



SHINE A LIGHT NJ

SHINING *The Light*

Welcome to the Spring 2025 edition of Shining The Light, our newsletter!! These past several months have been a whirlwind of impact, growth, and meaningful connections, and we couldn't have done it without you! From successful fundraising initiatives to community-driven projects, your support has fueled our mission every step of the way.



OUR STORY

Shine A Light NJ was established to provide extracurricular academic and recreational activities as well as additional forms of social support for families in Jersey City who identify as asset limited and income constrained although they are employed. Shine A Light NJ is managed by a volunteer-led

board, comprised of four Black and Latina women who have raised their children in Jersey City during their formative years, so there is a keen awareness of the need for community resources. Shine A Light NJ is built upon the values of positive youth development, socioemotional growth and community engagement.

A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to Elijah Williams for signing with the Minnesota Vikings as a rookie defensive lineman!!!



We are incredibly proud of Elijah!! His incredible work ethic, along with his grit and determination helped him realize his dream. We'll be cheering him on this season!

BULLY THE BULLY TRAINING



Bully the Bully training is the anchor program of Shine A Light NJ. This summer, Coach Jesse will host a day clinic for offensive linemen. Elijah will be there to work with the young athletes before he heads off to Minnesota. Follow our social media accounts for the date/time!!!



MONTICELLO FALL FESTIVAL

Shine A Light NJ joined several other community based organizations to host the Monticello Fall Festival last October in Jersey City. Families enjoyed activities such as face painting and pumpkin picking. They were also able to design their pumpkins. Check out the coolest pumpkin from the event!



A NIGHT TO SHINE

We partnered with Liberty Church of Jersey City to host Hudson County's very first Night to Shine event, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation. We were beyond grateful for the opportunity to partner with Pastor Fernandez to bring a night of enjoyment to families from the local area.

Our Founder/Board President Tonisha Taylor was recently interviewed by jazz singer and radio host Antoinette Montague for her show Jazz Woman to the Rescue!



Stay tuned for the release date of the interview, which will be broadcast on WCHR 90.3 FM in New York.

The station is also accessible online at whcr.org.

PAINT & CANDY LUNCHEON

On April 26th, we hosted a Paint & Candy Luncheon in honor of Autism Awareness Month. During this month, we are reminded of the incredible strength and resilience of families living with autism. This luncheon was our way of honoring these families by offering an afternoon filled with positive vibes and enjoyable moments. At the end of the event, each family received a swag bag filled with snacks, swag, information for local resources, and a \$50 gift card for use at a local supermarket.



YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Thank you for believing in our cause. Together, we can continue transforming lives.



Will you consider making a donation today to keep our programs thriving?

You can make a donation [here](#)

Thank you for your generosity!!

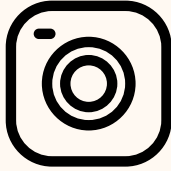
OUR FOUNDER IS HONORED AT MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY!

Tonisha is currently student in the Doctorate of Social Work program at Monmouth University. After learning about her nonprofit work, one of her professors elected to highlight and honor her work. As a result, this poster highlights Tonisha and her mission to support children and families through Shine A Light NJ! This poster is prominently displayed in the Department of Social Work in MacAllan Hall on the university's main campus.





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