

# COLLABORATIONS

The DO SCHOOL Quarterly Newsletter

Fifth Edition, Vol. 1

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## One Year Ago

On October 16, 2021, the Do School “opened” via a clean-up day event to clear out the newly acquired property that would serve as the initial learning lab for a program offering construction trade skills to individuals from underserved communities. As we near that same date, one year later, so much has taken place. In retrospect, a house of almost 100 years has taken on a new life, several individuals have learned construction trade skills, many collaborations have been formed and strong relationships have been built. Looking ahead, we

see the sale and presentation of a new home to a first-time homebuyer, and new neighbors for a new family. The Do School will continue to identify program candidates who will once the program is completed, seek sustainable employment with incomes capable of building value for their families. The program’s model offers much to individuals and communities. We welcome your support and feedback as we strive to reach higher levels. *✉*

## New Partners!

Recognizing new **POWER PARTNERS!** We are honored to announce that the following businesses have joined forces with us and given of time, talent, treasures, services, and/or supplies to join TDS in the rehab of our first live learning lab.

- ◆ Piedmont Disposal & Recycling
- ◆ Home Depot
- ◆ The Budd Group
- ◆ Styron Floor Covering

*Thank you for taking this journey with us!* *✉*

## Message from the Executive Director

From the graduation of our first DO SCHOOL training class to the near culmination of the renovation of our first “learning lab/home,” our Board of Directors and staff are discovering new, innovative approaches in each of the systems that guide this pilot.

In a very short timeframe since its launch a year ago, one young trainee has been hired at Sutton Brothers, a plumbing company that has been a partner with DO SCHOOL from its inception. With this success and proof of the viability of collaborative partnerships in building economic equity, we invite the participation of other community resources in expanding the vision to address a critical disparity in our community.

The next rung on this economic mobility ladder is to make the home available to a first-time homeowner from an under-resourced community. Just as important, our model will use the net proceeds of the home sale towards the sustainability and growth of the program.

**AS WE UPLIFT EACH OTHER, WE UPLIFT OUR COMMUNITY.**

Please visit our website ([thedo-school.org](http://thedo-school.org)), get to know and join us in strengthening our community!!

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

**Website:** [www.thedo-school.org](http://www.thedo-school.org)

**Phone Number:** 336-934-1295

**Email:** [info@thedo-school.org](mailto:info@thedo-school.org)

## Community Impact

**Sutton Brothers Heating, Cooling and Plumbing**, located in Kernersville, was honored to be part of the initial learning lab project on Underwood Avenue! The transformation of this house from uninhabitable to fully restored and ready for ownership was very fulfilling for our company! We provided two of our experienced plumbers, who then guided the Do School students through the various plumbing tasks needed for a “rough in.” These tasks included setting the drainage, establishing water lines and installing the water heater. An added task for this project also included re-digging the outside water main. This was “hands on” training for these students and gave them a real-life experience in the skills needed for a career in plumbing. One of the Do School students was subsequently hired by Sutton Brothers as a plumbing apprentice. Chandler has a very bright future with us!



**Sutton Brothers** is a locally owned heating/cooling and plumbing company owned by Jim and Jack Sutton. The company works with a number of national builders and provides its services for new home construction. It also provides heating/cooling and plumbing services to individual home owners in the Triad area.

Jim and Jack both have a very strong commitment to community involvement and support! Their *Sutton Cares* program has donated thousands of dollars to local nonprofits over the years! Working with the Do School on the Underwood Avenue project had several positive community contributions! It allowed students to have a hands-on experience that began to develop plumbing skills, it will provide a first-time homeowner the chance to own a fully refurbished house, and it resulted in the hiring of a student! A win/win/win situation for all involved.

**Sutton Brothers** looks forward to future opportunities to partner with the **Do School** as it continues to refurbish homes, train its students and provide first-time home ownership.



To learn more about Sutton Brothers, visit [www.suttonbros.com](http://www.suttonbros.com).

*Submitted by Jim Sutton, co-owner.*

**"To inspire and promote collaboration in training a capable and sustainable workforce in under-served communities."**

MISSION STATEMENT

## Boston-Thurmond Neighborhood

The Do School is located in the Boston-Thurmond neighborhood and works to impact the economic mobility of under-resourced individuals while also improving the aesthetics of the community and offering affordable housing in our City.



Scan the following QR code with the camera on your cell phone to watch a video provided by **Boston-Thurmond United**, a partner of TDS, who shares current initiatives that are happening in the neighborhood.



Poem by  
Robert Blankenship

### What Makes A House A Home

The home in which I grew  
Where I was taught to do that which I should  
Was held together by love  
And everything that's good

It's floors were supported strong  
By tenderness and caring  
And it's roof was held in place  
By the gentle act of sharing

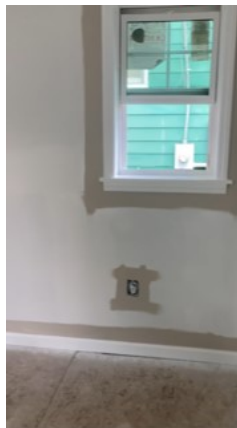
It's walls stood strong and firm  
Never were they shaken  
Strength is gained by what you give  
Not by what you have taken

A home is so much more  
Than wood and nails and stone  
It is made of truth, love, caring and sharing  
These things , they make a house a home



## Closer and Closer Still

Though still not quite finished, we are closer. The following provides a pictorial of the most recent progress. The insulation and drywall was installed and walls have been painted. The landscaping has begun with driveway and walkway formed and soon to be completed.∞



## August Graduation

On Saturday, August 6th, we celebrated the culmination of the program for **Abdul Derios, Chandler Miller** and **Malik Thomas**, the second group of trainees. Also in attendance was **Kodjo Thon**, first gradate of the Do School's program. Jerry Anderson, founder and executive director, and John Lenham, board chair, kicked off the program.



Claude Sales, project superintendent at Frank L Blum, told the graduates to take advantage of *every opportunity* and work hard *every day* ...and it will pay off, changing their lives and their family's.

Kevin Miller, executive director of the Ezra Charitable Trust Foundation, spoke briefly to those in attendance from the topic "This Wondrous Journey, that is the Do School." He asked the group to ponder the three questions he often asks himself. 1) Ask not just what am I doing for the Do School, but what is the Do School doing in me? 2) What am I learning in the lab (not just what the four of you have learned, but what am I learning)? And finally, 3) What is the way forward? His thought-provoking message prompted reflection, self-assessment and action.

The reception was well attended by our community partners. We heard comments from Jim Sutton of Sutton Brothers, Joey Millikan of Superior Mechanical, Inc. as well as Clay Fielding, a life coach who facilitates in the program's life-skills series. Our graduates received Certificates of Completion and watches. ⌘



Abdul, Chandler & Malik

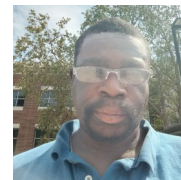
## Advice to the Next Cohort

When asked what advice would you give to the incoming crew, the recent grads had the following to share.



**Chandler**, shared this: *"My advice to the next class is for them to just stay focused, be on time, keep a positive attitude, and seize every opportunity."*

**Abdul**, had this to share: *"My advice for the next Do School crew is to always come with a positive attitude and be open minded to learn something new."*



**Kodjo**, had this advice: *"My advice to the next crew is take your time and actually learn the information that's being taught. This program can really take you far."*

Interested in being part of this program, learning new skills, changing the trajectory of your life? Apply online.



## Seeking Collaborators

The Do School joins the forces of its collaborative relationships to reach our goals of transforming neighborhoods through the renovation of distressed properties and transforming the lives of individuals through construction trade and life skills training.

As we approach the completion of our first renovation project, we acknowledge our collaborative partners and the role each has played: from services, contributions and building materials, to instruction and hands-on experiences delivered in our “live” learning lab.

***We welcome new collaborators to join us!*** Don't have a construction-related business or construction skills to share? There are many other opportunities and avenues to consider in a collaborative partnership with the Do School. To highlight a few: much needed financial contributions, recommendations for learning lab site supervisor, recruitment recommendations for trainees, volunteerism, and other services that support our trainees as they focus on entering the job market.

The Do School is a 501(c)(3) organization with all contributions tax deductible and giving is easy. You may contribute through our website <https://thedo-school.org/donate> or send your donation by mail to The Do School, PO Box 1731, Winston-Salem, NC 27102. Or contact us via email: [info@thedo-school.org](mailto:info@thedo-school.org).

We hope you will consider coming alongside us as we prepare for 2023.

Thank you!

John Lenham, Board Chairman  
(on behalf of the Do School Board)✉



From our Board of Directors: During this last quarter of 2022 and the upcoming holiday season, we send warm wishes to you and your family!

Indigenous Peoples' Day, Diwali, American Indian Heritage Month,

Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Native American Heritage Day,

Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa.