

COLLABORATIONS

The DO SCHOOL Quarterly Newsletter 11th Edition, Vol. 1

Do School Office

In this issue:

- Do School Office
- Year-in-Review Highlights
- Focus for Health Grant Award
- Message from the Exec Director
- New Property, Next Cohort

We are thrilled to announce that we now have a home of our own. Please stop by 11 Brookstown Avenue on Wednesday, August 21, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM for our open house. Drop in to see our new home, hear more about Do School collaborations, and share your passions and interests with us. We hope you will lock arms with us and together we will make greater impact right here in Winston-Salem.

Year-in-Review Highlights

As we wrapped up our third fiscal year of operation, we celebrated with our annual event, which acknowledges accomplishments, recognizes partners and donors and features an inspiring keynote message. David P. Barksdale, President and CEO of Piedmont Federal Bank inspired those in attendance on March 6th, with his message and call to action. Announcements included our second rehabbed property being placed on the market. It has now been sold and is home to a new homeowner in the Boston-Thurmond community.

Note: Following this event, the annual report was emailed to funders, donors and partners, and is also posted to our website.

Focus for Health Grant Award

The Do School is honored to announce that we are once again the recipient of a \$25,000 grant from Focus for Health Foundation of Warren, NJ. The foundation was among the very first supporters of our vision and in addition to grants, provides connections to its extensive network of professionals for advice and best practices in building and strengthening our organization. This grant supports Do School’s continuing mission of training a sustainable workforce.

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.

Message from the Executive Director



“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”

~Barack Obama

We saw a need and created a vision, and The Do School came to be, along with a cadre of believers!

As we embark upon a fourth year of operation, COLLABORATION remains the centerpiece of our perseverance and the phenomenal progress we’ve made. Our dedicated Board of Directors and staff are inspired by the support of our collaborative partnerships of donors in every aspect of our operation—monetary, in-kind, voluntary, and the endless advice for and championing of our cause.

(ED’s Message continued on Page 2.)

New Property, Next Cohort

In the weeks ahead you will hear more about our incoming cohort and the property selected for the next live learning lab experience.

Cohort #4 kicked off on Monday, July 15th, with an overview and program expectations. The current CAN DO Crew is: Cedric Archie, Robert Cain, Wesley Hepler and Andrea Matthews. And returning for a deeper dive into the skills trades is Carissa Provenzano. Their first week focused on an intro to the construction trades and the completion of several basic construction safety courses. Week two got them started with the hands-on experience, which is the primary component of our program. They each demonstrated the proper use of power tools, specifically saws. Our crew will also have new construction exposure as we partnered with Habitat Forsyth and worked alongside their volunteers and staff on a new build project.

We are excited about the potential and opportunities that lie ahead for each trainee and for the property that will provide their live learning lab experience. As we delve into hands-on skills training at house #3 with cohort #4, we invite you to stay tuned to upcoming communications and visit our website for updates. ✍



Message from E.D. continued from Page 1

Lessons learned, the greatest of which might be patience in the process, have been as impactful toward our growth as the successes we have notched. The challenges have been long in existence and extensive in depth but “we are the change that we seek”!

Our primary focus during the next learning lab cycle is in strengthening the cohort candidacy pool through our partnership with the Winston-Salem Rescue Mission and delivering workforce-ready, entry-level prospects to our partners in the construction industry.

An important development in our progress as we continue our move forward is that The Do School now has a permanent home! We are forever grateful to Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County for having provided training and meeting facilities during our startup period and to Sunnyside Millwork for generously donating our new home.

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time.”

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

