

# COLLABORATIONS

The DO SCHOOL Quarterly Newsletter

10th Edition, Vol. 1

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## Building Economic Empowerment

We are one of eight recipients of awards from the Building an Inclusive Economy grant program of the Black Philanthropy Initiative (BPI) of Winston-Salem. The Do School received \$15,000 for capacity building to assess impact and scale program offerings. To learn more about these grant awards: <https://www.bpiws.org/latest-news/inclusive-economy-grants-2023>.

## Community Grant News

We are also excited to be the recipient of a community grant from The Winston-Salem Foundation. This generous grant award of \$55,000 solidifies the position of site supervisor, while his expertise and mentoring skills will help transition our trainees to sustainable employment once the program training cycle has been completed. For the complete list of awardees: <https://www.wsfoundation.org/latest-news/community-grants-second-half-of-2023>.

*The Winston-Salem Foundation strengthens Forsyth County by inspiring giving and linking resources to action. For more than 100 years, the Foundation has partnered with generous community members to build a better future by providing grants and scholarships to nonprofits, students, and educators. The Foundation is also investing significant resources in advancing equity in education and building an inclusive economy to ensure that Winston-Salem can become a place where race no longer predicts life outcomes. The Foundation ended 2023 with more than \$660 million in assets and more than \$82 million in total grantmaking. Learn more at [wsfoundation.org](https://www.wsfoundation.org).*

## Message from the Executive Director



*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”*

- Margaret Mead

Several years back, my idea to create a program to provide a frequently overlooked segment of our community with the skills to improve their chances for sustainable employment began to develop form. The process could actually have been described as organic, as many necessary pieces of the puzzle gradually showed up in the most serendipitous way. Admittedly, the beginnings were wobbly. Many of us who now form the Board of Directors and staff had never met, however, there was a “golden thread” of desire among us to do our part in closing the economic equity gap in under-resourced communities, and the result: The Do School (TDS).

The mission/vision of TDS includes not only workforce development, but the possibility of contributing to the scarce affordable housing market and the aesthetic uplifting of neighborhoods through the renovation of distressed properties. Underwood Avenue (the site of two TDS training projects) has become a shining example of the impact that our work is having towards uplifting individual lives and neighborhoods that we serve. The first property was sold in early 2023, with proceeds from the sale returned to TDS to build sustainability in its program. The second property is predicted to go on the market by mid-February 2024.

*(Message from ED continued on Page 4)*

## Collaboration Beyond Boundaries

In October 2023 I had the honor of attending a nonprofit summit\* sponsored annually by the Segal Family Foundation for its grantees under its subsidiary foundation, Focus for Health. In addition to grants, the foundation provides “training, networking opportunities and on-going support to ensure grantees get the resources to drive success”. The summit certainly lived up to its billing!

This experience provided me the opportunity to spend quality time with TDS’ Executive Director, Jerry Anderson, and gave me a sense of pride in how well known he is among the many other organizations committed to doing good work in our communities. Focus for Health was an early supporter of The Do School mission and Jerry has attended each of these summits since TDS’ inception. It was rewarding to see him collaborating with not-for-profit leaders from all over the country!

The 2-day summit included break-out sessions with topics such as “Having a Meaningful Conversation with a Funder” and “Strategies to Ensure that My Nonprofit is Thriving Decades from Now”, led by professionals in the nonprofit field. There were many other opportunities to discuss with fellow attendees the challenges and successes in operating nonprofits.

We are extremely grateful to the Segal Family Foundation for its support of TDS and its commitment to “systems of change”. Thank you, Focus for Health and thank you to our executive director for consistently tapping into resources that enhance the success of The Do School.

Bill Ball, Board of Directors

\*Focus for Health Partnership Appreciation Summit  
Crystal Springs Resort, Hamburg, NJ

## Save the Date!

We are preparing for our annual **Year-in-Review Celebration** and hope you will plan to join us. On **Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 2:00 PM**, we will celebrate the accomplishments of the past year and recognize community collaborators working with us to build economic mobility in Winston-Salem. Keynote speaker for the event is **David Barksdale**, CEO and President of Piedmont Federal Savings Bank. Invitations will go out late February.

## Graduation Highlights

On Dec 9, **Carissa Provenzano** was recognized and celebrated for her dedication, performance and accomplishments during the program cycle. The program included remarks from Willette Mosby-Reynolds, operations manager; Jake Morgan, site supervisor; John Lenham, board chair; and Jerry Anderson, founder and executive director. Piedmont Federal volunteers were recognized for their day of service, and special recognition was given to our many community partners. In her comments, Carissa stated that the program had impacted her life in many ways and that she had learned many skills in construction and life. Described as possessing inner strength: willpower, self-discipline and staying power, Carrisa was congratulated and presented with a framed certificate of completion.



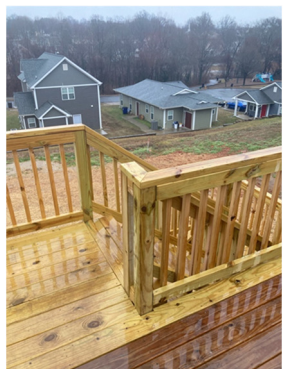
## Yearend Giving

Special thanks to everyone making any contribution during our yearend fundraiser. Because of you, we raised **\$25,975!** More to come in our annual report.



# Learning Lab #2: Market Ready

The photos below show LL2 at various stages of completion.



Above: A side view of LL1 from the landscaped driveway of LL2.



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

## Message from E.D. continued from Page 1

The Do School now represents multiple collaborative partnerships that have proven that no matter the size, groups of citizens of like minds can change lives, neighborhoods, and the towns they all love. Many thanks to all the partnerships that continue to contribute to the success of The Do School and the changes we are creating. Let's make 2024 a banner year!!!!

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

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## Community Impact Story

### "Our Neighbors Speak!"

There's a buzz in the neighborhood!

For two years Underwood Avenue has been the base of operation for the renovation of two distressed properties by The Do School. The neighbors have had many questions regarding such unusual activity around these properties that had been vacant for some time, giving us the opportunity to explain the work and mission of our program and invite their support. Several volunteered to participate in "cleanup day" and have remained vigilant and protective of activities surrounding the renovations.

Completion of the second property is imminent and there have been expressions of appreciation for the much-needed changes to their community. The Do School's Executive Director recently asked a few neighbors to share their reactions to this component of the TDS mission—to uplift and improve the aesthetics of neighborhoods.

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*"Having an organization such as yours in the community not only beautifies the neighborhood, but also helps its members with affordable living and a place they can call home. Multiple projects have been built around here, and it gives me a sense of pride and achievement seeing this neighborhood strive and shine thanks to your contributions. Thank you for your past, ongoing and future commitment. Keep up the amazing job!"*

Sadia

*"My wife and I have been residents of the Boston/Thurmond neighborhood for 20 years. The project that's spearheaded by the Do School has brought value to this neighborhood that's unprecedented, the care for the existing homes, while construction is underway is invaluable."*

Reggie

*"The revitalization that is taking place on Underwood Ave in Winston Salem is breathing new life and new purpose into a neighborhood that was hungry for change. As a new resident, I was amazed at the beauty that was created by the house that I purchased. I had always dreamed of owning my own home but never thought it could be reality. The blessing that came from The Do School and the amazing work they have done and continue to do not only allowed me a chance to make my dream a reality, it also allowed me a chance to be a part of a neighborhood with people that I've come to care so much about, as well as a chance to be a part of the future of so many wonderful things to come. I can't thank you enough for helping me achieve my dream."*

Alan

*"My family and I live in this neighborhood where in the past few months houses have been newly renovated. This project has been a great improvement for our neighborhood. From seeing old, abandoned houses to making them into someone's new home, just what the neighborhood needed. Indeed, it has welcomed new neighbors. We are glad to see this happen. And hopefully, more neighborhoods will continue to progress like ours has thanks to projects like The Do School."*

Juan

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We are so grateful to have had the interest, support and participation of our neighbors in TDS' projects. They form an important collaborative partnership and investment in continuing the upkeep of their homeplace.