

COLLABORATIONS

The DO SCHOOL Quarterly Newsletter

Third Edition, Vol. 1

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Featured on FOX8

On Wednesday, April 13th during the 7:00 AM and 5:00 PM news broadcasts, The Do School will be featured on FOX8. You will hear from board chair, John Lenham; founder and executive director, Jerry Anderson; and trainee, Kodjo Thon. Shout outs to The Winston-Salem Foundation and the Black Philanthropy Initiative for their awesome show of support!



Pictured above counterclockwise is staff: John Caesar, Jerry Anderson, John Lenham (board chair) and John Butterfield (top).

Milestone Moments

Since the last quarterly newsletter, lots of work has taken place at our learning lab. It is truly providing a **live** learning experience for all involved. It's been somewhat like creating another from the skeleton of the original with updates and improvements to bring it up to code.

- Interior layout re-designed with input from trainees and professionals for an efficient use of space.
- Structural features replaced with new materials (including major foundation work) with repairs scheduled for an orderly flow of work towards the next phase of renovation.
- Two contractors hired as part-time site supervisors to instruct trainees and maintain scheduling—embracing and enjoying the challenges of the program.
- We already have three new trainees working steadily and learning lots as they are hands-on in the deep of the work. If you know of others interested in the program, please direct them to our website's enrollment application form.

"The program has taught me how to critically think also teaching me the value of teamwork. The program is teaching me all the skills I need to be able to start on my own."

"I will use the problem-solving algorithm to process problems in the real world in every day situations."

Message from the Executive Director

Collaborative Living

The Do School celebrates Kodjo Thon as its first graduate.

Collaboration is most clearly understood when we consider our own limitations and how much more doable the task becomes when our network is included in the solution. TDS is gaining valuable insights into the needs of the community that we seek to serve. In just our first learning lab excursion, the data that has accumulated suggest that solutions to the needs of the cohort extend BEYOND the ability of a nonprofit geared to provide training in construction trades, can provide! When we assemble the capacities of capable partnering nonprofits, we WILL provide services to a variety of needs in a much more cost effective manner. It is high time that we work to convene a retreat of partnering nonprofits to maximize our strength and ability to serve one another.

Very Best Regards,

Jerry W. Anderson, Founder/Exec Dir

Realtor Notes

House hunting? As we gear up for an amazing spring season in the real estate world, it's important to get yourself prepared – just like spring cleaning – organize yourself to be ready to purchase a home! Some key points for standing out above everyone else:



Have all your financials ready for your lender – the easier it is to obtain the paperwork necessary, the quicker and more accurate your file will be with the chosen lender. Delaying the process of submitting your necessary documents, delays your opportunity to get that golden ticket: The Pre-Approval Letter

Have a list of home preferences – whether you need to be in a certain school area, or a desired distance for commuting for work, these are vital items your realtor needs to know. And, it may be helpful to categorize your list by needs and wants. It could help you more readily identify your perfect home.

Have open communication – with any type of relationship, communication is key. And when buying a home, be sure to have all members on your team communicate: lender, realtor, buyer.

Have patience – the market is hitting records in various ways, and we are all trying to prepare as best we can. The average home will have approximately 6-9 offers that the seller must choose from; which means that your lender and realtor will need to have all details to prepare the best offer. And even if your offer isn't selected the first time, don't worry! There are homes that hit the market daily!

Thinking through the above points will have you more prepared than most and make a difference in purchasing the home that is perfect for you.



Treasurer's Corner

Students, Partners and Friends of The Do School:

I am pleased to report that our financial position is strong. The compiled results of our first full year in operations will be released shortly. These results will show excellent momentum in gift giving and grants received, as well as prudent and

effective use of those valuable resources provided to The Do School.

For our fiscal yearend (February 28, 2022), we were delighted to receive \$107,200 in gifts and grants. With those funds, we acquired our first Learning Lab property, located at 1441 Underwood Avenue. We also paid almost \$16,000 in stipends directly to our student participants as they began to acquire construction skills during the upfit of this Learning Lab! Critical expenses for staff, trainers, insurance and other start-up costs left us with a cash balance at the end of February of more than \$46,000.

In addition to this, once we have completed the upfit of this Learning Lab, our friends in the local real estate brokerage business believe that we have excellent prospects to sell this property for a profit that will be plowed back into our program.

It is exciting to see our model is working, and we believe our solid financial results – especially for a new organization such as ours – bears out our continued optimism.

Thank you to everyone who has been, or will be, a part of our success!

Bill Ball, Treasurer

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Transformation

The rebirth of a property

The pictures below show a glimpse of what has taken place over these past couple of months:

- New roofing—almost a total do-over of what was there when the work began.
- Foundation repair to a damaged corner of the house.
- New framework for walls, windows and doors throughout.
- New windows and doors installed to the front of the house.

Special Thanks: Partner Power!

We could not do what we do without collaborations like these:

- **Plyler Supply Company, Inc.**
- **Smith Phillips Building Supply**





Graduation

On Saturday, April 9th, we celebrated the end of the first 20-week program cycle and honored this history-making cohort. **Kodjo Thon** was commended for his accomplishments. Also recognized for their time in the program were Jerome Peterson, Demantre Blango and Pamela Washington, who began this journey with Kodjo.

Forever part of our history, Kodjo is the first to complete the Do School's program. He came highly recommended by a career coach for FTCC and Carver High School.

After words of encouragement from those in attendance, Kodjo expressed gratitude for the character-building program (as well as construction skills). He was presented with a framed certificate of completion and a watch. His career plans include becoming a realtor and also returning to the Do School to lead new trainees in specific tasks he learned while enrolled in the Do School's program. *We wish him all the best!* ∞



"Collaboration, as bedrock, has the power to assemble capacity of unimaginable strength to perform ...regardless of the task."

~Jerry Anderson

★ Donor Display

We are grateful to be the recipient of generous donations from the following companies:

- Lowe's Home Improvement
- Knollwood Baptist Church

Note: We are just as thankful for the donations we continue to receive from individuals and families. **THANK YOU!**

Stay Tuned

The work carries on. The Do School continues to move forward with the mission "To inspire and promote collaboration in training a capable and sustainable workforce in underserved communities." Transforming lives, families, homes and communities.

Building upward mobility!



The Can Do Crew

Pictured above is site supervisor John Butterfield (at the top), site supervisor John "Penny" Caesar (on the ladder) and the crew from left to right is Kodjo Thon, Malik Thomas, Abdul Derios and Chandler Miller.

Currently, the crew is working inside the property on framework and completing window installations.