



Fall 2016

ZENA'S HOUSE, INC.

Back to School Blitz 2015 and 2016

Board of Directors

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Zena's House, in partnership with JB and company barber studio, held our first Back to school Blitz school supply giveaway in 2015 with a \$500 donation from Constellation Energy as nominated by long time ZH supporter LaTisha Marshall. We continued the Blitz again in 2016. ZH, along with our wonderful supporters purchased schools supplies, prepared and distributed 100 bags each year for students in K-12. Supplies included crayons, markers, tissue, pencils for elementary students to protractors, notebooks, paper, folders and hand sanitizers for middle and high school students.

As we distributed school supplies, boys received discounted cuts at JB and company barber studio. It is so important to support our community and prepare students for a successful school year. Teachers says students do better in school when they come prepared on the first day of school. We look forward to continued partnerships and serving our community for years to come.



All About the Benjamins Financial Literacy workshop

Money, money, money! We all want and need it! Unfortunately many of us are living pay check to paycheck and our kids don't know much about how money works. ZH decided to address this issue. We hosted a 4-hour workshop for parents and students ages 11-18 and talked about debit, credit, banking, debt, spending and savings. We had renowned personal finance expert and coach Ms. Carol Hunter AKA the Money Mender and Mr. Errol Rhodes from Citizens Trust Bank talk to our students and parents. It all starts with our thinking! Ms. Hunter talked about how parents think, relate and use money will follow their children. If you spend more than save, borrow money from your kids, rob Peter to pay Paul or think you can never have more than enough, these poor habits and thinking will transfer to your kids! It's a hard pill to swallow but this is where it starts.

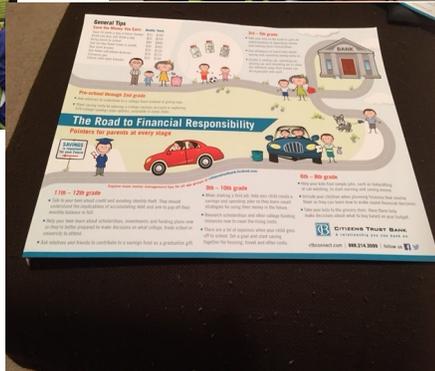


Ms. Hunter shared of story of growing up in poverty but determining not to repeat the cycle. She graduated college, paid off her massive credit card debts, worked for corporate America as an accountant for some time and then decided to work for herself. She earned her millions through real estate and now helps others renew their mind about money and position themselves for debt-free living and building wealth. She is also author of a small but powerful booklet entitled *Prosperity confessions*.



Ms. Hunter explained the difference between credit and debit and how credit cards works. She explained to parents and students on the importance of saving and not spending so much on the latest phones and tennis shoes. She encouraged parents to share with their children how much they earn and how this income is spent and also asked students to say thank you a little more to their parents. She went on to even suggest having 'Black' Bar Mitzvahs for our children; a time where the teen is celebrated, blessed and given money for his future. Mr. Rhoden discussed banking, budgeting and saving. He shared his personal experience with credit card debt in college and the tough lessons he learned (minimum payments and interest!). Everyone enjoyed the presentations.

We enjoyed fruit and snacks provided by **Publix** and a delicious lunch sponsored by **Panda Express**. After lunch the students were divided into groups. Students ages 11-12 played financial bingo with Mr. Rhoden and our older students and parents discussed budgeting with Ms. Hunter. Students paired up and played a budgeting activity on www.jumpstart.org. Students decided if they were going to buy a new or used car, etc. She also shared another website to learn how much their career of interest would pay as well as what career would be best for them One parent shared that the information was accurate because it stated that she should be a teacher and she was a teacher! Visit www.bls.gov/oooh to learn more. Raffles and prizes were given out to parents and students. A prize was given to the first parent to call in and register her kids. This was Ms. Lynne Salters. She brought a group of girls from Angels with a Purpose along with other mentors. Parents won gift cards and the Prosperity confessions booklet. Students won digital and emoji piggy banks! We look forward to continuing this money conversation again in 2017.



Sponsor Highlight: Angela and Clyde Corbin

We are excited to highlight our Zena's House supporters Angela and Clyde Corbin. Angela is a longtime friend of Executive Director, Bernice Bronson. They have been friends since 2000 -before Zena's House even came to be. Bernice fondly remembers sharing her heart and plans about ZH to Angela and she has always been so supportive. Angela has volunteered with ZH since 2005 and served as a chaperone on our first international trip to Ghana, West Africa. In 2009, Angela got married and introduced her husband Clyde to ZH they have continued to be supporters.



Angela is a graduate of Western Kentucky University & Walden University, a member of the Order of Eastern Star and a mentor to young women in the field of Public Health. Angela's current career position has her serving as the Director of Clinical & Chapter Programs for the Georgia Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. She is also a strong advocate for persons living with HIV/AIDS, Epilepsy and Multiple Sclerosis.

Clyde is a graduate of Clemson University, A proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity Inc., a Prince Hall Freemason, and Prince Hall Shriner. He is also the Executive pastor of his church, a martial artist, and motivational speaker and they have two sons. We asked Angela and Clyde why do they support ZH? 'We support ZH because we believe that our youth should have hope. We believe in the vision of ZH and have seen firsthand the positive impact that it has made on hundreds of youth. Watching ZH blossom over the years has been a blessing. We are so inspired by the dedication of Bernice and her love for helping others that we could not imagine not supporting such a wonderful organization! What advice would you give to young people? Never fear failure, just use it as an opportunity for learning and growth. The only reason why something is not done, is because you are not the one doing it. Believe in yourself and know that the journey to success may not be easy, but it will be worth it. Keep going!

In 2014, Clyde and Angela told Bernice that they also support ZH through Amazon. She was clueless. Bernice visited smile.amazon.com and found that Amazon supports charity organizations. Zena's House is listed as an organization to support. Who knew? Since then ZH has been able to share this information with friends and supporters and received our first check! We salute Angela and Clyde!

News and Announcements

Zena's House is looking to diversify its Board members, increase fundraising activities, and develop a committee to begin plans for the youth development center. We are also excited to reinstitute our Project Exposure college road trip 2017! If you are interested in becoming a board member, volunteering to assist with fundraising or program development, speaking at our events or donating, please contact Mrs. Bronson at Bernice@zenashouse.org.

Zena's House joins the South Fulton Chamber of Commerce! We are excited to be apart of the South Fulton Chamber of Commerce. It's been great networking with other local business. Our goal through this membership is to increase awareness of ZH and develop partnerships with local businesses to help advance the vision of Zena's House. Thanks to president Mrs. Dyan Matthews for acknowledging ZH with a warm welcome.

Where are they Now! ZH would like to know where are students are now. Some answered our call on FB and many have now graduated high school and are entering college. We are so excited to receive graduation invitations and senior pictures. We are like proud mamas beaming at our students accomplishments! Please send your updates to Bernice@zenashouse.org or write us on FB.



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Where Youth Have Hope!

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ZENA'S HOUSE WOULD LIKE TO THANK

2016 Donors

Bernice and Jerry Bronson, Surjit Chandhoke, Dr. Andrea Francis,
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Back to School Blitz Donors

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All about the Benjamins Sponsors



All about the Benjamins volunteers

Phyllis Ivory, Antionette Lavender, Kortney Lewis, Natasha Lyles, Carol Ratliff, Donna Scoggins

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

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.amazon.com) and select Zena's House as your charity!
(Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchase to ZH)