

# Zena's House, Inc.

## Where youth have HOPE!

FALL 2024

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## Zena's House Celebrates 20 years!

20 years!?? Who knew? God knew and has kept this fire in me over the last two decades. Clearly, He has kept the fire in you too because YOU have supported Zena's House with your time, treasures, talents, and prayers since 2004—and to that we extend our heartfelt Thank You. We had an absolutely incredible evening celebrating 20 years of serving our youth in Metro Atlanta. The evening opened with a heartwarming photo montage of Zena's House through the years, followed by light appetizers to get people mingling. And of course we had our amazing silent auction with one of a kind artisan pieces from around the globe. The official program started with our welcome from our Mistress of Ceremony, my sister and devout Zena's House supporter, Ellen Tannor Richardson, followed by our dedicated Board member, Mrs. Danielle Wallace.

DJ Whit-It (IG @djwhitit) kept the good vibes going all evening long and got our audience in the giving spirit. We watched a curated welcome video of Zena's House 20-year journey—ooh the memories. Jayla, a senior at Westlake High school, graced us with her musical talents. With the vibe still ruminating, we enjoyed a delicious dinner catered by Fulton Schools College and Career Academy catering services. There was an inspiring presentation of awards where we heard powerful testimony of richly deserving recipients that have uplifted and supported Zena's House in so many meaningful ways. We closed the evening with equally powerful student testimonies explaining how Zena's House has supported them and our final appeal by board member ,Trinity Townsend. We give a very special thanks to our 20th Anniversary committee members, volunteers, Thomas Woods of King Photography, and the Legendary Ford Hall and Mr. Clarence for the delightful venue and service. Please visit our YouTube page [www.youtube.com/@Zena0485](http://www.youtube.com/@Zena0485) and [zenashouse.org](http://zenashouse.org) for videos and pictures. Thank you and cheers to 20 years and counting!



2024 Honorees	
	<b>Champion Supporter</b> Mayor Vince Williams
	<b>Community Partner and Fundraising Champion</b> Dr. Kimberly Sellars-Bates KSTB Enterprises
	<b>Community Partner and Fundraising Champion</b> Yolanda Magee
	
<b>Community Partner Champion</b> Tau Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.	
	<b>Parent Champion</b> Anitra Myles
	<b>Parent Champion</b> Deborah McGuire
	<b>Perserverance Award</b> Ny'Asia Jesquith
	<b>Volunteer Champion</b> Berdell Johnson
	<b>Volunteer Champion</b> Autumn McNeill, MPH
	<b>Volunteer Champion</b> Arnelle Konde, MPH



Board of Directors: Bernice Bronson, MPH \*Trinity Townsend, Esq.\*Danielle Wallace, MPA \* Anfernee Morgan MSCI

Mailing Address: 5050 Union Street Unit 262 Union City, GA 30291 \* 678-665-6506 \* [www.zenashouse.org](http://www.zenashouse.org)



## Welcome New Board Member Anfernee Morgan

We are thrilled to welcome our newest board member, Anfernee Morgan. Anfernee is no stranger to Zena's House. He was introduced to Zena's House in 2017 as a speaker at our social media safety workshop and the rest is history. Anfernee presented at several workshops and most recently spoke at our "They Tryin to Catch Me Ridin Dirty workshop" (AKA The Law & You) workshop.



Anfernee is a graduate of Morehouse College and received his Master of Science in Criminal Justice from Albany State and is currently a police sergeant with Clayton County. Anfernee brings his passion, relatability, education, communication and marketing skills to help Zena's House continue to meet our goal of equipping students to thrive, succeed and be contributing members of their communities. Welcome aboard, Anfernee!

## Let's Get College-Ready!



We believe education is critical to success. As a result, we host our annual "Let's Get College-Ready" workshop to inform and position students to successfully apply and matriculate to college. Preparing and applying to college and scholarships can be overwhelming. Our goal is to make the process more manageable by informing them of resources, tips, information, and critical dates so they can have a smoother, less stressful application process.



Students and parents rotated through four stations and learned about Financial Aid, finding scholarships, the college application process and then actually scoring an scholarship application to understand the process and avoid errors. The main takeaways from this workshop were:

- 1. Start early, know how to get a copy of your transcript and be in consistent communication with your counselor and teachers for letters of recommendation**
- 2. Use resources available to you to avoid going in circles– Naviance, Collegeboard.org, Gafutures.org**
- 3. Let someone else review and**

**edit your application, essays and videos before you submit. Please do not be afraid or turn away from comments and suggested edits.** **4. Scholarships are everywhere! Our speaker, Ms. Tyshiba Maxie ( IG @the360counselor), shared a link to scholarships to review and apply.** [1h3vfN9BkCL6nhzp-ZNe9IU9K59OZFdLHhU4FszHR0gw/edit?usp=sharing](https://www.collegeboard.org/scholarships-to-review-and-apply?usp=sharing)

Special thanks to our community partner, Mrs. Rosalind Marshall/Gladys S. Dennard Library, volunteers, speakers, Ms. Tyshiba Maxie, Ms. Marnessa Vital, Ms. Kayla Seals and Thomas Woods of King Photography. [#ittakeavillage](#)

## The Well-Rounded Student (WRS)



Ahhh, the well-rounded student! Another workshop that is critical to the success of our young people. The well-rounded student (WRS) secures the opportunities, jobs, college acceptances and scholarships. The WRS knows how to work with others, is confident and ready! It's ideal to begin in the 9th grade but it's never too late! This workshop consisted of four stations students rotated through to learn



how to become the WRS. **1. The Power of the Counselor!** Schedule to meet your counselor (parent and student) . Let them know who you are and your interests. They are there to help, but with so many students on their list, the students who makes a point to know their counselor can reap the most benefits (info on jobs, internships, scholarships etc.) **2. Create a resume/scholar profile, volunteer and join extracurricular activities.** Being involved helps develop social, communication and leadership skills. **3. Take a headshot for resume/profile** **4. Prepare and practice your 30 second elevator speech** (name, school, activities you are involved in and future plans). Congratulations on being the Well-Rounded Student!

Special thanks to our community partner, Mrs. Rosalind Marshall/Gladys S. Dennard Library , volunteers, the Ladies of Tau Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. for speaking on the importance of volunteering and voting, speakers, Ms. Shnitha Zachary, Ania Kerr, Mrs. Zozan Tahir, Ms. Janiyah Williams, Ms. Bintou Tunkara and Thomas Woods of King Photography, [#ittakesavillage](#)



# In Memory of Mrs. Theresa Story



Our beloved Zena's House Bookkeeper of 10 years, Theresa 'Terri' Story ★ of Likely Story Financial Group, passed away on November 22, 2024. Our hearts are broken. She was a phenomenal woman, full of wisdom, patience and kindness.

Terri was introduced to us through her daughter, Raechel, who served as a Zena's House tutor in 2010. Raechel stayed connected with Zena's House and kept her kids, Avenue and Malik, involved in our workshops. In 2014, we needed a new bookkeeper and Raechel recommended her mother, Terri. She was a beautiful addition and

Terri kept our books in impeccable order for the last decade.



Terri supported and volunteered Zena's House often. She served as a chaperone on our college tour to Columbus State, volunteered as a speaker at our What's Your Hustle Entrepreneur workshop, attended our 15th anniversary celebration and became a monthly donor. She was looking forward to celebrating our 20th anniversary with us but fell ill. We are happy to know that Raechel was able to share pictures of our 20th anniversary celebration with Terri. She wholeheartedly believed in Zena's House and supported us at every turn. Stay tuned to hear how Zena's House will continue to remember and celebrate the life of Theresa 'Terri' Story. We love you, Terri, now and always.



## Student Spotlight : Avenue Waddy



I am super excited and proud to highlight former Zena's House student, Avenue Renee Waddy. Avenue was introduced to Zena's House through her mother Raechel Waddy and as stated above, Raechel was a tutor for Zena's House in 2010. Avenue is also the granddaughter of our beloved bookkeeper, Terri Story. Avenue attended a number of our workshops as a middle and high school student and most recently, volunteered at our Zena's House 20th Anniversary Celebration and Fundraiser.

In 2018, Avenue participated in my "I'm That Girl" charm school. Avenue says the lessons refined her etiquette and common courtesy. She goes on to say she had always been a polite child; however, charm school broadened her ability to express gratitude and the overall value of her communicative ability.

We asked Avenue how she would encourage her peers. She said Zena's House has been about empowering others' sense of community. As a child, I had always heard "respect your elders", "friendship is magic", and "children are the future". The pressure of the spotlight doesn't last forever but regret will; so, keep trying to make the world a place we call "home" with every opportunity. And support your friends that are going through hard times too! So, use what you've learned to shape the world around you. Be the best you've got for more than just yourself. Your community needs you to do your part no matter how small.



Avenue graduated high school in 2022. She spent time traveling and is now at Savannah College of Art and Design studying for a career in interior design. She is also working towards obtaining her real estate license.

In closing, we asked Avenue to share a few words about her grandmother, Terri. "She was the strongest person I knew. When she wanted something, she had it. We were fiery dragons with one another but that's how we learned to love; chase your dreams and defend what matters. But, with every conversation she never forgot to say, FAMILY IS EVERYTHING."

# Thank YOU for Making 20 Years of Service a Reality!

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Hope Stirrer, \$1000

Goal-Achiever, \$500

Village Member, \$250

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## 20th Anniversary Planning Committee

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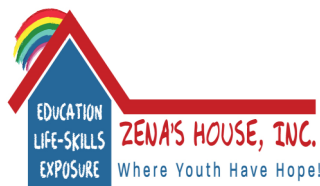
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Zena's House is a non-profit youth development organization that provides life-skills workshops, mentoring, scholarships and exposure trips for middle and high school students in metro Atlanta. Our vision is to instill hope in youth through education, 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!