





BOARDING PA

BOARDING PASS



TAKE A JOURNEY
THROUGH OUR
NEIGHBORHOOD

2018-2019 IMPACT REPORT



# LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Dear Friends of The Neighborhood Academy,



The Neighborhood Academy continues to be a great evolution of many positive and exciting developments. It's been a great year for the faculty, staff, and the student

body. The faculty have participated in professional training programs and we are very pleased that our student body continues to flourish with 145 students. The addition of our sixth and seventh graders have also made a great impact on the school student population. I would invite each of you to take a tour of our Middle School. You should witness the energy and excitement of these young boys.

I'm also pleased to tell you about a change in leadership. Reverend Tom Johnson has become Headmaster Emeritus. Of course, we cannot express enough our deep appreciation for all he contributed over the years. He built a culture and academic environment that is the foundation of The Neighborhood Academy. This year, our generous community supported the Loaves and Fishes Campaign to honor Reverend Johnson's legacy at the school. I am pleased to announce that over \$60,000 was raised for our students. It is evident that Reverend Johnson's contributions to our school have been recognized by many supporters in the community.

Almost 20 years ago, he recruited two young men to join TNA – Anthony Williams and Brent Jernigan. I am proud to announce that Anthony Williams has been named Head of School. Many of you know Anthony. He is a man with an impeccable resume, talent, and is a natural leader. It is very exciting to have someone from the family continue the great tradition of the school.

Right next to him is Brent Jernigan, who is also a TNA lifer. Brent has been appointed Assistant Head of School for Academics. He was most instrumental in adding our sixth and seventh grades, which is now in its third year. His talent in leadership is perfectly suited for his new role. We could not be more excited about these two leadership changes.

In addition, Carolyn Sanford has joined us as Assistant Head of School for Development. Carolyn brings years of fundraising experience to The Neighborhood Academy. Prior to joining our community, Carolyn worked for the Linden Partners and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. We are happy to have Carolyn on board.

We have continued our educational collaboration with the Milton Hershey School. We would like to take this opportunity to extend our



deep appreciation for their various contributions. Milton Hershey has generously supplied knowledge in the form of professional development, instructional expertise, and support. Being able to tap into their years of knowledge and experience has been invaluable. We continue to be most appreciative and excited about our collaboration with the Milton Hershev School.

So, friends, I am pleased to report that on behalf of the Board of Directors, The Neighborhood Academy is prospering and moving forward in a positive direction. We have great leadership; we have wonderful faculty members and staff; and lastly, our student body continues to achieve great success.

Thank you so much for supporting our students and faculty.

Sincerely,

Charles I. Ferrara, Chair



# **BOARD OF** DIRECTORS 2018 - 2019

Thank you to the following board members for their continued service:

Kirsten R. Albert The Hon. Cheryl Allen Sally Ann Bensur Isaiah J. Boswell Charles I. Ferrara. Board Chair Brenda L. Frazier H. Edwin Haller, IV Katherine E. Koop-Irwin, Esq. Daniel 'Mac' Lynch Jonathan McAnney, Esq. Timothy B. O'Brien John Robinson III Madelyn E. Toliver Winthrop Watson, Vice Chair Mark A. Weis, Treasurer Blair A. William Anthony P. Williams

Thank you to board members who have rolled off, including, Francine Abraham. Deborah C. Kelly, and Jill B. Ruppel.

# MISSION STATEMENT

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





# HISTORY **OF TNA**



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 with the help of Reverend Tom Johnson, in the basement of Allegheny United Church of Christ. Ms. Moore and Reverend Johnson, who had 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 grow into 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 collegepreparatory 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

- 80% have a taxable family income of less than \$30,000
- 65% live in a single-caregiver household
- 48% live in families with a history of drug and/or alcohol abuse
- 46% live in families with a history of domestic violence
- 31% have experienced incarceration within 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

- 160 total students served throughout the year, including summer session
  - Over 65,000 meals served for breakfast, lunch, and dinner
- Over 200 hours of on-site counseling
- 21 historic sites visited in Italy and Greece
  - **7** after school **art excursion**s as part of the **Art Connections Program** 
    - 20 Student Life activities
    - **20+ Community Service** visits
    - 100% College acceptance rate

# THE LOAVES AND FISHES CAMPAIGN

Over 100 individuals participated in the Loaves and Fishes campaign, which honored Reverend Thomas E. Johnson, Jr.'s legacy as Head of School. With the support of our generous donors, over \$60,000 was raised. Thank you to all the individuals who contributed. Full donor list on page 14.



# HAVE YOU CONSIDERED JOINING OUR **GROWING LIST OF EITC CONTRIBUTORS?**

Use your tax \$ 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.

# WHITAKER EVENT

We were honored to host author, Mark Whitaker, in the fall of 2019 for The Nancy and Paul O'Neill Speaker Series at the school. Mr. Whitaker discussed his book, Smoketown: The Untold Story of the Other Great Black Renaissance, and the culture of African American Pittsburgh in the 1920s -50s.



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- The Gockley Family
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- lames Nealon
- Northwestern Mutual



- Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
- Rob Roy Industries
- Tucker Arensberg Attorneys
- University of Pittsburgh -**History Department**
- Woodland Management



# CHECK IN WITH OUR

# MIDDLE SCHOOL



Our 6th & 7th graders were busy with an extensive curriculum, after school programming, and adopting a new brotherhood mentality – a relationship that extends above and beyond family. Brent Jernigan, Head of the Middle School, states, "I was most proud of how the 2018-2019 cohort of middle school boys lived this mentality. This was a collective theme that teachers and students adopted during the first week of school, and it is still strong today. They performed in the classroom, and the camaraderie also extended well beyond the classroom."

# **RUN WITH OUR STUDENTS**

To bond with peers and help relieve stress from the school day, our Middle School students set a goal to run 50 miles before the end of the school year. This goal was accomplished by running 3 miles per week, and the effects on the students were amazing. Brent Jernigan states, "Each and every student and teacher participated in the mid-day run. The boys encouraged each other's efforts with words and supportive actions. The positivity in the group was infectious." This special group of young men have exceeded expectations and continue to live the mission of TNA.



# **EXPLORE**

# **New Middle School Bike Program Launches**

The Middle School bike program identifies students who are not familiar with riding bikes and those who want to continue to build upon their previous experiences. All young men are given comprehensive training on bike safety, and practice these techniques around our campus drive, in the woods behind the school, and on the occasional trip to the Allegheny Cemetery.

Just this year, we incorporated a Middle School bike trip through the "GAP" Trail with Mark Rubenstein and his organization, Pittsburgh Youth Leadership. This journey has been split up over three trips, and in March of 2020, we will be completing the Trail with a ride to Washington, DC.

# Middle School BY THE NUMBERS:



1.6 average arade level increase in Reading



1.4 average arade level increase in Math



96.4% attendance rate



35% average honor roll rate in terms 2, 3 & 4



suspensions



6% attrition





# STOP BY THE

# --- HIGH SCHOOL

# TRAVEL ABROAD WITH OUR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Our biennial travel abroad program is a fun and engaging way for students to learn about different cultures and their histories. This year, 21 students and 15 chaperons enjoyed an educational trip to Italy and Greece. As part of the trip, students explored some of the most famous sites in Rome, Florence, Athens and Delphi.







# **ENTER THE** SHARK TANK

In March, Jennifer Kane's 10th grade English class participated in Shark Tank, a yearly initiative where students develop a research-based, thesis-driven essay on an original app idea. Students must deliver a five-minute pitch that cover their app's necessity to a panel of volunteer judges within the tech industry. The Judges will then award pretend funds to each student based on the app's potential. Students collectively raised \$193,100 at the event! Some of the app ideas were:







- "Confide," a therapy app for women that also helps with job searches and mentoring
- "Young Stylist," a clothing app for people to make their own custom clothes

**High School BY THE NUMBERS:** 



**3 Seniors** were published in the Journal of Emerging Investigators



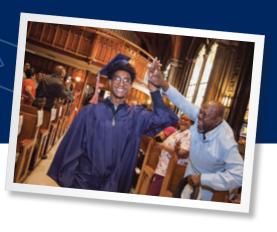
97.6% attendance



54.7% average honor roll rate



100% College acceptance



# **STUDENT SUCCESS**

Continuing with the tradition of the school, our entire 2019 graduating class went off to college. We wish our students much success as they continue their academic journeys at these colleges and with the military:

- Penn State University Park
- Penn State Greater Allegheny
- Community College of **Allegheny County**
- Clarion University
- Slippery Rock University
- Indiana University of PA
- **Duquesne University**
- United States Marine Corps















# STEP INTO THE **COMMUNITY WITH US!**

For the last several years, The Neighborhood Academy has partnered with the Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh for volunteering and outreach activities. After the tragic shooting on October 27, 2018, at the Tree of Life Synagogue, our students joined together at the Pittsburgh Penguins game on October 30 to help raise money for the victims' families. Working with other volunteers and members of the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation, our students collected funds from gameday attendees and assisted with the 50/50 raffle.

In April, a group of students from the High School and Open Hand Ministries worked together to help renovate a house for an underprivileged family in Pittsburgh's East Liberty neighborhood as part of Good Deeds Day, an international day of volunteering.







# JOIN US AT THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC LEAGUE

For the third year in a row, 11th grader, Jonathan "JJ" Morris, was invited to the WPIAL and PA State Championships for track. This year, he placed 4th at WPIAL. Congratulations, JJ!



# JOUNEY TO OUR FUTURE

IN FIVE YEARS I SEE MYSELF BEING A VERY ACCOMPLISHED AFRICAN AMERICAN DENTIST. >>



XAVIER

NEIGHBORHOOD **ACADEMY** CLASS OF 2020

**SCHOLARSHIP** AWARDEE

AUJAH JOHNSON< <<<<<<<<<<2020

A special congratulations to Aujah Johnson, class of 2020, for receiving a \$64,000 scholarship to Xavier University. Aujah's scholarship was a result of winning the Leadership Award for a powerful essay she wrote discussing her future dreams and plans. We are so happy for Aujah and cannot wait to check in with her after graduation. Read her essay below.

In five years I see myself being a very accomplished African American dentist. Out of the many dentists in the United States, less than four percent are African American. I want to be the person that increases the *low statistics of African* American dentists. While studying

dentistry. I would also like to study abroad in Africa. Spending over two years in Africa, I want to be able to start a program that helps the less fortunate children and adults with dental health care. Since dental care can be very expensive and unaffordable for many, my program would be able to give free dental examinations to those who need it. After those two years in Africa, I would come back to the States to start my own dental practice. I would do all of this while still maintaining my personal achievements.

In 2019, I lost a very close loved one to kidnapping. My goal after everything that happened was to make sure

that it wouldn't happen again, to another loved one or to anyone at all. In my time outside of work, I would start an organization called Nalani's World that was able to raise money to help missing children. This organization would be like no other because donors would have the opportunity to volunteer in a handson manner. Nalani's World would be made to help families one-on-one that may be dealing with a loved one that is missing. I knew what it felt like to feel helpless, and I wouldn't want anyone else to have to feel that way.

# **ALUMNI CHECK IN**



# 2018 GRADUATE, **ANIYA JACKSON**

Sophomore, Slippery Rock University

The opportunity to attend The Neighborhood Academy was God ordained and straight up fell into my lap. Pittsburgh Public Schools were not satisfying my mother's expectations for me. One day my mom stumbled across an old friend of hers, and she stated she was attending an open house at The Neighborhood Academy for incoming students. My mother decided to join, and to her surprise she recognized Anthony Williams (longtime friend) who was the Dean of Students at the time. After she saw him and the school, she was convinced this was the place I needed to be. I started The Neighborhood Academy my eighthgrade year and flourished throughout the rest of my time there.

The Neighborhood Academy is a substantial part of my life and success. The biggest obstacles and adjustments were the workload, school hours, and the environment. During my time at Pittsburgh Public Schools, I did my work and always received honor roll, but it was nothing compared to TNA. At Sterrett I gained friendships, but at TNA I was blessed with a close-knit family. The intensity of the work was

overwhelming at first because I wasn't accustomed to being pushed that hard. I believe TNA set me up to reach the stars and beyond. Nothing is holding me back at college because of the time I spent at The Neighborhood Academy.

Currently, I am a sophomore at Slippery Rock University studying Recreational Therapy and Public Health. I have two leadership jobs on campus. The first is being a mentor for Jumpstart. Jumpstart is a yearlong program where they focus on one-to-one development, academic advisement, and support. With this position, I am guiding first-year students and helping them cultivate their talents, both academically and socially. I am also a teacher's assistant for a course known as Intercultural Communication. Finally, I am on the E-Board for an organization called Queens. This organization focuses on the empowerment, enrichment, and education for women of color. Everything that I have experienced and learned up until now has shaped me into the phenomenal young woman that I am becoming.

# 2015 GRADUATE, CHERICE JACKSON

Hello, my name is Cherice Jackson, and I graduated from The Neighborhood Academy in 2015. I was born and raised in the Hill District, where I originally met Ms. Natasha, former employee at The Neighborhood Academy, and Anthony Williams. Living in the Hill District, University Prep was my home school, and the school I would have attended if I did not find another school to go to. My mom was not a fan of public schools, so it was her mission to find a school that she thought would best fit me. While I was still in middle school, I lived near Mr. Williams, which gave me the opportunity to learn more about The Neighborhood Academy. My options were between attending The Neighborhood Academy or Oakland Catholic. The long hours at TNA originally swayed my decision away from attending, but with my mom having the final decision, TNA is where I ended up spending my 4 years of high school.

The choice that my mom made actually turned out to be the better choice, in my opinion. While at TNA, I made so many connections and had experiences



that I may have not had otherwise. The longer hours did take a little getting used to, but the environment was great. I have

traveled to many different cities, and I even had the chance to go out of the country during my senior year. TNA exposed me to many great people who have helped me with my career and future endeavors. Making good connections with good people is an important aspect in life, and it's not always what you know that will get you further in life, but it's more of who you know. It is not a school that focuses solely on education. The staff there works hard to make each student well-rounded and prepared for the real world after high school.

I graduated from Slippery Rock University in 2019 and started my first job that will be a steppingstone to my career. In college, my major was Psychology. I graduated with plans of going back to school for my master's degree in School Counseling within the next year. I have worked at Friendship Academy as a Classroom Therapist for the past 4 months, working closely with seniors in high school. I am gaining a lot of experience and insight working with students of this age group. While in college, I worked at a few different summer camps with children who ranged from 7 to 13 years old. I never wanted to work with older children, but now having the experience to work with 17 and 18-year-old students, I am starting to prefer this age group. I am able to form close relationships with these students while also relating to them a little more than I would the younger students.

# LAST STOP

A Note from our New Head of School, Anthony Williams

As we look to the future of The Academy, we are excited to be on this incredible journey.

It brings me great pleasure and joy to write this letter regarding the impact that you have made on the school community of The Neighborhood Academy. As I reflect on my first year of leadership of The Neighborhood Academy, I could not be more proud of the progress that we have made thus far as a school. I am happy to report that 100% of our seniors have been admitted into college for the 15th consecutive year. Through a great degree of hard work and dedication, our 18 seniors have earned both admission and scholarships in their pursuits of a higher education. I would like to congratulate them for their efforts, and we look forward to their future academic accomplishments. They are leaving a profound legacy to be filled for our current 26 juniors, class of 2021.

There are several academic initiatives that have been very impactful in the academic experience of our students that I would like to share with you. For the first time, we have implemented an honors track for both Math and English. Students who complete the Math track within our curriculum will

take Calculus in their senior year. This rigorous curricular track will better prepare our students for STEM related majors upon their matriculation to college. Our seniors are well into the research phase of their year-long senior seminar experience, and we encourage you to attend their Senior Seminar presentations which will take place during the week of May 17th, 2020. I am pleased to announce that to date we have nine students who published their research project through The Journal of Emerging Investigators, an open access journal run by Harvard graduate students. We are very proud of our students' hard work and we look forward to learning more about their scholarly research.

We have also had wonderful opportunities to strengthen professional development opportunities for our faculty members. We have had the opportunity to work with a talented staff from Robert Morris University through a program titled Affordability Academy. Through this program RMU staff trained our faculty in ways that will assist our staff in preparing our students and their family for college affordability. We have also been very fortunate to engage in professional development trainings



led by staff from Milton Hershey School. These trainings covered a host of topics all that have equipped our faculty with the necessary skills to be more impactful in the classroom. Lastly, due to the generosities of Phil and Lorrie Roberts, an endowed Faculty Development Fund was created with the intent to support the ongoing professional development of our faulty. Over the years countless opportunities have been provided to our faulty which has had a direct impact on both student learning and faculty growth.

I could go on and on sharing great joys of the works of our students and our faculty, but I would like to take this time to say thank you. Due to your ongoing belief both in the mission of our school and the potential of our students, 100% of our students are admitted to college and on average 70% of our graduates complete their college course work in five years or less. Thanks to your generosity, our students can experience a safe learning environment which provides them with

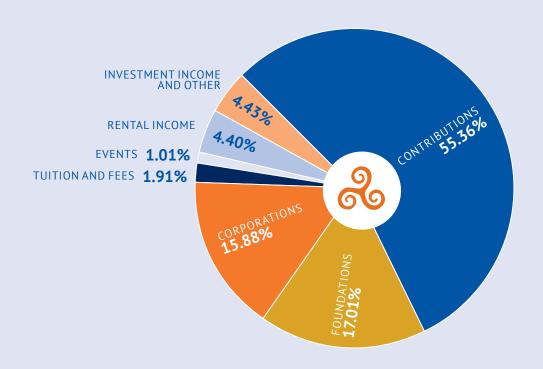
THE NEIGHBORHOOD **ACADEMY WAS PROUD** TO INTRODUCE ANTHONY WILLIAMS AS THE HEAD OF SCHOOL IN JUNE OF 2019.

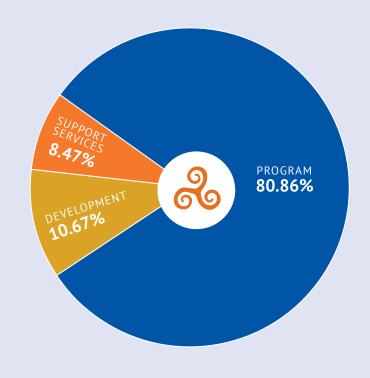
a high-quality education that will prepare them for success in college and beyond. Because of the impact that you choose to make in the lives of our students, we can accomplish our mission which is to break the cycle of generational poverty through education and to empower our students for college readiness and citizenship. For that I will be forever grateful. I hope that you will join us in the celebration of our largest graduating class either at graduation which will be held on 5/29/2020 at 5:30 pm at Third Presbyterian Church or during our "Movin' on Up" celebration which will be at The Neighborhood Academy on 5/30/2020 at 5:30 pm. Thank you once again for the impact that vou have made in the lives of our students.

**Anthony Williams** 

Head of School

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY





# **SUPPORT AND REVENUE**

Contributions	2,455,057
Foundations	754,470
Corporations	704,219
Tuition and Fees	84,843
Events	44,795
Rental Income	195,162
Investment Income and other	196,538
TOTAL	4.435.084

# **EXPENSES**

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(70 727)
TOTAL	4,514,407
Development	481,776
Support Services	382,402
Program	3,650,229

# **NET ASSET**

23)
66
89



# ANNUAL FUND GIFTS

Between 9/1/2018 - 8/31/2019

### **OVER THE BRIDGE SOCIETY**

Over the Bridge Society members support the cost of educating a student for three years at a cost of \$20,000 per student Mr. Philip Beard 1/2 Ms. Elizabeth S. Hurtt & Mr. Douglas M. Branson Jack Buncher Foundation 1/2 Ferrara Family \* Mr. & Mrs. Henry E. Haller III Mr. (\*) & Mrs. D. Bryant Mitchell 1/2 Mr. & Mrs. Philip R. Roberts Mr. & Dr. Michael Schenz 1/2 Shadyside Presbyterian Church Third Presbyterian Church

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(\$20,000.00 or more)

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(\$2,499-\$1,000)

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