

COLLABORATIONS

The DO SCHOOL Quarterly Newsletter

Ninth Edition, Vol. 1

Legacy

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What will you leave behind? Will it be a legacy of service to others, your strong work ethic, your core values, your positive disposition, the way you cared for others, deeds you did, your faith, your money, other assets, or something else? Your level of involvement (or influence) along with your ability to bring about desired change (impact) has more value than you may have realized. A few years back, we heard the slogan “be the change you want to see.” Well, in today’s environment,

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Volunteer Spotlight

Special recognition is given to employees of **Piedmont Federal Savings Bank** for their day of volunteer service at live learning lab #2 on Tuesday, August 8th. Michele Mitchell was instrumental in organizing this team of volunteers who actually helped to replace exterior walls.

Thanks, Piedmont Federal! We appreciate you!.



Important Dates to Remember:

Saturday, **Nov. 4, 2023**—
Graduation Reception

Sunday, **Nov. 19, 2023**—
Third Anniversary for The
Do School

Thursday & Friday,
Nov. 23-24, 2023—
Thanksgiving Holiday
Days Off

Tuesday, **Nov. 28, 2023**—
Giving Tuesday

Final program training day
for the year—
Friday **Dec. 15, 2023**

Message from the Executive Director



As the Do School completes its third year of service, we are committed more than ever to the task of uplifting fellow citizens who are seeking second chances to elevate their economic status through sustainable employment. Training, the service we provide, is our perspective on supporting this goal.

Our mission remains that of collaborative connections that engage the ENTIRE COMMUNITY with outcomes that contribute to economic equity and benefit all. The model, as initially envisioned, has been proven strongly doable and we are accountable to our perspective of meeting the necessary changes to uplift lives.

Over the past three months I have taken the story and mission of Do School to educators in Oregon and California at the invitation of Jim Wolfston, Vice Chair of the Do School and CEO of CollegeNET. These events placed an intense light on the need for ACTION in economic mobility and the importance of educational institutions’ part in moving the “equity needle.” Our model has at its core, the participation of all segments

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“3-for-\$300 Challenge”

The board and staff of TDS would like to ask you to join us in the “3-for-\$300 Challenge.” You are probably asking what is that? Well, thank you for asking.

On November 19th, the Do School will celebrate three years in existence and directly in the Boston-Thurmond neighborhood of Winston-Salem. We are excited about our accomplishments for these formative years. This year, **Giving Tuesday** will be recognized on November 28th. And we all know that this final quarter of the year automatically turns many thoughts and efforts towards giving back and yearend giving. We’re hopeful TDS will be among your considerations for how you can make a positive difference and impact economic mobility, right here in our beautiful city.

This challenge specifically asks you to partner (or collaborate as we often do) with two other individuals, and each give \$100, which increases the overall gift to \$300, while acknowledging our 3 year anniversary ... and contributing to our win-win-win philosophy of transforming lives, properties and communities.

Our goal is to raise \$30,000 to go towards the next program training cycle and the renovation of “live learning lab” #3. Want to join us? If interested, go to our website (www.thedo-school.org), scroll down to the **Quick Links** about midway down the homepage, and click on the **PayPal Giving Fund** button to give. No fees are charged. You receive receipt of your donation, we receive notification of your gift, and the funds are available. Let’s go — **“300 Strong!”**

Please Note: This is just one way to give. You are welcomed and encouraged to give however is most convenient to you (e.g. another donor-advised fund or via check to PO Box 1731, Winston-Salem, NC 27102). And gifts of more or less than the above outlined challenge are also acceptable.☺

Graduation Highlights

On August 26, we recognized our *first female graduate*, **LaSonya Renee Jones!** This reception was attended by several of our community partners, and we heard comments from many to include the family of the honoree. The program started with words from Jerry Anderson, founder and executive director, John Lenham, board chair, and our site supervisor, Jake Morgan, who summarized “The experience.”

Renee was recognized for completing the 20-week training cycle, which means she completed more than 500 training hours, and for faithful and dedicated attendance (only 1 absence). She was described as resilient with strong determination and thanked “for giving us a reason to celebrate.” For her accomplishments during the electrical practical assessment, Renee was presented with an apprentice set of electrical tools, given by Kevin Candelora of Genesis Solar Electric.

Though she’s completed the program, Renee agreed to remain on for awhile to help in the completion of the rehab of LL2 (our live learning lab or second rehab property).



LaSonya Renee Jones is pictured above surrounded by community partners : Sandra Fishel-Booth, Susan Frye, Kevin Miller, Clay Fielding and Do School board and staff.

Learning Lab #2: Where We Are

During this past quarter, we have completely replaced external walls and finished the mechanical rough-ins, rear deck, foundation stucco and paint, windows and supports to the unfinished basement storage space, vinyl siding, wall and ceiling insulation, and drywall. We've even had the huge tree cut down out front. It's been exciting to watch LL2 take shape.



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

The CAN DO Crew *in action!*

Pictured below are Renee Jones, Carissa Provenzano, Bill Price (part-time staff) and Jake Morgan (site supervisor).



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of the community and there could not be a more obvious role for this segment of our community to make a significant impact.

Within Institutions of higher learning are the tools/resources—both in educators and students—that speak to accountability to the communities in which they reside. More important is the opportunity to engage younger generations in bridging the chasm of inequity as part of the college experience. There is a need to extinguish existing town/gown stereotypes of operating in separate silos and join forces with community efforts for inclusion, especially for those who have chosen paths other than a 4-year college degree.

I look forward to working together with our outstanding local educational institutions in the year ahead to address this critical issue!

In this season of giving, the words of Mahatma Gandhi is a reminder of the benefits of giving: “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others”.

Best wishes as we approach a new year!

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



Summing Up Year 2023

As we approach the end of 2023 and the completed renovation of our second property, we want to 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: Kay Heating and Air Conditioning, Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County, Sutton Brothers, Genesis Solar Electric, Plyler Supply Company, CollegeNet, Sunbelt Rentals, Sunnyside Millwork, Smith Phillips Building Supply, The Budd Group, Twin City Development Foundation, The Winston-Salem Foundation, Truist Foundation, Focus for Health, Piedmont Federal Savings Bank, Frank L Blum Construction, Sir Speedy, Winston-Salem Tees, and several private donors. Thank you!



From our Board of Directors: During this last quarter of 2023 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. *JWA*

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this still rings true. And believe it or not, being involved in some way with the Do School can initiate or continue that path to positive change. My mother used to sing a song with the words “then my living shall not be in vain.” The name of the song is actually “If I Can Help Somebody.” And that is only part of her legacy to her family, that we carry forward each day and across four generations. As you step into a partnership with the Do School, on any level, whether intrinsic or cursory, sharing your legacy with the Do School could help elevate your family, give you satisfaction in knowing you’ve helped someone else, and/or ultimately impact the bigger picture. *JWA*

(Willette Mosby-Reynolds)