

COLLABORATIONS

The DO SCHOOL Quarterly Newsletter

Eighth Edition, Vol. 1

LIFE Do-Overs

In this issue:

- LIFE Do-Overs
- Focus for Health Grant
- Message from the ED
- Power Partners
- Volunteer Opportunities
- New Faces
- Learning Lab #2: Moving Right Along

Opportunities. We hear lots about opportunities. Chances to do something maybe for the very first time, maybe to repeat something that worked well, or to try to top what was done previously.

Motives play a big part in opportunities. Why? Why do it? Why try it? Why give it? Why even say it? Why not?

Failure. I believe that the only failure is when we fail to try. If you learn something from it, if it

(Life Do-Overs continued on Page 4)

Focus for Health Grant Recipient!

The Do School received a **\$30,000** grant in June from **Focus for Health**. This grant will ensure we have access to a dependable means of delivering needed building materials to the learning lab as the crew continues to renovate the properties.

The Do School board of directors extend their gratitude to Focus for Health for their continued support of our efforts.

About Focus for Health

Since 2009, Focus for Health Foundation, formerly Focus Autism, has provided funding to organizations addressing health disparities, racial justice, criminal justice reform, and child sex abuse. Founded by Barry Segal, FFH believes in resourcing small, grassroots organizations to change systems that keep people poorer, sicker, and obstructed from a deserved quality of life. *ffh*

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression."

~Author Unknown

"Let tomorrow be your second chance to prove that you are better than today and yesterday."

~Ritu Ghatourey

"A second chance doesn't mean anything if you didn't learn from your first."

~Anurag Prakash Ray

Message from the Executive Director



I offer this social and economic perspective having recently returned from a conference in Portland, Oregon, sponsored by CollegeNET CEO and Do School Vice Chair, Jim Wolfston!

There is an increasing focus on the widening gap in economic parity and social distancing in this country. The current political climate, coupled with the lingering effects of the COVID pandemic, has moved this conversation from the boardrooms of charitable organizations and social scientists to dinner tables nationwide. Street violence, the scourge of the fentanyl epidemic and the more obvious need to prepare quality employees and partner-trained applicants with industry exacerbate the effort.

Assembling a pipeline for a new community demographic has been the mission of The Do School (thedo-school.org) from its inception—to provide a comprehensive platform that addresses this shrinking candidate pool. The Do School, in collaboration with similar organizations such as Vocational Rehabilitation Services and Goodwill Industries of NWNC are viable options and catalysts in this effort.

As we here at the Do School continue to improve our recruitment standards, we are also expanding partnerships throughout the community.

(Message from ED continued on Page 2)

Message from E.D. continued

Recently Walter Ridge of Kay Heating and Air, joined forces with our training component to provide materials, labor, equipment and educational assistance for HVAC installation in the renovation of our second learning lab.

The challenge facing this nonprofit, and industry as well, is discovering the motivating link that attracts committed candidates. I struggle with understanding the “why’s” of the lack of commitment to such a well-thought-out, needed ladder to the development of social and economic parity.

My personal commitment is to NOT TIRE, but to fight the apathy that previously plagued attempts to be solution oriented.

Very Best Regards,
Jerry W. Anderson
Founder/Executive Director

Power Partners

We are thrilled to introduce new partners joining this third program cycle and our second rehab project. Welcome to the following companies:

Pictured with Sutton Brothers staff is Do School grad Chandler Miller.

- **Genesis Solar Electric**
- **Kay Heating and HVAC**



And welcome back to:

- **Sutton Brothers**
- **Plyler Supply Company**

**A heartfelt Thank You
to each of you!**

Volunteer Opportunities

Got a day or some hours to give back to a worthy cause? Interested in giving of your time and expertise? If you have 2-4 hours available during the first two weeks of August, Monday-Friday, between the hours of 9:30 AM and 1:30 PM, please email us at info@thedo-school.org for more information.

<https://thedo-school.org/news-makers>

New Faces

And to wrap up this quarter’s news, we would like to introduce a couple of new faces onboard at The Do School. Please meet:

Site Supervisor

Jake Morgan, is the owner of his own construction company as well as the founder of a program for teens. Jake is a pastor, teacher, mentor, and builder with a passion for equipping young people with skills that bring meaning and purpose to their lives. He has owned and managed his company for 13 years, he has trained dozens of people in the various areas of construction, and has experience with remodels and new construction.



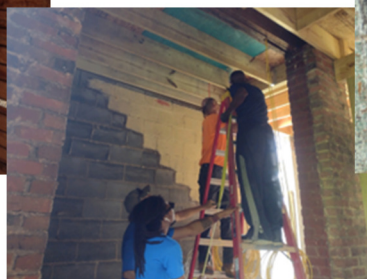
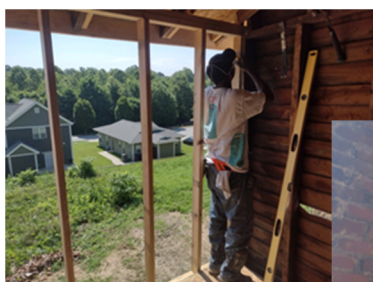
Board Director

Our newest board director is **Michael Thomas**, who has been involved with TDS since our inaugural event. Michael retired from Project Re-Entry, Goodwill Industries, and Piedmont Triad Regional Council last year. And he is the founder and Executive Director of 4 EVER REENTRY, Inc. Michael is devoted to bringing awareness to communities, organizations and law-enforcement agencies on the plights of the former offender populations, as well as, introducing strategies to break the recidivism cycles.



Learning Lab #2 Moving Right Along

The rehab of our second “learning lab” (1425 Underwood Avenue) is progressing at a steady pace in the summer heat here in Winston-Salem.



LIFE DO-OVERS *continued*

makes you think differently or act differently, you are applying what the experience taught you, which is a positive.

Get you before you get me; hurt you before (or because you) hurt me. What does this mindset really do for anyone? Does it elevate your thinking? Are you *really* in a better place after it's over?

Attitudes. I *really* want to do better. I *sincerely* want more for myself and my family. It may be a temporary sacrifice, but long term it's going to be so much better. I don't really want to do that, but it may give me the footing to do what I do want to do. I can use the skills and knowledge learned and apply it to various aspects of my life – and be a better person for it.

This opportunity that we offer catches the attention of many. The impact of the overall mission reaches far and wide. So many are willingly giving, so eagerly sowing into the vision, wanting to be a part of the solution or choosing to step into the shoes to take this ride.

Finish the “character-building program,” as it has been referred to by at least one former trainee. And do what? Exit the program prior to completion, and take what? Both outcomes can produce positive results. Depending on the person, the experiences, the motivations, the choices selected or decisions made, the mindset, and the ambitions of the individual, life's lemons can be made into lemonade.

Live Learning Experience. Imprints are made, seeds are sown, pathways lit, and roads are paved as we weave through the 20 weeks, which is minimal when thinking of life changes. But hopefully, it's enough to whet your whistle, stir up dreams and aspirations, and connect the dots leading to better, more, or different. How can we help you; we ask. How can we best assist you; others ask us. What do I need to do to change the current direction of my life, you may ask yourself. Is “this” enough; am I okay with things as they are? We all learn, and we all grow. We choose and do according to decisions made (consciously or subconsciously). The process may be more give than get, but we're hoping for more wins than losses. We don't know the magic formula, yet. But quit is not an option. Property will be renovated; new life. Cohorts will rotate through the various program training cycles; new leaves turned.

L I F E Do-Overs. *~*

Willette Mosby-Reynolds

