhibits. One exhibit that really stuck out to me was the short film we watched about the Montgomery Bus Boycotts. One thing I learned from the film was that the boycott first started because people were

upset about having to give up their seat to a white person, not necessarily because they had to go to "black-only" section.

The day was filled with so much new information, it made the experience very impactful and a lot of fun! Black History Month is more than just learning about the past. It's also about knowing what it takes to move forward. It's important to never take for granted the fight of those that came before us. It's about understanding the fight didn't end with them. It's about advocating for yourself and others. It's about breaking cycles. Black History goes beyond a month, so it's important to never forget it.



May 17 Agriculture: We Must be Engaged!!
Rockdale Art Farm & Everett Park
Stockbridge

Jun 21 Etiquette Workshop
Location to be Announced

From Room-to-Zoom: Harnessing the Power of AI Virtually

Written by Victor Davis, YC Treasurer

Despite the unexpected loss of internet access in DeKalb County, we were still able to participate in AI training sessions virtually. This reflects just how versatile and committed the organizers were, it was a very efficient experience.

We all were engaged for a total of four hours as we listened to Coach Dunbar's informative presentation on the use of AI—specifically in applications such as Gemini and Notebook LM. My brothers and I took meticulous notes during the lecture regarding every concern Coach Dunbar raised. My most valuable takeaway from the workshop was how we should deal with AI. Coach Dunbar discussed the importance of making effective prompts by having three elements: persona, task, and context. This, he explained, makes the AI better understand what the user wants. He went on to show how adding elements like tone, format, and examples can further enhance a prompt to yield more reflective and accurate responses.

I am very thankful for the opportunity to learn this empowering information. While I would have preferred to be in person rather than sitting through a four-hour Zoom, it was still an amazing experience. Not only did I gain valuable information, but I believe everyone emerged from this session with a clearer understanding of how to engage productively with AI—thanks to Coach Dunbar's teaching.

Co-editor's Note: Because of a system outage, the AI Workshop went virtual. Nearly 80 students and their families were greeted by TSF volunteers at the entrance of Southwest DeKalb High School. Students were able to pick up their free laptops, books, as well as lunch. They returned to their respective homes to participate in the intensive AI training led by Coach Robert Dunbar. Thank you to Angelia Griffin and your foundation (IGMA, Inc. (I Give Myself Away, Inc.) for your continued support. Also thank you to the Southwest DeKalb High School Alumni Association for your partnership. Huge shout out to Former CEO Michael Thurmond, current CEO Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, current Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson and former Commissioner Larry Johnson for all the funding you have given us to take care of our youth, our parents, and our community.



Because of HER, We are Better, Stronger, Wiser Celebrating Legacies and Honoring Trailblazers

Written by Nina Craig, YC Communications Chair & Co-Editor

Women's History is one of my favorite Stewart Foundation events. Seeing the empowering women we are speaking with and when they answer our questions is like going on a journey. Hearing their storytelling and their experiences, you only leave feeling more empowered, almost like you can rule the world, especially as a woman.

This year, fellow YC member Kailey Nelson and I had the honor of interviewing Dr. Xernona Clayton and Mrs. Beverly Smith - and they had a lot to bring to the table. Our questions gave them so much room to give us tips, such as being confident in yourself no matter what and don't let anyone get in your way. With all the changes in the world, patterns seem to be repeating themselves, so they had a lot of advice to give us to go about how to be better, stronger, and wiser. Black women truly can do it all, and it was very evident during this event. It's an honor to be able to give gifts such as flowers, care packages, and more to these women who have shown care, generosity, and determination in changing the world. It only makes you want to do the same.

Written by Kailey Nelson, YC Vice President

During Women's History Month, I had the amazing opportunity to interview two powerful trailblazers, Dr. Xernona Clayton and Mrs. Beverly Smith.

Speaking with them gave me a deeper understanding of the impact they've made on the world through their dedication to civil rights, women's empowerment, and community leadership. Hearing their stories firsthand was truly inspiring and reminded me of how important it is to use my voice and work hard to make a difference, just like they have.

My experience with these trailblazers will definitely help me become a better, stronger and wiser woman in today's society.



In partnership with Southwest DeKalb High School, 15th Annual Stewart Foundation Career Day: A Resounding Success

Written by Sandra Newsome

Southwest DeKalb High School was the site for the 15th Annual Stewart Foundation Career Day. With more than 200 professionals representing a variety of careers, the event was a resounding success, leaving students, educators, and guest speakers inspired and empowered. The event, designed to introduce students to a variety of career paths, featured professionals from diverse industries who shared valuable insights into their fields. Hank Stewart, co-founder of The Stewart Foundation, said *"We are extremely excited to be here today at Southwest DeKalb. We surpassed the highest number of registered speakers ever to come and invest in our young people."*

Students had the opportunity to interact with experts from healthcare, technology, business, education, law enforcement, government, and the arts. Each professional provided a glimpse into their daily responsibilities, the education and training required, and the skills necessary to excel in their respective careers. These interactive sessions allowed students to ask questions and gain firsthand knowledge about potential career paths. Angela Curry said, *"I came today to share my career as a Home Infusion Nurse. It's important we help our young people start thinking about what they want to do in life, what is their purpose, so they can contribute to our society."*

One of the highlights of the day was the networking session, where students engaged in one-on-one conversations with professionals. The presence of alumni who have successfully transitioned into the workforce added a layer of relatability and motivation for current students. When asked about the overwhelming response from professionals, The Stewart Foundation co-founder Gwen Mason, said, *"It is absolutely exceptional. Nobody out here can make it on their own. It takes all of us collaboratively to come together in this community. Our children need to be exposed to the best, the brightest and those with hearts that are willing to give. All of us coming together is great."*

After lunch, a job fair was hosted by WorkSource DeKalb, featuring numerous potential employers. Southwest DeKalb juniors and seniors had a chance to explore potential summer employment and internship opportunities.

Teachers, administrators and alumni praised the event for broadening students' horizons and encouraging them to explore career options they might not have previously considered. *"We have a variety of professionals from varied areas and career paths. We are excited they are here to share with our scholars,"* said Brandon Thompson, Principal, Southwest DeKalb High School. *"We know upon graduation, not everyone will go to a four-year college or university. We want to make sure our scholars see other viable options so they can become productive citizens in our community."*

Following such an overwhelmingly positive response, plans are already underway for the **16th Annual Career Day** returning to **Southwest DeKalb High on March 19, 2026**. This annual event is not only an informative experience but also an inspiring one, shaping the ambitions and aspirations of the next generation.

Special thanks to our partners and sponsors for this event: WorkSource DeKalb, DeKalb TV, Quincy Carter Foundation, Grits and Eggs Breakfast Kitchen, Southwest DeKalb Alumni Association, V-103, SocialLight and the City, JLM Productions, GAB Speaks, LLC, Korrekt Tech, The Peoples Agenda and The Whole Sum Group.



Leaders of Tomorrow: Meet our Youth Cabinet Officers



Jamarcus Hill serves as **President**. He has been involved with the foundation for 10 years. A senior at Marietta High School, Jamarcus will graduate in the spring with plans to attend Louisiana State University majoring in Forensic Psychology and go on to law school. Outside of his studies, Jamarcus is involved with Debate Club, Drama/Improv Club, Chess Club, STEAM Club, STOMP (Stepping to Offer My Praise) and he enjoys reading.

Jamarcus believes the skills he has gained during his time with the foundation include public speaking, etiquette, leadership and collaboration.

When asked to share a success story, Jamarcus said "Too many to count!! Spending time with the Senior Citizens. Their stories were heard by youth like me and I am grateful for the knowledge they provided. Mr. Stewart always says, "When an elder passes away, a library burns down."



Kailey Nelson, a junior at Arabia Mountain High School, serves as **Vice President**. She participates in the marching band, FBLA and enjoys doing hair. After graduation, she plans to attend college to become a pediatrician.

In her five years with the foundation, Kailey says she has gained better leadership skills, public speaking skills and more confidence.

Kailey said, "Each meeting, the foundation makes a difference by exposing youth to different skills and opportunities. For example, the Black History Program at the MLK center, youth were excited that they had the opportunity to be in that sacred space."



Jonathan Moore, **Secretary** of the Youth Cabinet has been with the foundation for four years. A senior at Martha Ellen Stillwell School of the Arts, Jonathan will attend Georgia State University in the fall. He enjoys art, videography and photography.

Jonathan said through his time with the foundation, he has gained valuable skills in leadership, organization, time management, public speaking, and collaboration. "I've also learned how to effectively communicate with diverse groups and manage projects from planning to

execution."

When encouraged to share a success story, Jonathan said, "One standout moment was during our annual back-to-school drive. We provided hundreds of students with school supplies, and I saw firsthand the joy and relief on the faces of both children and parents. It reminded me why our work matters—because sometimes, something as simple as a backpack full of supplies can make all the difference in a student's confidence and ability to succeed."



Victor Davis serves as **Treasurer**. A junior at Mill Creek High School, he is on the football team and enjoys video games and "drawing up anything from time-to-time". After high school, Victor would like to continue playing football. He plans to attend North Carolina A&T University majoring in aerospace engineering.

During his seven years with the foundation, Victor says he has learned to openly communicate better, and express ideas to those around him. "Though some may not look at it as a skill, I have also been able to serve my community

better through the resources and opportunities The Stewart Foundation provides."

When sharing a memorable moment, Victor said "I can't remember exactly when, but the first time I went to A.G Rhodes with The Stewart Foundation, I got to see everyone being able to engage with Seniors in a way where they got to feel heard. I loved the way they showed respect and honor toward those who hold wisdom. It was conveyed through everyone's actions within the environment."



Kameron Nelson, a junior at Stephenson High School serves as **Parliamentarian**. He participates in marching band and basketball. After high school, Kameron plans to enlist in the Military (Marines Division) or go to college for Aeronautical Engineering.

Kameron says before joining the foundation five years ago, he used to be shy, but now is more confident speaking in front of crowds.

Kameron related a standout moment. He said "The food drive during Thanksgiving is where the foundation makes a difference. We are very active in assisting with packing and giving out boxes of food. I see how many people we help each year."

Nina Craig, **Communications Chair**, is a junior at Pebblebrook High School and part of the Cobb County Center for Excellence in the Performing Arts. After high school, she plans to become a cardiovascular perfusionist. Outside of her studies, Nina is involved with drama, vocal, tennis, Bethany UMC Singers and the Teen Experience Leadership Program at Grady. She also serves as Co-editor of **The Spotlight**.

During her four years with the foundation, Nina has gained time management skills, people skills, communication skills, and better etiquette.

When asked to recount a success story, Nina said "Christmas time! When we go to the Smart Place and give gifts to the special needs residents. Seeing their smiles and excitement lets you know you made an impact on their Christmas."

Kyle Nelson is an 8th grader at Champion Theme Middle School and serves as **Event Chair**. Kyle plays basketball and is a member of FBLA. He plans to study Engineering in college.

Joining the foundation four years ago, Kyle has improved his public speaking skills.

Kyle says, "When we give out free food for families on Thanksgiving is a time I see success. I enjoy packing and handing out food to families in the community."

Kennedy Jones, **Community Chair**, is an 8th grader at Dutchtown Middle School. She participates as a majorette, does ballet, writes poetry and enjoys public speaking. Kennedy is also a content creator for **The Spotlight**.

During her four years with the foundation, Kennedy says she has gained intellectual maturity, as well as proper public speaking skills.

Kennedy's success story occurred "During the Youth White Linen events, when all youth are engaged and participating. It also provides a chance to gain more youth members."

Alleyah Kornegay is a junior at Eagle's Landing High School and serves as **Membership Chair**. She swims and participates with Beta Club and the National Honor Society. After high school, Alleyah plans to attend college, majoring in animal science to become a veterinarian specializing in animal radiology.

During her five years with the foundation, Alleyah says she has developed communication skills, speaking with confidence, building connections, and leading others.

Alleyah says, "I saw The Stewart Foundation truly making a difference when they were giving back and blessing others—not just through actions, but by doing it with kindness, love, and real passion. It wasn't just about what they were doing, but how they did it that stood out to me."

"Our children are the rock on which our future will be built, our greatest asset as a nation."

~ Nelson Mandela

Meet our Youth Cabinet Advisors



Aquilla McIntosh serves as Youth Cabinet Liaison Director. She has been with the foundation for 15 years and her main responsibility is to assist the youth officers and provide guidance throughout the year while ensuring they remain actively connected with their mentors.

Aquilla said, "The Foundation is already making a significant difference in the lives of our youth. I believe increasing awareness of this impact is crucial to attracting even more young people."

When asked to share a success story, Aquilla said, "One of our most recent success stories is Winter Jones. She joined the foundation in high school, served as an officer, and went on to attend Spelman College. Now, as she prepares to graduate, Winter was honored at Spelman's convocation with the Astronaut Foundation Scholarship Award in a special ceremony. We are incredibly proud of Winter Jones and all of our youth for their achievements."



June Estelle, Youth Cabinet Liaison Chair Director has been a part of The Stewart Foundation for over 19 years and has volunteered in many roles. June says, "My favorite role is working with our future leaders of tomorrow. Working with the youth is so rewarding because we have an opportunity to see them up close and personal. So many of our youth start off shy and reserved, and then they blossom into such confident young adults." Her favorite quarter is our service quarter. "It is always so heartwarming to witness our youth spring into action and do whatever is needed to brighten the day of those we serve."

June went on to say, "I have enjoyed working with our youth and having the opportunity to positively impact our future leaders. The Stewart Foundation has so many success stories from our youth who have gone on to be major players in society. The work that our foundation volunteers perform is a powerful, selfless, impactful act, and it has been a delight to be a part of such a trailblazing organization."

Kudos Corner

Congratulations to **Jamarcus Hill**, current President of TSF Youth Cabinet, on receiving the \$10,000 Alexis Grubbs Scholarship from the Cobb County Bar Association. Jamarcus will attend Louisiana State University in the fall majoring in Forensic Psychology, with a minor in Theater. He plans to practice either family or entertainment law.

Jonathan Moore has been accepted to Georgia State University starting this Fall! His current plan, Lord willing, is to become a professor - Dr. Moore! He plans to pursue a degree in architecture and eventually obtain his doctorate degree and teach architecture at the collegiate level. Because Georgia State doesn't offer an architecture degree, he will complete all prerequisites at GSU before transferring to Georgia Tech or Clemson University to obtain his doctorate. Jonathan currently serves as TSF Youth Cabinet Secretary.

Also, Jonathan had the pleasure of escorting his classmate to the 2025 Ivy Community Foundation, Inc. Annual Pink Cultured Pearls Cotillion, held at the Georgia International Convention Center. Jonathan was suave and debonair dressed in his tuxedo! His classmate, Chloe, was stunning and graceful in her princess crown and gorgeous white gown! Everyone on the court looked amazing!

During Spring Break, **Laila Jenkins** took an educational trip with her school, Chapel Hill High School. She had an opportunity to visit Scotland and England for nine days. The experience that stood out the most was a visit to the University of Oxford - the oldest university in the English speaking world.

Congratulations to **Kenya Byrd**, who will graduate in May from Agnes Scott College with her master's degree in medical science. Kenya served as Vice President in the 2019 TSF Youth Cabinet. Her future plans include becoming a Physician Assistant.

From Carl McNair, brother of the late Ronald McNair:

"Congratulations to Spelman Ronald McNair Scholar, **Winter Jones**, the 2023/2024 Astronaut Scholarship Foundation (ASF) Awardee."

Winter Jones, a Spelman Senior and an aspiring Aerospace Engineer and astronaut, received the prestigious ASF Scholar Award at the Spelman College Astronaut Scholar Award Ceremony.

The award was presented by Dr. Bernard Harris, NASA astronaut and the first African American to walk in space. Also present in support of Winter was astronaut Robert Curbeam.

Winter served as Youth Cabinet Treasurer 2020-2021.



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Saturday, July 19, 2025 • 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
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You are the heart of our work,
and we couldn't do it without you.

Thank you for making a difference!

The Stewart Foundation Spotlight would like to give everyone an opportunity to brag about the young people in your life.

Please submit a high resolution photo and message
no later than July 11th to be included in the next issue.

Send to thespotlight@thestewartfoundation.com.

Two Voices, One Journey: A Mother - Son Story of Autism Awareness

"Autism is my Superpower"

By Jamarcus Hill, YC President

As someone on the spectrum, I believe autism is one of the most misunderstood neurological "disorders." I believe that the stigma surrounding autism is caused by a lack of understanding. Every case is different due to it being a spectrum. Autism isn't a bad thing and shouldn't be treated as a "sickness" but rather a superpower.

After being diagnosed at the age of 13 as autistic (high-functioning), my journey with autism inspired me to speak openly about mental health and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) within my community -- sharing with other young people that it's okay not to be okay. I've also spoken with parents, urging them to notice when their child might be experiencing a crisis beyond the typical challenges of adolescence.

In fact, ASD is relatively common, especially in boys, with 1 in 36 kids being diagnosed with ASD. This means someone you know might have autism. This is why it is so important to stay educated! I would also like to bring special attention to the fact that autism is severely underdiagnosed in the African American community.

I have found my voice and purpose. My mom always says, "Don't let anything or anyone define who you are." I am not defined by being autistic.

My journey is just beginning, but I carry a foundation of resilience, purpose, and a desire to make a difference for others.



Learning His Language: A Mother's Journey with Autism

By Tennille Redmond

Our official journey with Autism Spectrum Disorder, or ASD began in 2020. In hindsight, the signs were there when Jamarcus was much younger. However, I lacked the education about ASD and what it was.

In 2020, COVID-19 caused a shutdown that was tough on so many, but for me, it was especially tough. As the months rolled by, I started seeing a drastic behavior change in Jamarcus. Many said, "it's nothing, he's a boy," or "he's a hormonal teenager". The shutdown occurred two weeks before his 13th birthday.

I listened to the advice of others for a while, but I guess, what you would call a "mother's intuition" kicked in and told me more was going on than typical teen growing pains.

I sought professional help for him, but because the world was falling apart at the seams, it was almost impossible to find the help he needed. Finally, I was able to find the most amazing therapist, and after one virtual session with Jamarcus, he asked if I had ever had him tested for autism. My answer was no, but again in hindsight, the signs were there. I told the therapist that when Jamarcus was in 5th grade, he had gotten into trouble, nothing major, but the principal did say that Jamarcus exhibited signs of being on the spectrum and thought I should get him tested. I spoke with his pediatrician, who said that I had nothing to worry about. He was just hyperactive. That's when the therapist told me that many African American children are misdiagnosed.

Eventually, Jamarcus was tested and diagnosed with high-functioning autism. Testing for us involved completing a parent form, an educator form that all his teachers completed, and Jamarcus was also required to go in for a comprehensive evaluation.

Now that he had been diagnosed, the challenge was getting him the

help he needed and getting me more knowledge. This became difficult because, again, he is a teenager, so how do I know when it is hormonal or if it is something he is struggling with? I was able to find a therapist who worked with parents of children on the spectrum. She had two brothers who were at different levels of the spectrum. She encouraged me to journal my interactions with Jamarcus - whether good or bad. This helped me to notice when he was becoming overwhelmed or having a sensory overload, which allowed better communication between the two of us.

The therapist was able to get him into the Marcus Autism Center. At MAC, Jamarcus gained the skills he needed to work through social difficulties. Now, some have heard me say that healthcare for mental health or social behavior issues is not great, at least for me, but I did what I had to in order to get my son back into a good place.

I asked the question - why now? The doctor from MAC told me the shutdown interrupted his routine. Jamarcus and I were always on the go with school, church, and other extracurricular activities. He didn't know how to effectively communicate to me what was going on.

The doctor also told me that things that went on with Jamarcus at a young age were signs, such as him having a meltdown about tags in his clothes. So, I cut all the tags out of his shirts. The reason we couldn't sit through a wrestling match or fireworks show was because of the meltdowns he had. These were all things I thought some kids just went through. I adjusted and moved on. I felt like a bad mother, because I went all these years not knowing.

Jamarcus and I both had to learn and adjust, but it didn't stop either of us. Autism did **NOT** destroy this family.

Spring Enrichment Program: Equipping Scholars with Essential Life Skills

Written by Gwen Mason & Dr. Donna McBride

The DeKalb County School District's Spring Enrichment Program at Columbia Middle School was a resounding success, providing 68 enthusiastic scholars with a dynamic and engaging experience focused on building crucial life skills. Throughout the four-day program, students actively participated in sessions designed to empower them in various aspects of their lives.

The week kicked off with **"Discovering Your Purpose,"** encouraging self-reflection and an understanding of personal values and goals. This was followed by an insightful exploration of **"Identifying Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships,"** equipping students with the tools to build positive connections and recognize potential pitfalls.

Navigating disagreements and finding constructive solutions were the focus of the **"Conflict Resolution"** sessions, providing practical strategies for effective communication and problem-solving. Finally, the program delved into the important realm of **"Financial Literacy,"** laying the groundwork for responsible financial decision-making in the future.

Underpinning these daily themes was the encouragement for all scholars to engage with workbooks based on **"The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens."** This framework provided a consistent thread of personal development principles throughout the week. Excitement buzzed when Latrell Pitts was announced as the winner of the \$100 drawing for his diligent completion of the workbook, highlighting the value placed on active engagement with the material.

Beyond the core life skills curriculum, the program offered a holistic approach to student well-being. A Columbia Middle School scholar was recognized for their outstanding commitment by winning the perfect attendance drawing. The provision of daily breakfast and lunch was a significant benefit, ensuring scholars were energized and ready to learn. Opportunities for physical activity in the form of basketball, volleyball, racquetball, and line dancing provided a healthy outlet for their energy.

The afternoons were dedicated to **"Sharpening the Saw"** in the academic areas of Mathematics and English Language Arts, offering engaging activities to reinforce and expand their knowledge.

The focus was two-fold:

1. To provide comprehensive, skill-based instruction in English Language Arts and Mathematics.
2. To increase student confidence and academic readiness through small-group activities, project-based learning, and targeted interventions.

The curriculum was aligned with Georgia Standards of Excellence, ensuring that instruction met grade-level expectations while also addressing individual student needs.

A distinguishing feature of the program was its teaching staff, an exceptional cohort of educators representing multiple school districts throughout the Metro Atlanta area. These teachers brought a wealth of knowledge, innovative strategies, and unwavering dedication to the program. Their willingness to lend their expertise to DeKalb County School District students speaks volumes about their commitment to the broader educational community.

These phenomenal educators created an environment of high expectations, mutual respect, and intellectual curiosity. Through their collaborative planning and engaging instruction, they ignited a love of learning in their students. Their contributions exemplify what is possible when educators unite in service of student achievement.

The culmination of the program saw every participating scholar receive a **Certificate of Achievement**, recognizing their dedication and growth throughout the week. Special **Certificates of Perfect Attendance** were also awarded to those with exemplary attendance records. Recognizing the vital contributions of the dedicated adults, certificates were also presented to the teachers, security personnel, the custodian, and the nutritionist, acknowledging their investment in the success and well-being of the youth.

The Spring Enrichment Program served as a valuable opportunity for DeKalb County students to cultivate essential life skills, fostering their personal growth and setting them on a path for future success. The positive energy and engagement of the scholars, coupled with the dedication of the staff, made this initiative a truly enriching experience for all involved.



Woodridge Warriors are Earning Their Stripes (and Prizes!) with New “Warrior Bucks” Program

Written by Gwen Mason

The halls of Woodridge Elementary have been buzzing with excitement since the February launch of the innovative **Woodridge Warrior Bucks** program! Thanks to the generous support of **The Stewart Foundation**, our students now have a tangible way to be recognized and rewarded for their outstanding efforts in attendance, behavior, and academics.

The Warrior Bucks program is simple yet powerful. Students can earn special “Warrior Bucks” by:

- **Achieving Perfect Weekly Attendance:** That means no tardies and a full week of learning – earning them a fantastic **5 Bucks!**
- **Demonstrating Exceptional Behavior:** Showing respect, responsibility, and kindness can earn students **3-5 Bucks**, recognizing their positive contributions to our school community.
- **Excelling in Academic Achievement:** Putting in the hard work and reaching new academic heights can also earn students **3-5 Bucks**, celebrating their dedication to learning.

These hard-earned Warrior Bucks can then be redeemed for a variety of exciting toys and prizes in our dedicated **Incentive Closet**. From fun gadgets to cool stationery, there's something for everyone to work towards. Students are learning valuable lessons in goal-setting and even a little bit about saving as they decide which treasures to aim for!

Our dedicated teachers are distributing the Warrior Bucks weekly, providing immediate positive reinforcement for students' efforts. Each classroom receives a monthly allocation of Bucks, and a central system is in place to track distribution and redemptions. We're also committed to keeping the prize closet stocked and exciting, with regular inventory assessments and a plan to rotate items to maintain student interest.

The Stewart Foundation's commitment to Woodridge Elementary has been truly remarkable. Their initial donation of the entire prize inventory has given this program a fantastic start. We are also grateful for their ongoing support and flexibility as we adapt the program to best serve our students.

Looking ahead, we are exploring ways to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Warrior Bucks program. We encourage our wonderful Woodridge community to get involved! Partnerships with local businesses and organizations for prize donations, support from our active parent organizations, and even potential allocations from school fundraising efforts are all avenues we are excited to explore.

The early results of the Woodridge Warrior Bucks program have been incredibly encouraging. We've seen a positive impact on student motivation, a greater emphasis on positive behavior, and an increased awareness of the importance of regular attendance. It's truly a win-win for our students and our school community.

We extend our deepest gratitude to The Stewart Foundation for their vision and generosity in making the Woodridge Warrior Bucks program a reality. Together, we are fostering a positive and rewarding learning environment where all our Woodridge Warriors can thrive!



The Stewart Foundation Honored at Lilburn Lions Club's Royal Empire Ball

Written by Gwen Mason

The Stewart Foundation was thrilled and deeply grateful to have been selected as the recipient of the Lilburn Lions Club's Community Impact Award. This prestigious recognition celebrated our ongoing commitment and service to the community, and we were honored to be recognized by such a dedicated and impactful organization as the Lilburn Lions Club.

The award was presented at the Lilburn Lions Club's 10th Anniversary ROYAL EMPIRE BALL Fundraiser and Food Drive, held on Saturday, March 29, 2025. Esteemed members, supporters, and the wider community joined us for a memorable evening of elegance as we celebrated this milestone and supported the vital fundraising efforts of the Lions Club.

The evening, reminiscent of Lady Whistledown's Society Papers, was filled with camaraderie, celebration, and a shared commitment to making a difference. The presence and support of attendees not only honored the work of The Stewart Foundation but also contributed to the Lilburn Lions Club's impactful service within our community.

The Stewart Foundation extends its sincerest gratitude to the Lilburn Lions Club for this incredible honor. We cherish this recognition and remain dedicated to our mission of serving the community. The Royal Empire Ball was a resounding success, and we are deeply appreciative of everyone who attended and contributed to the Lilburn Lions Club's ongoing efforts.



Test Your Poetic Knowledge

Compiled by Kennedy Jones

Questions

1. When was the first known poem created?
2. Which Stewart Foundation co-founder is an Emmy award winning poet?
3. Who was the first known African American poet?
4. What is one of the most well-known poems created by Langston Hughes?
5. What is poetry predominantly used for?
6. What is one of Maya Angelou's most famous poems?
7. What form of poetry allows the poet to write freely without having to include rhyming words?
8. Who created one of the most famous poems in the world?
9. How many verses did the largest poem in the world have?
10. What was one of the most popular poems during the Renaissance period?

Answers

1. Around 50,000 years ago; 2. Hank Stewart; 3. Phillis Wheatley; 4. "Harlem" (1951); 5. To express internal emotions or tell ideas or stories; 6. "On the Pulse of Morning," which she famously recited at President Bill Clinton's inaugural ceremony in 1993; 7. Free verse; 8. Shakespeare; 9. 200,000; 10. "The Sonnet"

Stewart Foundation supports Morehouse School of Medicine Annual Health Fair

Written by Kennedy Jones, YC Community Chair

The Stewart Foundation joined Lawrence Sanford, 2015 TSF Youth Cabinet secretary and current MPH (Master of Public Health) president at the Morehouse School of Medicine for this year's Health Fair held at Greenbriar Mall.

Sanford sat down with me to give his astute perspective. He emphasized that the health fair's primary goal was to rally the community around vital screenings and healthy initiatives—promoting nutritious eating, active living, and wellness habits to enhance overall well-being.

"Over 100 guests signed up to get screenings, as well as receive gifts from nearly 50 vendors. I'm thankful to my Stewart Foundation family for coming out to support us in this effort," said Sanford.



Jul 19

Youth White Linen Affair

Porter Sanford III Performing Arts & Community Center, Decatur

Jul 26

Annual White Linen Affair

Enon Ranch, College Park

Recommended Reading

Submitted by Angela Reid

We must ALWAYS open our eyes, ears, hearts and minds to learning and internalizing OUR STORIES. Then we must use this knowledge to discover and live IN and work toward OUR DESTINIES.

"Eyes, Hearts & Minds OPEN to Our Stories"

1. **"BLACK TECH"** by Teresa Merritt-Watson--"written for first to third grade readers, but applicable to all ages. In the two books, a young narrator presents Black inventors and their unique inventions in a colorful way that catches the eye of any reader."
2. **"BLACK LIVES-GREAT MINDS of SCIENCE"** by Tonya Bolden and David Wilkerson--"a graphic middle-school book that celebrates the lives of Black innovators and scientists throughout history."
3. **"HIP HOP SPEAKS to CHILDREN"** edited by Nikki Giovanni--"a collection of poems from wordsmiths like Gil Scott-Heron, Gwendolyn Brooks, Tupac Shakur and Jill Scott ...Nikki Giovanni assembled POETRY for all ages to read, listen to and enjoy."
4. **"YOU SO BLACK"** by THERESA THA S.O.N.G.B.I.R D. and London Ladd-a spoken word piece becomes a beautifully illustrated picture book celebrating the awesomeness of Blackness!
5. **"WAKE-The HIDDEN HISTORY OF WOMEN WHO LED SLAVE REVOLTS"** by Rebecca Hall and Hugo Martinez-- "Women warriors planned and led revolts on slave ships during the Middle Passage. They fought their enslavers throughout the Americas. And then they were erased from history."
6. **"STANDING UP AGAINST HATE"** by Mary Cronk Farrell-- "Charity Adams, commander of the 6888th, the only Black WAC battalion sent overseas during WWII, became the highest ranking African American woman in the military during WWII. Along with Adams' story are those of other black women who played a crucial role in integrating the US armed forces. Their tales are both inspiring and heart-wrenching."
7. **"BLACK GIRL YOU ARE ATLAS"** by Renée Watson and Ekua Holmes-- "Encourages young readers to embrace their future with a strong sense of sisterhood and celebration. With full-color art by Ekua Holmes throughout, this collection offers guidance and is a gift for anyone who reads it."
8. **"THE NEW BROWNIES' BOOK"** "reimagines the very first publication created for African American children in 1920 as a must-have anthology for a new generation. Expanding on the mission of the original periodical to inspire the hearts and minds of Black children across the country, esteemed scholar Karida L. Brown and award-winning artist Charly Palmer have gathered the work of more than fifty contemporary Black artists and writers. The result is a book bursting with essays, poems, photographs, paintings, and short stories reflecting on the joy and depth of the Black experience—an immersive treasure trove that reminds readers of all ages that Black is brilliant, beautiful, and bold."
9. **"THE HISTORY OF JUNETEENTH"** by Arlisha Norwood PhD. "On June 19, 1865, a Union soldier traveled to Texas to tell the enslaved people who lived there that they were free—that slavery was now illegal in every state. The people danced and sang in celebration of their freedom. Today, we pay tribute to this historical day with a special holiday on June 19 called Juneteenth." Ages 10+
10. **"BLACK AF HISTORY"** by Michael Harriot--"a more accurate version of American history. Combining unapologetically provocative storytelling with meticulous research based on primary sources as well as the work of pioneering Black historians, scholars, and journalists, Harriot removes the white sugarcoating from the American story, placing Black people squarely at the center." Ages 17+

Youth Cabinet Fellowship & Fun at "Paint, Sip & Socialize"

Submitted by Nina Craig

It is always nice when the Youth Cabinet can come together and bond without the pressure of a structured agenda. With most of the cabinet members present, we connected over chicken and fish before diving into an art session. The class was completely freestyle, giving everyone the freedom to bring their own vision to life on canvas. It was thrilling to watch each painting take on a unique style—no two pieces looked alike.

All-in-all, a tremendously fun outing!



Scholarship Opportunities / Summer Camps

YES Foundation STEM Scholarship

Scholarship Eligibility:

- ~ Must be a senior student enrolling into an institution of higher learning in the Fall 2025.
- ~ Must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- ~ Copy of College acceptance letter.
- ~ Must be planning to pursue a STEM undergraduate degree.

Visit <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rojw6PFYbiT-2wxDzCX-sxnyghF6-prgD/view>

Deadline: June 9, 2025

STEM ATLANTA Presents: Ready, VET, GO! Summer Camp

University of Georgia's College of Veterinary Medicine JUNE 24, 2025

A Program for Georgia students in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade. Limited spots available. A parent chaperone is required. Non-refundable registration fee: \$49 Bus Transportation will be provided!

Register Here: <https://www.greenvelope.com/.../ready-vet-go-uga...>

The John R. Lewis Legacy Institute

Nominations for Camp Promise 2025 are officially open! This powerful program equips young men with life skills, leadership training, and mentorship to help them thrive and overcome life's obstacles.

Camp Dates: Troy, AL – June 20-22; Atlanta, GA – July 25-27

Deadline: May 30, 2025

Nominate here: bit.ly/camppromise25

Her Shot Golf Cohort Summer Session

Girls ages 11–18 – this FREE program blends golf instruction, mentorship, and empowerment in a fun, supportive environment. Wednesdays | June 11–July 23

Bobby Jones Golf Course

Spots are extremely limited – don't wait!

APPLY NOW – <https://forms.gle/QW11g4TPghAQzX66>

Southeastern Railway Museum Summer Camp

SRM Summer Camp is back and better!

We'll feature S&A 750, Pullman Superb, the Campbell Limestone Heisler, our GE 50 Tonner SRM 3, the General II, a caboose, our famous Duluth, Southern and Coastline Park Train, crafts, snacks, lessons, games, and more.

Campers should be in the 5-12 year range

Later bird registration ends May 31

Full fare registration after May 31

For more information, info@train-museum.com

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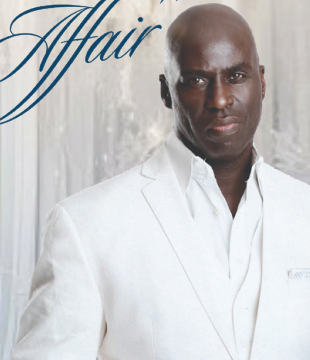
Deadline for next issue (4th Quarter 2025) - July 11th

We do our best to make sure everything in this newsletter is accurate and up to date, but mistakes can happen. If you spot an error, feel free to let us know—we appreciate it and will fix it next time!

24TH ANNUAL

SAVE THE DATE

Hank Stewart's WHITE LINEN Affair



SATURDAY, JULY 26, 2025

ENON RANCH 3502 ENON RD COLLEGE PARK	DRESS CODE: ALL WHITE TICKET: \$250 TABLES OF 8 - \$2,000
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FOR MORE INFO visit www.whitelinenaffair.net



WHO WE ARE

Foundation Overview

The Stewart Foundation Youth Leadership Program focuses on project management as a tool to develop characteristics needed for structured leadership. Our program emphasizes the fundamentals of communication, organization and planning as an avenue to open the gateway to leadership. The Youth Program develops 8 to 18-year-old males and females with the use of curricula, that promotes self-growth.

Creed

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are more powerful beyond measure. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and fabulous? Actually, who are we not to be? We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. And as we let our light shine, we consciously give other people permission to do the same."

Mission

To strengthen our children -- whole mind, body, and soul -- we believe in developing Leaders of Tomorrow (LOT) by delivering programming with a purpose and teaching our youth the power of giving back to our community.

Our Programs

Mark your calendars now! The Stewart Foundation hosts twelve enrichment activities, workshops, and community service initiatives during our fiscal year which runs from August to July. Events are held on the third Saturday of each month. Time and in-person location may vary.

Scan QR Code for The Stewart Foundation Youth Membership application.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



"Mistakes are a fact of life. It is the response to the error that counts."

~ Nikki Giovanni