



Spring 2017

ZENA'S HOUSE, INC.

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Spring Break Experience 2017 Tuskegee U, Alabama State U, and more!

Thanks to our wonderful sponsors and faithful supporters, Zena's House was able to reinstate one of our signature programs entitled Project Exposure (PE). PE exposes students to worlds unknown to them, and provide opportunities that might not be available otherwise. We believe exposure opens student's eyes to all the great things they can become and do! To date, we have exposed students to the theater, higher education Institutions and international travel to Ghana, West Africa. This year we were able to take 38 students to visit Tuskegee University (TU), the Civil Rights Memorial Center, and Alabama State University (ASU). Nine chaperones accompanied our students. Parents and mentors took advantage of this opportunity quickly. Within 3 weeks of advertising, the bus was full! The trip consisted of middle and high school students with a handful of 5th graders. We started the day with check-in at Ombudsman Educational Services in Union City, GA. We were pleasantly surprised with a visit from the Mayor of Union City, Vince Williams. He came to wish us well and send us off with prayer! We then boarded the 55-passenger bus from Friendship Tours and hit the road! A special thanks to McDonalds (Mr. Ben Alston) for supplying our chicken breakfast sandwiches and hash browns.

We arrived at Tuskegee in 1.5 hours. Our TU tour guide, Kenyatta, met us at the Booker T. Washington Lifting the Veil of Ignorance Monument, and our tour began. We walked around the campus and received a powerful historical tour. We visited the burial site of Booker T. Washington and George Carver. He showed us the female honors dorm, and stated that enrollment is currently 6 females to 1 male! We got some work to do to increase the number of black males attending and graduating college. Students were given a quiz to answer throughout the day. Questions included: What is an HBCU? What is the cost of attending year at ASU and TU, what are civil rights?, list the 9 African American sororities and fraternities known as the Divine 9, and to name some civil rights leaders who were members of the Divine 9. Students were engaged, and asked lots of questions.



Spring Break Experience 2017 continued. After our TU tour, we got on the bus for a 40 minute ride to Montgomery, AL to visit the Civil Right Memorial Center and Alabama State University. The Center representative welcomed us and gave us a brief history about the center. We then watched a sobering film about the civil rights movements. The film highlighted the many people who fought, and died to obtain civil rights for African Americans. We then toured the rest of the center, took a group picture around the memorial fountain and headed to Golden Corral! Lunch at Golden Corral was great. Students selected their meal from a wide array of choices.



Last stop ASU! Students were nice and full but did well with the final tour of the day. Our tour guide came to greet us, and we began the tour. It is a larger campus than TU. Our group saw more students around campus and said it was 'turnt' up. The guide said tuition, room and board is currently, \$19,634/year. We visited the Quad, saw the Dunne-Oliver Acadome and noted that they also had an all-female and male honors dorm. We thanked our tour guide and were ready to head back to Atlanta.



Zena's House is thrilled to be able to provide this opportunity for our students. For many, this was their first college tour. We are hopeful that this tour encouraged the students to continue to do well in school and to prepare for higher education. The seed has been planted. At the end of the tour each student received a certificate of attendance and an ASU folder and TU pencil.

Students were also asked to complete a short evaluation telling us what they learned and if they enjoyed the day. 34 students completed the evaluation and all said they enjoyed the day and listed at least one new thing they learned including 'equality is important; 'our people had to go through a lot for their freedom'; 'TU was founded by a slave owner, George Campbell'; MLK Jr. was a part of a fraternity, and more! Parents also sent emails thanking us for the opportunity and how much their children enjoyed it. Here's what a few parents shared: 'Christopher had such a great time, I loved all the facts and information he learned; 'Thank you Mrs. Bronson, my daughter had an amazing time, and we can't wait to support your next event'.



Special thanks to our corporate sponsor Ombudsman Educational Services, and Friends of Zena's House 'fundraisers': Dr. Andrea Francis, Antionette Lavender and Carol Ratliff. They raised \$1,500 to support this trip!



Sponsor Highlight: Kim and Francis Tannor



We are pleased to highlight Kim and Francis Tannor, sister-in-law and brother to Bernice Bronson. Kim and Francis have supported Zena's House for many years and became monthly donors in 2014. We are so grateful for their continued support! Kim is a graduate of Mercy College and works as a Family Medicine physician assistant in Richmond, VA. Francis is graduate of Hunter College, and currently works at the Virginia State laboratory as a technical supervisor for molecular subtyping. We asked the Tannor's a few questions: **Why do you support Zena's House?** Kim and I understand that family, friends and our community helped us to get where we are today. We realize that not all children have the support that we had. Zena's House provides this support; they empower students who might otherwise be left behind. They educate and instill self-belief in them. With this confidence, students will go on to achieve greater things than they would have ever imagined. This is why we support Zena's House. **What advice would you give to young people?** Be honest with yourself and work hard at everything you do. A good work ethic is developed when you are young. As you grow older work does not get easier but with good work ethic you will work better. **What advice would you give to those thinking about donating but haven't?** Please don't wait to give when you think you will

have more money. We all never have enough money but every amount is making a difference in someone's life. Our biggest obstacle to donating was consistency so we added it to our budget and put it in auto-pay. Soon we never missed a payment. Any amount you give goes a long way to help Zena's House continue to serve the youth. We are happy to support a worthy cause.

We salute Kim and Francis Tannor for believing in and supporting Zena's House!

News and Announcements

Back 2 School! Zena's House is partnering with the City of Union City to host a Back to School event on Saturday August 5, 2017. We will distribute school supplies and much more. Stay tuned for more details.

Social Media: Benefits and Harms, August 26, 2017, 10:30am-1:30pm

South Fulton Branch Library, 4055 Flat Shoals Road Union City, GA 30291

ZH is excited to hold its first workshop on social media. In light of all the good and bad we see on social media-its time to have a frank discussion with parents and students. The event will consist of an attorney, social media expert, parent and student and more. Come learn about the laws, and charges related to social media - sexting, bullying, threats, wrongful death, defamation, the cost of posting 'ratched' videos and more. We will also learn social media etiquette and how to make social media work for you! Please call Ms. Bronson for more information and to register. 678.665.6506 or Bernice@zenashouse.org

Join our Board!

Zena's House is looking to diversify its Board and help with fundraising, strategic planning and more. If you are interested in becoming a board member or volunteering to assist with fundraising, program development, or to serve as a speaker, please contact Mrs. Bronson at 678.665.6506 or by email at Bernice@zenashouse.org. We could use your skills and talents!



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Where Youth Have Hope!

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ZENA'S HOUSE WOULD LIKE TO THANK

2016-2017 Donors

Bernice & Jerry Bronson, Dr. Surjit Chandhoke, Demetrius Ethley, Dr. Andrea Francis, Friendship Tours, Carlisha & Andrew Gentles, Tranell & Ed Griffin, Riah & Amina Greathouse, Rebecca Gyasi, Dr. Ingrid Hall, Gale Hill, Louceta Hodges, Dr. Joseph Oppong, Jr. Hanifah Kambon, Cathy Perkins, Frank Payne, Carol Ratliff, Ellen & Alston Richardson, Donna Scoggins, Theresa Story, Jarekia White, Dr. Mary White, Francis & Kim Tannor

Spring Break Experience 2017 Donors

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Spring Break Experience 2017 Volunteers

Bernice Bronson, Jerry Bronson, Edward Clark, Nysha Jeffrey, Dr. Natasha Lyles, Dorwyn Lyles, Anita McClain, Lynne' Salters, Steve Strickland

Spring Break Experience 2017 Corporate Sponsors

Ombudsman Educational Services (Union City), McDonalds (Jonesboro)

Monthly Contributors: Ms. Rebecca Gyasi, Dr. Andrea Francis, Dr. Joseph Oppong Jr., Jerry & Bernice Bronson, Dr. Surjit Chandhoke, Francis & Kim Tannor

*******newest monthly donors: Dr. Melissa Hagan and Dr. Angela & Clyde Corbin*******

ZH is a non-profit youth development organization that provides tutoring, life skills/health education workshops and exposure trips for middle and high school students.

Our vision is to instill hope in youth through education, life skills workshops, exposure, encouragement and love—ultimately to see youth so full of hope whereby they know and believe nothing shall be impossible to them!

Shop [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and select Zena's House as your charity!

(Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchase to ZH)