

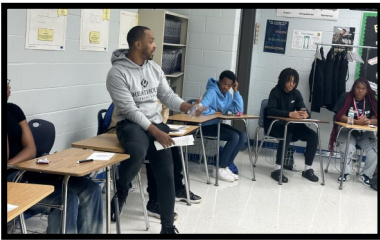
Zena's House, Inc.

Where youth have HOPE!

Fall 2023

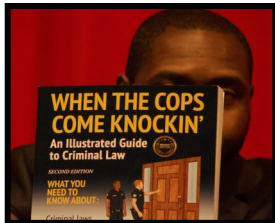
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They Tryna Catch Me Ridin Dirty!



All ears were tuned in at our workshop “They Tryna Catch Me Ridin Dirty” at Westlakes’ Student Takeover Conference. The purpose of our workshop was to equip students with the information they need to make good decisions and stay out of the SYSTEM. The DREAM TEAM, Attorney Greathouse, Officer Cade, Detective Morgan, Attorney Townsend, and Judge Williams, kept our students engaged and with facts that left them at a standstill. Students asked great questions to include how does the panel maintain good mental health. The panel responded with professional and spiritual counseling, leaving work at work, and participating in events such as this workshop to rejuvenate them. Other takeaways from the workshop are:

- **SAY LESS!** Wait for your day in court– NOT pulled over on the side of the road. How often are students able to talk their way out of being arrested on the side of the road? Nada. Zip. Zilch. Don’t even think about it—silence is golden.
- **A gang can be considered a gathering of two or more people!** That’s a rough reality, they could be your basketball teams mates, or even your siblings, but in the eyes of the law, that could be a gang. Watch the company you keep.
- **Don’t send nudes to your boo, EVER.** Facts are: he or she will most likely share your nudes with their friends. Depending on age, nudes can be considered pornography and can cause one to have to register as a sex offender.



Several students received the criminal law guide entitled “When the Cops Come Knockin” co-written by panel member, Trinity Townsend; a great resource that includes legal terms and scenarios with pictures.

SPECIAL THANKS to our DREAM TEAM of speakers and volunteers and Mrs. Angela Williams and Westlake High School for having this conference and for inviting Zena’s House!



The workshop concluded with Judge Williams stating that words have power, to raise their right hand and repeat the following pledge: **“I WILL THINK MY CHOICES THROUGH AND MAKE WISE DECISIONS TO STAY OUT OF THE SYSTEM!”**

On that note **don’t let them catch you ridin dirty!** 🎶 They see me rollin, they hatin.....patrollin, tryna catch me ridin dirty ... tryna catch me ridin dirty... 🎶 (Riding Dirty by Chamillionaire)

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The Well-Rounded Student (WRS) Workshop



In partnership with the Gladys S. Dennard Library, Zena's House hosted WRS workshop with Rosalind Marshall, Librarian Senior and Youth Services Coordinator. Students enjoyed the 4 rotating stations where they learned how to 1. create and practice their **30-second elevator pitch**, 2. create a **scholar profile/resume**, and learn the importance of **volunteering and joining clubs**, and 4. having a good **relationship with their counselor**.



Students also took a head shot to add to their resume.

THE BOTTOM LINE is that being a WRS has many benefits! It helps students develop and improve verbal and written communication skills, can develop new friendships, learn new skill sets, builds confidence, and allows opportunities to learn, lead, follow and be a team player. As a result,

WRS are more competitive and often get the jobs, internships, college acceptances and scholarships. It's best to start in the 9th grade, but it is truly never too late to start!

PARENTS, your kids may need a nudge to get them motivated to become the WRS!
-volunteer as a family and help create their resume and show them yours!



SPECIAL THANKS to our speakers Ms. McNeil, Ms. Konde,

Mr. Eric Charles Creekside High School counselor, King Photography, volunteers and the ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc, Tau Epsilon Omega Chapter who volunteered

and shared the importance of SERVING and VOTING. It takes a village and I really appreciate mine.

Let's Get College-Ready!!

In partnership again with the Gladys S. Dennard Library, Zena's House hosted a powerful 2-hour workshop to help students and parents prepare strong college and scholarship applications. Our dynamic speakers were Mrs. F. Baxter, Langston High Counselor; Ms. M. Vital, Education consultant; Mr. A. Morgan, Morehouse graduate and Ms. T. Maxie, The 360 Counselor and Mrs. Bronson.



Takeaways.

1. Prepare your brag sheet/resume/scholar profile to list all your accomplishments, experiences and goals **2. Ask teachers and counselors for recommendation letters, and attach your brag sheet/resume. Make sure these are people who will write you an amazing letter. ASK EARLY** (2-3 weeks in advance) and **FOLLOW UP!** They get many requests so you may have to remind them a few times. Remember, YOU need them so it's up to you to follow up until you get it!

3. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on computer or laptop, not phone. Application period now opens December 1. Complete early and save your password. Errors on your application will cause your application to move to the back of the line. First come, first serve. You are more likely to get funds when you apply early. **4. Divine 9—Black Greek-Lettered sororities and fraternities give scholarships!** Find the chapters that serve your community and apply. Make sure you qualify before you apply.

5. Have someone review your essay before you submit. **6. Many scholarship applications are scored.** Applicants lose points for grammatical errors and not following directions don't let that be you. Read and answer carefully! **7. Submit applications 2-3 days before the due date to make sure there are no technical issues when you submit. *****



Donors help us do what we do! Zelle a donation to zenashouse85@gmail.com

Sponsor Spotlight: **Tranell Guthrie**



I'm excited to spotlight my dear friend, Tranell. Tranell and I met almost 25 years ago when we both lived in Baltimore. She received her Masters Degree in City and Regional Planning from Morgan State University and her Bachelors in Criminal Justice from SUNY Brockport and is currently a Senior Consultant (Transportation Planner).

We asked Tranell a few questions : **How long have you supported Zenas's House and why?** I've supported Zena's House since its inception because it embodies a powerful mission: to honor the legacy of a dear friend's sister by empowering young women and men through education and exposure. During my college years, I received numerous scholarships and participated in organizations named after individuals, yet I rarely delved into the deeper stories behind these names. However, my connection with Zena through Bernice has given me a profound appreciation for how Zena's House continues her legacy.

It's inspiring to witness the community's collective effort to support and empower young individuals in her memory.

How would you encourage others to support Zena's House? I strongly encourage others to support Zena's House by assessing how they can contribute to the organization's ongoing success. In my case, this involves becoming a monthly donor and offering financial assistance whenever there is a specific need. However, supporting Zena's is more than donating money. Others may help with recruitment, mentoring, fundraising, or simply ensuring the well-being of the CEO to prevent burnout. It all starts with a commitment to the needs of the students and determining what you can do to support. **What advice or encouragement would you give to parents or youth?** "It takes a village." In life there are moments of challenges and growth; it's essential to remember that no one should ever feel that they have to face those challenges alone. Your dreams, aspirations, and struggles matter to Zena's House and they are here to support you every step of the way. Whether you're a parent seeking guidance or a young person navigating the path to your future, know that you have a village of caring individuals ready to uplift and empower you. **We salute you, Ms. Tranell Guthrie!**

Student Spotlight: **Cashara Weems**

Cashara was part of Zena's House Operation Graduate (OG) mentoring program and a class of 2023 high school graduate. Cashara blossomed beautifully in our program, from shy and timid to confident and vocal. She attended and contributed to every Lunch and Learn session, consistently responded to inquiries, and kept us updated on school events and her accomplishments. She also bonded exceptionally well with her mentor, Ms. Chiquita. Cashara volunteered to speak at our c/o of 2024 OG Kick off and shared how much she has grown through the program. Currently, Cashara works full-time and is preparing for the next steps in her journey and development.

We asked Cashara how the program impacted her. She said 'it helped me focus on school and get my grades up so I could graduate on time and I did it! Zena's House also helped me grow to become the person I am today; it taught me to look at life differently and helped give me direction and a path forward. I couldn't have done it without Zena's House.'

Cashara lost her mother a few years ago which made her high school years even more challenging, but she pressed forward knowing her mother was with her in spirit, cheering her on from heaven saying 'I'm so proud of you Cashara, you did it!' Cashara says she's still trying to chart her course and she wants to do something great with her life so everyone will be proud. She knows her faith in God, her mother's spirit and skills she learned through Zena's House will help her succeed and ultimately do great things. We are so proud of Cashara and honored to be a part of her village!



Invest in Zena's House with a donation! TEXT zenashouse to 44321

Thank YOU 2023 \$upporters!

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Ways to Support Zena's House!

1. **Become a monthly donor! Start with any amount and set up with your bank, Paypal or Text to Give (text zenashouse to 44321).**
2. **Volunteer!**
3. **Tell your friends about Zena's House and ASK them to DONATE.**
4. **Post our events on your social media pages and email networks.**
5. **Go to www.kroger.com/community-rewards and select Zena's House as your charity**
6. **Support our SCHOLARSHIPS! Text zena38 to 44321.**



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!