

ZENA'S HOUSE, INC

WHERE YOUTH HAVE HOPE!



Spring 2025

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2025 ZENA C. GYASI ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

We are thrilled to introduce the 2025 recipients of the Zena C. Gyasi Academic Scholarship:

Shiloh Clayton and Adonis McCrary

Shiloh Clayton, a proud graduate of Westlake High School, will be attending St. John's University in Queens, NY, where she plans to major in Biomedical Sciences with the inspiring goal of becoming a prosthetist.

Adonis McCrary, a graduate of Frederick Douglass High School, will be attending Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, GA. He will major in Political Science and aspires to become the future mayor of Atlanta.

We are incredibly proud to award these exceptional scholars \$1,500 each to support their educational journeys. Their dedication, ambition, and leadership embody the spirit of this scholarship.

A heartfelt thank-you to our scholarship reviewers and generous supporters—your time and donations make a powerful difference in the lives of future leaders.

2025 Zena C. Academic Scholarship Reviewers

Demetrius Ethley * Berdell Johnson * Arnelle Konde * Dr. LaTisha Marshall
Anfernee Morgan * Alston & Ellen Richardson * Donna Scoggins
Francis Tannor * Trinity Townsend * Chiquita Turner

Support Our \$40 for 40 Scholarship Fundraiser!

Our beloved Zena would have turned 40 on 4.10.25.

Help us remember Zena and continue to empower young scholars.



Here's how you can contribute:

- Text Zena40 to 44321
- Cash App: \$zenashouse
- Zelle: zenashouse85@gmail.com
- PayPal: www.zenashouse.org

Together, we are investing in a brighter future—one scholar at a time.



ST. JOHN'S
UNIVERSITY



CONGRATULATIONS!!!



GEORGIA TECH.



CONGRATULATIONS OPERATION GRADUATE C/O 2025!!

We were beaming with pride as we watched all eight of our incredible mentees cross the finish line and graduate from Creekside High School! These students participated in our year-long Operation Graduate (OG) mentoring program, a meaningful partnership with Creekside designed to support and empower students throughout their senior year.

Each student was matched with a dedicated mentor who connected with them at least four times a month. Mentors provided guidance on academics, resume building, and navigating college and scholarship applications. Monthly Lunch & Learns at Creekside offered opportunities to dive into essential topics such as financial literacy, college preparation, mental health, and etiquette. We also shared memorable experiences outside the classroom, including a group outing to Studio Café and one-on-one mentor-mentee outings to connect, reflect, and celebrate progress.

Students who successfully completed the program and graduated received up to a \$300 scholarship. We're thrilled to share that our mentees will be continuing their education at the following institutions: Albany State, Fort Valley State, Kennesaw State, West Georgia Tech, and Atlanta Tech.

It has been an absolute joy to mentor these eight outstanding students, and we are confident they will continue to thrive in their next chapters.

A heartfelt thank-you to our phenomenal coach mentors—Jeffrey Bragg, Octavia Fuller, Yolanda Jackson, Dr. Alicia Jordan, and Chiquita Turner—as well as Yolanda Magee, Dean of Students; the dedicated Creekside staff and counselors; and the supportive parents. Thank you for being part of our OG village!



FALL 2025 WORKSHOP SERIES – SAVE THE DATES!

We're excited to present our upcoming Fall Workshop Series designed to educate, empower, and prepare students and families for success.

Mark your calendars and join us!

August 27, 2025 – Money Moves: Financial Literacy Workshop

Build smart money habits and learn how to manage your finances for the future.

September 30, 2025 – Let's Get College Ready!

Get practical tips and guidance on college applications, scholarships, and more!

October 18, 2025 – The Law and YOU

Understand your rights, responsibilities, and how the law impacts your daily life.

Stay tuned for more details. We look forward to seeing you there!

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT: **ASEDA ADDAI-DESEH**

I'm delighted to spotlight my bright and talented niece Aseda Addai-Deseh. Aseda holds a MSc. in Computer Science from Stevens Institute of Technology in NJ, and a BSc in Computer Science from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology in Ghana. She's now a Data Scientist in Ohio.

Aseda was only 7 when her Aunt Zena, passed away. She says that even at that tender age, her warmth, spirit, and dedication to learning left a lasting impression on her. Hence, Aseda honors her memory by supporting Zena's House, an organization that carries forward her passion for community, education, and service.

Aseda says she is a proud quarterly donor and volunteer because 'their work is nothing short of transformative. Through workshops, mentoring and scholarships, they empower young people to overcome obstacles, discover their potential. and build bright futures. Witnessing students gain confidence, set ambitious goals, graduate and pursue higher education reaffirms why this cause is so close to my heart.'

When asked how others can help, she encourages others to:

- Donate—every gift supports programs that change lives.
- Volunteer—hands-on help creates lasting impact.
- Advocate—share their mission and inspire others to support youth development.

Her advice? To parents—Encourage your children to try new things—sign them up for a workshop, attend an event together, and celebrate the small victories. Your belief in them lays the foundation for lifelong confidence.

To youth: Show up curious, ask questions, and lean into every opportunity. New experiences are designed to help you dream big and build the skills to make those dreams real. Remember: with the right support and a willingness to learn, nothing is impossible. ---Thank you, Aseda, we salute you!



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: **KIMBERLY POLINA**

It is with great joy that I introduce our student spotlight and my mentee, Kimberly Polina! Kim was a proud member of the Operation Graduate Class of 2025 mentoring program. From the moment we met, we connected instantly. She's organized, punctual, respectful, hardworking—and truly a joy to mentor.

Kim reflects on her journey with Zena's House, saying:

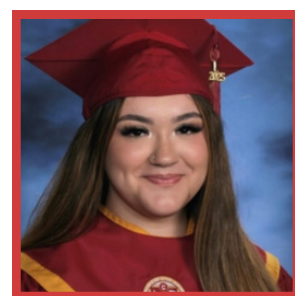
"Zena's House helped me become more disciplined. There were times I didn't feel like completing even a simple scholarship application, but with the encouragement of my mentor and the support from Zena's House, I was able to push through and complete them to help secure my future." That perseverance paid off—Kim was awarded a \$500 scholarship from Distinguished Young Ladies, a well-deserved recognition of her discipline and dedication!

Her advice to fellow students: "Complete those scholarships! It only takes a little of your time, and it can really make a difference."

Now that she's graduated, Kim is spending her summer working extra hours to save for her education, prioritizing self-care, working out, and enjoying quality time with her family.

This fall, Kim will begin her journey at West Georgia Technical College to become a licensed esthetician. Her long-term goal is to attend Georgia State University to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Business.

I am incredibly proud of Kim and all she has accomplished. With her drive and heart, there's no doubt she will go far!



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WHERE YOUTH HAVE HOPE!

THANK YOU 2025 DONORS !!

DONORS: \$1- \$99 \$100—\$999/YEAR \$1,000+/YEAR

**Monthly/Quarterly Donors*

Alisa Gentry Arnelle Konde Donna Scoggins *Gail Malinda Molock Jo Ann Fuller
*Alston & Ellen Richardson *Jerry & Bernice Bronson *Rebecca Gyasi *Dr. Surjit Chandhoke
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*Shelbia King *Dr. Natasha Lyles Verla Neslund Hanifah Kambon Tracy Hessaway
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Every donation—big or small, one-time or monthly—makes a lasting impact.

Thank you for being part of our village!

*Truly
Grateful
for you.*



**DONATE
NOW**



Zena's House is a nonprofit youth organization named after The Executive Director, Bernice Bronson's sister, Zena. Zena loved school, her family and Friends. Zena died at the age of 17 (2002) due to lupus and its complications. Zena's house empowers metro Atlanta youth through skills workshops, mentoring, scholarships and exposure trips

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!