

"The Neighborhood Academy is a faith-based, independent, college-preparatory school whose mission is to break the cycle of generational poverty by preparing low-income youth for college and citizenship."



THE NEIGHBORHOOD ACADEMY

SPECIAL EDITION

NEIGHBORHOODnews

709 N. Aiken Avenue | Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Letter from The President

Dear Friends,

One of the countless things I've learned along life's journey is that our lives can be described as a series of hellos and goodbyes. When we are young, barring unforeseen tragedies, life is mostly "hello!" Hello to childhood, to adolescence, to first love, to graduation, to college, to that first job, to the excitement and adventure of growing up and assuming one's place in the world. Then, and I'm not sure exactly when this happens, we become aware that there are painful goodbyes creeping into our lives: innocence, death, divorce, missed opportunities, job loss, broken relationships. And finally, we reach those last moments, when life is all ABOUT goodbyes, and the only decision remaining is whether or not we are going to say those final goodbyes with grace and dignity.

Like yin and yang, contained in every hello is the yet-to-be-said goodbye.

When Tom and I opened the doors to The Neighborhood Academy, it seemed quite impossible that one day I would come face to face with the "yet-to-be-said goodbye". So, I was quite surprised last year when I felt myself slowing down and losing some of my energy; my body was signaling to my heart that the season for my goodbye was upon me.

The good news is that each goodbye contains its own hello. After much soul-searching on my part, conversations with the Board, and beginning a search for a successor, I met with Mark Kurtzrock, a founding board member of The Neighborhood Academy and a recently retired CEO of Metis Secure. Our need and his desire to serve converged at the perfect moment. After the proper board due diligence, I am proud to announce, that starting September 1, 2016, Mark will become our new President. Under his more than able leadership, I am confident that The Neighborhood Academy will go from strength to strength. Please join me in saying hello to Mark Kurtzrock!

As for me, there is a wonderful hello ahead as well. Should the community prove to be supportive of our current feasibility study, after transitioning out of the Presidency, I will take on the challenge of a new capital campaign that will add a 6th & 7th grade along with the retiring of our remaining \$2.2 million debt. In addition, I will be spearheading our college internship and success coach program to make sure that every TNA college graduate has a smooth entry into a meaningful career.

Since I'm not leaving, but only transitioning, I won't say goodbye...at least not just yet. Instead I will share with you my heartfelt belief that Mark will continue to partner with Tom in leading this amazing school into a vibrant future; I also believe that we will continue to reap the great blessing of your support for our mission and your care for our students.

"To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." I thank God both for this past season and for you.

Blessings,



From Strength to Strength

The thought of change and transition can conjure up mixed emotions. Transition brings about new challenges, and exciting opportunities. In this special report, we announce our presidential transition which we have coined, "From Strength to Strength". We give glory to God as He brings us from "From Strength to Strength" in The Neighborhood Academy leadership.

Jeremiah 29:11-12 (NIV) 1 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Announcing

FUTURE PRESIDENT OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD ACADEMY

Mark Kurtzrock



Highly accomplished, humble, passionate about education and serving the urban poor, Mark Kurtzrock will officially fill our fearless founder's shoes as The Neighborhood Academy President on 9/1/2016.

Mark has an extraordinarily interesting background. As a John Carroll Political Science Graduate, he first began his career in the political realm, helping a Senator win his race into office, serving as a public policy advocate and lobbyist for several trade associations in Harrisburg and Washington D.C., and serving as Chief of Staff for a State Senator.

In the 80's, he was approached by the Pittsburgh Technology Council to join its President as the second professional on-staff. It was here that Mark would enter into Pittsburgh's newly emerging technology industry in what was perceived then to be a grim Pittsburgh. In his

trade-affiliated dealings, Mark met Pittsburgh's top CEO's and would later be recruited by the Allegheny Conference on Community Development/Pittsburgh Regional Alliance (PRA) to serve as Executive VP, and later President. Under Mark's guidance, federal funding from the late 90's tobacco settlement was secured, bringing about bright changes for Pittsburgh in the bio-medical and life sciences arenas.

One of the largest challenges Mark has faced was wearing three Interim President hats at once (for the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance, Pittsburgh Technology Council, and Catalyst Connection), while also continuing his regular duties at the Allegheny Conference on Community Development.

In 2001, Mark was hired as President of a well-known marketing communications company to improve operations, expand business, increase awareness and drive profitability. He joins TNA directly from Metis Secure Solutions, LLC, a company he launched serving as President and CEO for 7 years. He raised millions in private equity, sold emergency

communications systems across the U.S. and negotiated its successful sale to the Mircom Group of Companies, the largest, independent safety company in North America.

Passionate to serve, Mark is also no stranger to The Neighborhood Academy. Shortly after The Neighborhood Academy's founding on 09/12/2001, Mark joined our board and shared his expertise while serving in multiple capacities from Development Committee Chair to Board Vice-Chair. He also served for two decades on the Negro Educational Emergency Drive (NEED)'s Board of Trustees as both trustee and former Chairman. A handful of years ago, he created a NEED scholarship fund which now awards, in perpetuity, an average \$1000 in annual scholarships for Neighborhood Academy students.

Mark speaks proudly of his three grown children: Michael, a teacher in Jackson Hole, WY, Mark Jr., a trade association analyst in Washington D.C., and Kate who, he beams, "has followed in his footsteps as an emerging (Chicago) business leader". In his time away from work, Mark loves reading, cycling, hiking, and daily walks through Frick Park (rain, shine, or snow).

Clearly, Mark is looking forward to leading The Neighborhood Academy into a new season.

Please join our board, staff and faculty in welcoming Mark into his new role at The Neighborhood Academy.

Blessings

A WORD FROM CO-FOUNDER, HEAD-OF-SCHOOL, REVEREND TOM JOHNSON

In one of his many books, Parker Palmer defines vocation as the meeting of one's great joy with the world's great need. As my memory roams over the decades of Jodie's service to God and her walk in faith, I begin with The Larimer Ave. Youth Club and the number of kids piled into the back of the ugliest, least fuel efficient Chevy Suburban ever turned out by Detroit (nicknamed "The Urban Assault Vehicle"). Under Jodie's loving guidance, those kids learned about God and faith while they went to movies and attended Summer's Best Two weeks. Three young men were even able to attain scholarships to the Kiski School.

There is my memory of our partnership of the last 20 years beginning with The Summer School in the basement of my first church on the North Side, the decision made over a turkey burger & a Rueben at Vento's to launch this dream called The Neighborhood Academy, our opening the day after 9/11, and finally our new home on this wonderful campus.

At each crucial step along the way, I have witnessed her faith, extraordinary gifts, her passion, her skill in the service of "the least of these." I have been inspired and awed by her compas-

sion, insight, and ability to get things done. So now she transitions from the Presidency of The Neighborhood Academy to supporting our graduates in their journey through college, the search for paid internships, and after graduation, finding meaningful work. I will miss having her two doors away but am heartened by the fact she will not be far away.

The skill with which she planted seeds and nurtured the harvest has led us to a strong and faith filled present. With Mark Kurtzrock, our new President, we have another skilled and visionary servant leader who will chart the next iteration of who we will become. I am hopeful; I am confident of the story we will craft just over the horizon.

There is an old African Proverb, "I am, because we are." It calls us back to the centrality of community and God's grace found in community. We came about because of God's grace, working through Jodie, and her acceptance of God's call on her life. Well done good and faithful servant. We have been blessed because the world's great need has been touched by her great joy.

A WORD FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR, CHARLES FERRARA

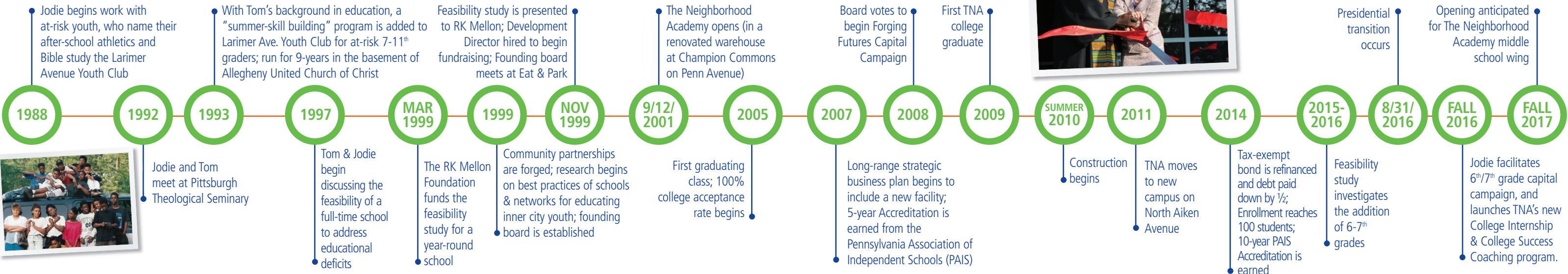
It is amazing to think about two people, Jodie Moore and Reverend Tom Johnson, sitting somewhere saying "let's start a school" and so they did. Today, The Neighborhood Academy is a flourishing, dynamic, educational institution providing great opportunity for inner-city kids. As

we think about Jodie's "transition" we reflect on the fact that without her will power, belief, enthusiasm, and talent, The Neighborhood Academy would not be here today. Period. Not only is it here, but it is thriving as one of the state of the art education facilities in Western Pennsylvania. What a tribute to Jodie Moore.

Of course, she didn't stop there. She was able, some time ago, to recruit Mark Kurtzrock to the Board and in addition, and probably more importantly, introduce him to the idea of becoming the next President of The Neighborhood Academy. Mark's extensive background in the nonprofit sector and also "the startup world" makes him uniquely qualified for this position. Add to that, his long, long involvement with The Neighborhood Academy has given us an opportunity to have someone that brings the best of both worlds: intimate knowledge and great belief in The Neighborhood Academy and also the "outside" experience to insure The Neighborhood Academy's future.

The Board would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Jodie on everything she has accomplished in the past and her invaluable contribution towards making this transition possible. Her leadership in this transition and bringing Mark on-board will insure that The Neighborhood Academy will be here for well into the future. The Board cannot express enough its deep appreciation, respect, and admiration for Jodie Moore and for all she has accomplished.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD ACADEMY— Our Past, Present and (not so distant) Future



SPECIAL
ANNOUNCEMENT
INSIDE:

"From
Strength
to
Strength"

transition:

a word signifying change.

[tran-zish-uh n] noun

1. movement, passage, or change from one position, state, stage, subject, concept, etc., to another; change.

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