

COLLABORATIONS

The DO SCHOOL Quarterly Newsletter

2nd Edition, Vol. 2

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Honoring Barry Aaron Segal

March 14, 1935 – April 16, 2025

Barry Segal, philanthropist extraordinaire, and founder of Focus for Health (FFH) under the umbrella of Segal Philanthropies, was known world-wide for his generosity and care for those in need. In late 2020, The Do

School was given the opportunity to present to Mr. Segal, its vision to train men and women of historically underserved communities in construction skills in the very early stages of our non-profit. He became an instant supporter of the vision and consistently approved grants through the FFH Foundation as well as access to professional advisors in all phases of non-profit development. Barry will forever live in our memories as followers of his belief in “backing the bold ideas of local leaders.”

The Board of Directors and staff of The Do School extend heartfelt condolences to the family of Barry Segal and to the extensive “family” that he believed in and provided generous support and care.

Highlights: Year-in-Review Celebration



This year’s celebration was hosted at Frank L Blum Headquarters. The 2025 annual event featured a dynamic message from LaTida Smith, president and CEO of the Winston-Salem Foundation. She reminded everyone of the importance of

stories in strengthening our communities and how our stories help to shape our legacy because of the lasting impacts our stories create. We also heard encouraging and inspiring remarks from Mayor Pro Tem Denise D. Adams, Council Member Annette Scippio, and power partners Ed Robertson, Branch Manager of Sunbelt Rentals, and Jim Sutton, co-owner of Sutton Brothers.

Special recognition was given to *all* donors and partners of TDS with particular appreciation extended to Piedmont Federal Savings Bank for the many ways they have contributed, including groups of volunteers who worked on learning lab #3.

Message from the Executive Director



Jerry Anderson welcomes guest columnist, Kevin Miller’s thoughts on “**The Transcendent Effects of Cross-Class, Cross Culture on Economic Connectedness**”

In a story for the Winston Salem Foundation, (www.wsfoundation.org/stories/the-do-school) our Founder and Executive Director, Jerry Anderson succinctly explained The Do School’s (TDS) core program.

No doubt, TDS’ core program of training and upskilling men and women in construction trades can be powerfully transformative for those trained, potentially leading to increased earnings and perhaps ownership of a trades business. In addition to the acquisition of construction skills and “soft skills,” developing a personal discipline of timeliness, integrity and hard work is something more needed to unlock or unleash the potential for transformation in the lives of our graduates. The key to unlocking their potential may well be the same key that unlocked the potential of the Do School itself.

(Message from ED continued on Page 4)

The Current CAN DO Crew

The start of the program training cycle for our fifth class started on April 21, 2025. The current class consists of all males and their ages range from 18 to 38. The class of 2025 includes the first father-son duo. **Romeo (Rome) Hall** and **Romeo Hall, Jr.** actually volunteered onsite between program cycles and waited for the April kickoff. They were joined by Edward Sloan, **Antonio Adams, Jr.** and **Joshua Borders**.

Antonio, the youngest of four siblings, is seeking to create his own path and is particularly interested in carpentry. He feels this program will help increase his skills, confidence, and credibility in the trade. Antonio does not mind working hard or stepping up to get the job done.

Josh, who is also a student at Guildford Technical Community College (construction management program), is ready for a firm footing to move him into his next level. He is seeking to sharpen skills and knowledge by participating in these hands-on projects of the Do School's program. Josh has a part-time job in addition.

Rome, father of two boys, enjoys the hands-on experiences in the program. He is focused on obtaining the most from this training opportunity and landing a decent paying job with his new skills. Rome is the senior member of the class and leads by example.

Romeo, the youngest of the crew, also likes the hands-on experiences offered by the program and is interested in gathering as many skills as possible in the construction trades. Though quiet in the classroom/learning lab, Romeo, is listening, learning, and doing what needs to be done.

Wondering what CAN DO stands for? Ask any of our cohort members. Or visit our website: <https://thedo-school.org/mission-statement>.

The current 4-man crew is scheduled to graduate on Saturday, **September 13** at noon. Please **save the date** and look for the detailed announcement closer to the date.



Cohort with Ned Erickson, Piedmont Federal, for financial literacy sessions.

Cohort with Clay Fielding, certified life coach and life skills facilitator.

Economic Impact Report



A new economic impact report produced by the Center for the Study of Economic Mobility (CSEM) of Winston-Salem State University suggests that the Do School has a very large positive economic impact on the community and its trainees. An economist with CSEM estimates that for every \$1 spent by the Do School, there is an economic benefit of between \$8.50 and \$10.90, implying a very high benefit to cost ratio. Trainees can expect to see their average annual pay increase from between \$5,000 and \$15,000 annually for the rest of their careers and the Do School completion rate is in line with national averages. Trainees also receive stipends during their training period, allowing them to graduate from the program without incurring additional debt. The work undertaken by trainees to rehabilitate homes increase property values and taxes, providing first-time home buyers with exceptional value and the city and county with much needed property tax revenues.✂

Commercial Break

Listed below are some brief mentions of impactful moments:

- ❑ The 2024-2025 **Annual Report** was published in April and is posted to our website (www.thedo-school.org).
- ❑ In April, The Do School (TDS) staff participated in a very successful **Resource Fair** sponsored by and held at **Forsyth County Probation and Parole** for Officers to learn more about community resources available to probationers and their families.
- ❑ TDS board and staff attended **The Winston-Salem Foundation's Community Meeting** held in May and featured Dr Raj Chetty.
- ❑ TDS staff and cohort were featured in a **Piedmont Federal commercial segment** that first aired on WXII-12 in May.
- ❑ TDS staff attended **Black Philanthropy Initiative's Espresso YoSelf** event in June. The event, which provides space for BPI grantees and local changemakers to connect and engage in a shared learning experience, was held at the Delta Arts Center.
- ❑ TDS's learning lab #3 (1118 Motor Road) was placed on the market late June and closing will be completed before this quarterly newsletter is distributed.
- ❑ The July **Associates Social** of the **Home Builders Association of Winston-Salem** was hosted at Piedmont Federal and featured TDS board and staff sharing The Do School story with the members.
- ❑ The **Winston-Salem Journal** article (7/22/2025) "Call To Action" featured the story of the origin, vision and work of The Do School in a question/answer format with founder and Executive Director, Jerry Anderson.
- ❑ The Do School's **Economic Impact Report**, produced by **WSSU/CSEM**, was completed and will be posted to our website (July).
- ❑ TDS was featured in **Piedmont Federal's Community Impact** email communications just last week (July).✂

New Faces

We would like to welcome the following:

- **Sandra E. Gaskell**, SVP Risk and Compliance at Piedmont Federal, serving as Secretary of the Board
- **Sabrina Stowe**, Community Assistance Liaison for the East Ward at the City of Winston-Salem, serving as a Board Director.✂



Live Learning Experience

The primary project for this training cycle has been new construction, although the crew did do minor repair work on the LL3 rehab. The new construction experience, an unattached two-car garage with a carport, was built from a concrete slab up, requiring exposure to skills including wall framing, building window and door headers, and the installation of windows, doors, roofing and siding. The cohort will also learn painting skills before completing the project.



Message from E.D. (continued from Page 1)

From my vantage point The Do School transformed from a mere idea to reality in large part because of intentional *risk-taking* by a group of men and women, local businesses, banks, and foundations *to build and eventually forge relationships* across culture and class, to learn from, listen to and argue with, share connections and perspectives, as well as time, treasure, talent with and work alongside one another, not for profit, but truly for the common good. The cross-class and cross-culture collaboration across TDS staff, volunteers, board members and partners has multiplied the social capital and resources that would otherwise not be available to such a young organization. Not to be overlooked, however, is perhaps a more important transcendent effect from this exercise in risk-taking collaboration: for at least some of the risk-takers, *they* have been transformed by new insights from and new relationships and 'economic connectedness' with other risk-takers.

"Economic connectedness"—friendships across class lines—may be a means to or, perhaps, even necessary to unleashing the potential of our graduates and catalyzing their economic mobility and, also, the means to unleashing all our graduates have to offer to friends from other classes, cultures, and backgrounds. TDS welcomes your help in forging connections and friendships with us and our graduates and apprentices.

(Message from ED continued on Page 5)

Message from E.D. (continued from Page 4)

In closing, TDS has been given an opportunity to model our risk-taking friendships for our current group of students, while affording them a social event that few of them have ever experienced. TDS has been given a box at the Panthers/Buccaneers football game and transportation to the game through a friend of TDS. At worst, it should be a fun and exciting outing and an opportunity for TDS’ friends and partners to spend time with the apprentices. But it could be much more—without scripting or “putting on airs.” It could be a beautiful, inspiring display of genuine friendship and “economic connectedness” among the original TDS *risk-takers* and, for some of these risk-takers, the beginning of friendship and connectedness with the apprentices.

Kevin L. Miller
Of Counsel at Ezrah Charitable Trust



C - Collaboration.

A - Accountability

N - iNnovation

D - Dependability

O - Optimism



THE END