

# The W-Times

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## News From... W-S/FC Schools

By Kim Underwood



For those who live outside of Forsyth County, the SECU Family House can provide a welcoming place to stay while a loved one is in the hospital or hospice.

"It's a really nice place for families," said Monica Cruzat, a junior at Early College of Forsyth. "What they do here is awesome. They really do care."

Cruzat is one of 35 middle and high school students who have volunteered at the house over the course of the summer during the four sessions of the Teens in the House summer internship program.

Many of the student volunteers are participants in school programs that call for volunteer service hours, such as Crosby Scholars and the International Baccalaureate Programme at Paisley IB Magnet School, said Ainsley Darnell, the community relations and development coordinator for the house.

Last week, seven high school students – all women, as it hap-

pens – participated in the internship program.

On Thursday, the student volunteers started their day by tending to some of the flowers and other plants that they had planted on the grounds earlier in the week. After that, they moved on to preparing a lunch



with a Mexican theme for those staying at the house.

Although most of the people staying at the house are family members of someone in the hospital, some people who are receiving treatment also say there. For instance, someone receiving chemotherapy over the course of several days might spend the nights in between there.

"It's for patients and caregivers," Darnell said. "They have to live outside of Forsyth County."

Staying at the Family House can mean a lot for families that would otherwise be far from a loved one, said Rylee Westerland, a volunteer who will be a freshman at Reagan.

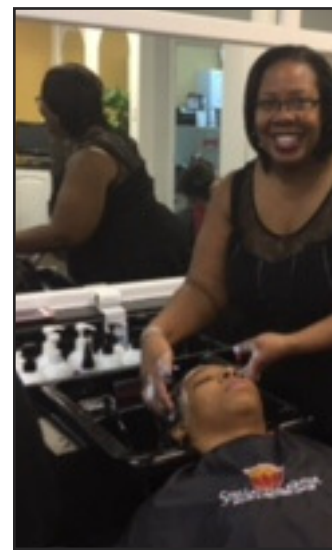
"It's hard being far away," she said.

As part of the program, the volunteers learn more about the world of hospitals and health care. The SECU (State Employee Credit Union) Family

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## Reanee's Mother would be proud of Stella's Daughter

Daniel J Watson



Entrepreneur. When you see this word, who is the first person that comes to mind? Go ahead shout it out. Was it Microsoft mogul Bill Gates? The architect of Apple Steve Jobs? Maybe Facebook pioneer Mark Zuckerberg? Def Jam father Russell Simmons? Oh no, I know, it was Sean Combs, right? Diddy, Puff Daddy, they're all the same person. Okay, you know a little something something, but there is something you might not have noticed about the list above – there are no women.

According to the "2015 State of Women-Owned Businesses Report" commissioned by American Express Open, women now own 30% of all businesses in the U.S., accounting for some 9.4 million firms. African American women control 14% of these companies, or an estimated 1.3 million businesses. A 322% growth rate since 1997, making black females the fastest growing group of entrepreneurs in the U.S.

I think it's time we add a few more 'sistas' to that entrepreneur list of ours, today we'll start with Reanee McManus, owner of Stella's Daughter Salon & Wellness Center. McManus, a salon owner for 12 years, has been in the industry in for about 23 years. McManus's 'baby' sits in the middle of Healy Drive Plaza off of Stratford Road in Winston-Salem, NC. Stella's Daughter Salon & Wellness Center is an hourly and commission-based salon. The main goal: grow and develop stylists in hopes that they'll eventually venture out on their own or have their own salons.

"My passion is hair care, making people feel good and customer service," said McManus.

McManus's mentor program provides trainees with a number

three stylists so far. Two of which both are salon owners, one in Charlotte, NC and Atlanta, GA. The third gave up hair and pursued a career in real estate.

"Two out of three ain't too bad," McManus added with a smile.

You ask the average teenager what they want to do in life they either don't know, don't care or haven't given it much thought, oh but McManus was ahead of the pack. She had it all figured all even before obtaining a driver's license.

"Cosmetology was always the plan, oh my God! I came up with this plan when I was in the tenth grade. The career center had a cosmetology program at the time and I was trying to find a way to tell my mother that I wasn't going to college. I knew I had to have everything in order when I approached her, how much it cost, how many hours and how I would get there. I was like cool, I got all the facts, my mom was a matter of fact type of woman. So I approach her, I have this whole presentation, "You know mom I really don't want to go to college I think I know what I want to do..."

McManus began to describe the cosmetology program with great detail in hopes of convincing her mother that hair was her passion.

"After my spiel, my mother asked how much do you need? I did all that heart racing, shaking, sweating, I'm about to cry because I know she's about to tell me no. But if she did, I'd still be good, because she didn't have no money to send me to college no how," jokingly said McManus.

McManus's mother was a retired widow. Her father passed away when she was 12 so her mother was a stay-at-home mom

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**BUSINESS VIEW...** by Joe Watson

Joe Watson is a product of R.T. Watson



Recently I experienced a life-changing situation in which my appendix ruptured and burst. What do you do when your life changes? This is the question I had to ask myself. My response to the change was to accept it, heal, and refocus. It was truly a challenging time for me, but it was one that I faced and found a way to move forward.

What happens when life brings unexpected changes to my friends? Do they accept them and adapt? Life will bring unexpected changes, but you must face them and keep moving. The answer lies in your attitude and how you respond.

The fact is, if you look at it from a positive perspective, you can find ways to move forward.

I used to work 16 to 17 hours a day. Now, I realize the long hours affected my health. However, I can still work, but I had to find another way to achieve the same result by working fewer hours and changing the way I work. This was my wakeup call, and it forced me to change my routine so I can take better care of myself.

The irony is that this change has made me more productive. I don't know what your situation is today, but what I can tell you is it is not about the sit-

uation, it's about your attitude and how you face your situation.

We all have challenges, whether it is health or finances. Don't let life's challenges keep you from moving forward. Find the positive in whatever is going on in your life. I believe you will come out successful.

My challenge may have changed the way I get the job done, but I am still in the game. And at the end of the day, all that matters is that you're still in the game. I hope you will make this the best life that you can because it is the only one you have.

**OBITUARIES**

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**Alfred Ray Wright**  
May 23, 1947 - July 17, 2017

Mr. Alfred Ray Wright was born May 23, 1947 in Waxhaw, NC to the late Kathleen Massey and William Odell Wright, Sr. He was a veteran of the United States Marines Corps and United States Navy having served in the Vietnam War. He later retired from the United States Pentagon and was a resident of Winston-Salem for over ten years. Mr. Wright was a Protestant and a Master Mason.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one son, Darren D. Wright and a brother, William Odell Wright, Jr. Mr. Wright completed his earthly journey July 17, 2017.

He is survived by one daughter, Angela Renae Wellman; one son, Danny L. Wright; sisters, Mary Eldridge and Doris Davis, all of Winston-Salem, NC; one brother, John E. Wright of Monroe, NC;

three grandchildren, Maurice A. Wellman, Jr. of Charlotte, NC, Patrice Lewis and Ty Wright (Paris), all of Winston-Salem NC; several great grandchildren; his fiancé, Tata Vivares of the Philippines; several nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

The family received friends Saturday, July 22, 2017 at the chapel of Hooper Funeral Home with funeral services following. Interment will be at Evergreen Cemetery.



**Donald Darnell Lowery, Sr.**  
April 27, 1951 - July 6, 2017

Donald Darnell Lowery Sr., 66, of Winston Salem, NC, departed this life on Thursday, July 6, 2017. Born the son of James Dunlap and the late Jessie Mae Lowery Davis on April 27, 1951 in Winston-Salem N.C. He transitioned from the nickname as a youth "Colored Boy" to "Ambassador for Christ" as an adult.

He attended Forsyth County Public Schools. He was a graduate from East Forsyth High School. Since he knew his passion was building, he completed an apprenticeship through "Stonewall Masonry" and became a builder.

He liked and played multiple sports extremely well, but an avid lover of pool and table tennis (ping pong), and exhibited excellent form as a golfer.

Donald loved GOD. He was a remarkable artist who loved to draw and paint and made artwork out of his masonry. His passion for brick developed into owning his own business, Master Craftsman Artwork Masonry.

He used the motto, "If you can dream it, I can build it." He had the reputation as "one of the best brick masons around this area." He exemplified "a true jack of all trades and a master of brick." He did masonry at several churches: Love Temple COGIC, Genesis, The Love Church, and others in this area as well as other states and South America.

He loved working with people of different nationalities and ages. He had a heart for people. He humorously mentored, counseled, and

evangelized others. As a result of his easy going spirit and personality, Donald was loved by many.

Donald was a "devoted family man and caring father," a true example as a big brother, a loving friend, a devoted worker, a great cook, faithful to his church and call. He was a pastor's dream, came to church early daily, volunteered his time, and stayed late, a true worker for the LORD. He freely gave most of his time free of charge to the church as a volunteer.

He had passion for souls, for people knowing Jesus and going to church. His wisdom for teaching, and evangelism, and singing was phenomenal. He enjoyed deep study and discussion into the Word of God. What he learned he passed it on. He shared the message of hope every opportunity he got.

He had a special ability to reach people in a deep and positive way. He used wisdom "listening quietly before he spoke."

Donald had an interest in singing and playing piano as a youth, sang in different choirs, groups. By the end of his life, He constantly played the piano, almost daily.

Donald enjoyed life to the fullest chatting with friends and family, attending church, and the number one thing, family, children.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Jessie Mae Lowery Davis, grandmother, Maggie Lee Lowery, and other relatives.

Donald is survived by two sons: Donald Darnell Lowery Jr. (Avlon) of the city and Keir (Domica) Thomas, Oceanside, CA, three daughters: Annette, Britney, and Whitney Lowery, sisters: Constance and Elaine Lowery, Santhony Moses, Rosalyn Jackson, Pamela Gladden, Glenda (Steve) Stover, Valencia, Treva, and Vicki Dunlap of the city, brothers: Anthony (Gail) Stroud, Clinton AL Reginald (Eva) Lowery, Garner, N.C., Gregory and William Earl Lowery, Michael (Rhea) Cash, grandchildren; great grandchildren; a devoted friend, Joannie George; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held Saturday, July 15, 2017 at The Love Church, 4198 Cherry Street Winston-Salem NC 27105. The family received friends at the church. Interment followed in Evergreen Cemetery.

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House is off Burke Mill Road, less than 2 miles from Novant Health Forsyth Medical Center. Earlier in the week, the volunteers had taken a tour of the Forsyth medical center and learned more about how each department works.

Learning more about strokes and how to help those who have had them made a particular impression on Amy Johnson, who will be a sophomore at Reagan High.

The week had been a good experience, she said, and she was thinking about continuing to volunteer at the Family House for her Crosby Scholars volunteer hours. She and her friend, Danae Jacchia, who is also a sophomore at Reagan, have already volunteered together at such events as an Earth Day fair.

Jacchia's grandfather and great aunt are nurses and she is planning to become a nurse herself.

"I really did enjoy touring the hospital and asking nurses questions," she said.

She also appreciated the opportunity to meet people staying at the house.

"I got to talk to one of the families staying here," she said.

Sasha Sagar, who will be a freshman at Atkins Academic & Technology High School, wants to become a doctor one day. "I'm not sure what type yet."

So experiences the week brought had also been quite valuable for her. Sagar first participated in the Family House internship program last summer.

"I liked helping people here, and it was a lot of fun," she said. "I learned a lot more about the Family House."

Sydney Tribble, who is a senior at Salem Academy, also participated last summer.

"It was pretty fun so I decided to come back," Tribble said. "You got to see how everything worked, and I learned a lot."

Tribble also completed her Girl Scouts project at the house.

Cruzat heard about the program from her older sister, Maria, who had a good experience when she volunteered during a previous summer. Cruzat is planning on a career in the



medical field – probably sports medicine – so the week had provided valuable experiences for her as well.

Cruzat is a veteran volunteer. For two summers now, she has been volunteering in the Orthopedics Department at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center to earn volunteer hours for Crosby Scholars. She has had such experiences as watching people have casts put on or taken off and doing their physical therapy.

One of the fringe benefits of the Teens in the House program is getting to meet and become friends with fellow students. Like Westerlund, Mia Ragonesi will be a freshman at Reagan. Now that they know Johnson and Jacchia, they will already have friends in the upper grades who can help them get to know Reagan this fall.

As they waited for the other volunteers to arrive on Thursday morning, Johnson offered advice to Ragonesi on foods to avoid buying in the school cafeteria.

This is the third summer that SECU Family House has offered the summer volunteer program. Earlier this summer, two groups of middle school students and another group of high school students volunteered for a week.

The SECU Family House, which opened in 2011, is available to those who have someone staying at Novant Health Forsyth Medical Center, at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center or at Kate B. Reynolds Hospice Home, which is just down the lane.

The house has 45 rooms. Up to four adults can stay in each one. To learn more about the house, go to SECU Family House.



for the most part. Despite McManus's doubt her mother agreed to cosmetology school. But the granted wish didn't come without great hardship.

"During my time at cosmetology school she was able to help provide childcare for me, because I actually had a child early. She was the biggest supporter behind me, making sure I had everything I needed. I was going to school and working two jobs. It got to the point where I was letting school slack. She said you need to quit both of those jobs and focus on school, and that's what I did. She supported me through the whole thing."

"She was my backbone. She allowed me to gain an education and watched my children, not necessarily financial support, just that 'I'm here for you' support."

Following graduation, Carolina Beauty College '96, McManus managed a salon but didn't know too much about business. Her arrogant self-centered attitude of her 20s didn't help much either.

"I had such an egotistical attitude, like I can do hair, I'm good, then I realized how good I wasn't. I had to close the salon after four years - it should've been closed in a year and a half, but I didn't know how to manage my money, book keeping, none of that stuff, so I ended up having to close the doors, (that one was named after my first daughter). From that point on I started taking more business classes and grasping a better understanding of a business, and I said you know what, the next time I do this thing I'm going to do it the right way, so of course I still made mistakes but my mother was there the entire time.

In true poetic fashion, McManus was able to do the same in return for her mother. Over time her career afforded her a lifestyle to provide and care for her mother until she passed away. McManus's mother is actually

the inspiration for the name of the salon.

"I gave homage to her was because I wouldn't be where or who I am today without her support. She was my road dog, my ace. She was always tough on me. I used to ask why are you not as hard on my brother? And she'd say because you got IT."

I would've named the salon after another one of my daughters (Kayla, 23, Marshea, 17, Deandra, 13) but I didn't want anybody getting jealous," said McManus with laughter.

Family is something very near and dear to McManus's heart but she admits that she still struggles with balancing being a salon owner, mother, and wife.

"I do spend a lot of time here at the salon, I think I spend the majority of my time in the salon. I've birthed it, sometimes I do stay here a little too long, my husband, André, will ask when you coming home?"

"For me it's hard, because my passion runs so deeply, I think my passion kind of let my health decline. A goal for this year is to

cut back, spend some more time with myself, my family, and focus on my health so I can be the best version of Reanee."

Believe it or not McManus's passion runs so deep that she forewent every little girl's dream wedding.

"In order to save for what my dream and passion was I didn't have a wedding. But having a supportive husband made it all the better. Of course he looked at me funny but I said we can get married, but we don't have to have a ceremony. I just love the fact that my husband is supportive and believes in me and what I have going on, and what I'm trying to do for other people."

"As a husband I just try to support my wife in whatever way I can man," he says. I know that she's really passionate about the shop and hair and I feel as though all husbands and wives should support their spouse, especially when it's genuine."

Black hair is more than just another thing, it's a form of expression for the black woman, a way to separate themselves from their norms of society and show their true individualism. Therefore the sanctuaries, AKA the black salon serves a more than significant role in our community and we must treat it as such.

"I think black salon is declining in service, so it's important for me to provide the service that I provide because I know the level of service that clients are getting at other places are not up to par. We have a several professional women that come through our doors, chiropractors, attorneys, and doctors. Higher-end clientele expect a higher level of service. Therefore it's important that customer service is more than can I

do your hair cut really well or do your hair color really well, that's equally as important, but I think customer service and being personable with your clients and understanding that she has a lifestyle, she has family members that she loves, why not ask about those family members when she comes in, and remembering those types of things. I might not remember her [pointing at client in chair] grandparents names but I know she takes care of her grandparents. Basically what's important to her, is important to me."

Tara Boyd, a customer for 15 years, works in surgery administration at Baptist hospital.

"After trying many stylists before Renee I found that the she's the first and only one that really cares about hair, it's not just doing the styles or getting me in her chair and getting me out, it's about the health of my hair, there's been times when I've asked her to do things to my hair and she's told me no, and it didn't matter that she was going to make a lot of money but she didn't think that particular style was healthy for my hair, so she was willing to forego that money for the health of my hair and that said a lot about the type of person and stylist that Renee is. I actually moved to California for a period of time but I would fly back home just to have Renee style my hair."

McManus has plans to open a chain of Stella's Daughter Salons and continue to provide developmental opportunities for aspiring stylists near and far.

"If I had to describe myself in three words they'd be assertive, passionate, and...visionary."

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