

# COLLABORATIONS

The DO SCHOOL Quarterly Newsletter

Sixth Edition, Vol. 1

## Ring in 2023



### In this issue:

- Ringing in 2023!
- Grant Recipient
- Message from the ED
- Donor Display
- Spectrum TV Feature
- Featured on WXII-12
- Learning Lab #1 Photos

The start of a new year signals new beginnings of so many dimensions. And we hear buzz words like resolutions, fresh start, makeover, relaunch, reinvention, rebranding, brand new me, etc. Around the various conversations at The Do School we're keeping top of mind and front and center "better business/more prepared." After discussions of lessons learned from our pilot program, rehab project and training efforts, we are encouraged and ready to roll up our sleeves, put on our work boots and jump right in, again. Thank you for your support. *✍️*

## Community Grant Recipient!

TDS is excited to announce that we are the recipient of a community grant. **The Winston-Salem Foundation** has awarded **The Do School** a grant of \$55,000 to continue to strengthen its training program by hiring a dedicated site supervisor to help move our trainees to sustainable employment upon completion of the program training cycle.

**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 local 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 2021 with more than \$770 million in assets and almost \$79 million in total grantmaking. Learn more at [wsfoundation.org](https://wsfoundation.org). *✍️*

## Message from the Executive Director



### Sustaining Our Program

The vision of the Do School (TDS) is to demonstrate the transcendent effects of our model throughout the community—a model which invites full participation in and the sharing of resources.

We chose the construction industry as the bridge to the creation of more opportunities in sustainable employment for residents in targeted, under-resourced communities. In doing so, we have cultivated strong relationships with companies that specialize in the licensed trades, who have contributed significantly to the currencies of hands-on training, donations of supplies, building materials, and equipment, as well as financial support.

The Do School's collaborative model is reaching into institutions that are not directly connected to the construction industry but are committed to the change that it drives. As an example, residents of the Boston-Thurmond neighborhood (a targeted community) have donated equipment, labor and enormous moral support to this pilot.

Finally, the sale of the completely renovated home to a first-time homeowner will yield a Return-on-Investment that will allow us to repeat the process.

(REFER to Message from ED continued on Page 2)

## Message from E.D. continued

We have learned that the community is desperately seeking solutions to the challenges brought on by the lack of skillsets that allow for sustainable, lucrative employment to create value on the scale of economic equity. Affordable housing, increases in cost of living, and deteriorating family life beg for answers in this widening inequity. As our ability to reach the community-at-large increases through aggressive marketing initiatives and positive exposure from foundations, media and testimonials, support has and will continue to grow in meeting the goals of our self-sustaining approach.

Having learned firsthand the need for a comprehensive learning approach to successful workforce development, we have joined forces with larger nonprofits with missions and visions that speak directly to services TDS cannot provide. We are confident that as we grow our organization, these learned experiences will serve us well and invite more collaborative partnerships on this journey.

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

## Donor Display

We are always honored and humbled to be the recipient of generous donations from our "community of support." This quarter, we recognize:

- **Hope Presbyterian Church**
- And our village of individual and family supporters!

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

*"The Do School has created a hands-on laboratory in which not only the students have learned, but all community members who have participated ..."*

*"First-time home buyers get a home and a pathway to establishing wealth is created. The neighborhood gets a new house and neighborhood beautification is underway. It is a total win-win!"*

## Featured on Spectrum TV

On Tuesday, December 13th, during the evening news broadcast, The Do School was featured on Spectrum TV. Recent graduate and now an employee of Sutton Brothers, Chandler Miller spoke about his learning experience while at TDS. He commended site supervisor John Butterfield Williamson for his guidance and he also thanked Sutton Brothers for his current opportunity.

Jerry Anderson, founder and executive director, mentioned how the process used in renovating the current "learning lab" will be used and built upon during the renovation of the next learning lab, which is just down the street from the first.

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

## Featured on WXII 12

On Thursday, December 15th, The Do School was featured on WXII 12.

In this news segment, Anderson tells how his vision took shape and how a request to a long-time friend in 1998 formed the basis for The Do School as it functions today.

The focus is to train men and women with skills so that they have opportunities to sustainable jobs with good wages. And at the same time have a beautiful home made available to a first-time homebuyer."

Board Chair John Lenham stated the process is completed when trainees have an opportunity to interview and hopefully be hired by one of our construction trades partners.

## Learning Lab #1 Photos

*The pictures below show some of this quarter's updates. But we do not want to discount the individuals who labored this past year to make this house a home. Thanks to all trainees, site supervisors, general contractors and licensed trade professionals.*

*Painting, Flooring & Light Fixtures/Fans*



*Cabinets, Countertops & Appliances*



### EXTERIOR:

*Gutters, porch railings, driveway & walkway, wraparound deck and steps.*

