

Zena's House, Inc.

Where youth have HOPE!

Fall 2019

Zena's House Celebrates 15 years!

Oh what an AMAZING 15th Anniversary Celebration and Fundraiser we had! The evening was full of love, laughter, good food, and fun. This remarkable event was held at Elegant Occasions in Fairburn, GA., where Mr. Austin Jackson, college student, entrepreneur, and author of "Mr. Take-off," served as the evening's host. Spinning on the ones and twos was TaDarol Bates II, AKA DJ Crizis, a long-time supporter of Zena's House and now Clark Atlanta University college student.

The evening consisted of two video presentations (15 Years in 10 Minutes and Where are they Now?), dinner, entertainment, awards, community speaks, a silent auction and an appeal. The delicious appetizers and dinner were

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prepared by Fulton Schools College and Career Academy Culinary Services. We enjoyed entertainment by speed painter and Langston Hughes High School student, David T.; singer, keyboardist, and college student, Eric DeShaunn; and Creekside High school student and dance performer, JaMark M., who performs as "Jay the Hitz." Awards were given to five individuals, honored for their continued support of Zena's House in a variety of ways. Our honorees received the following awards: "I'll Be There" - Parent, Ms. Ronder Lewis; "Community Support" - Ms. Sonya Stewart and Ms. Lynne Salters. Recent high school graduate and now college student, Ms. Davine Smith was presented the "Perseverance" award and the "Behind the Scenes Champion Award" was given to Mr. Jerry Bronson.



The evening concluded with a final appeal and proclamations from Union City and the City of Fairburn. Zena's House board member, Ms. Danielle Veal read the proclamations, and on behalf of the ZH board, Mr. Riah Greathouse presented flowers to Mrs. Bernice Bronson, Zena House Executive Director. Lastly, Mr. Greathouse made the final appeal for the evening and pledged to match all the evening's donations by 5! What a blessing! Special thanks to the 15th Anniversary Committee DREAM TEAM: Sparkle Bacon, Dr. Andrea Francis, Stacey Grundy, Phyllis Ivory and Donna Scoggins, Ricardo Ivory of Unlimited Photos, ZH Youth Advisory Council (Reyna L., Briana L. and Thomas W.), Operation Graduate mentees, Kimaj M. and JaMark M. for assisting with set up, serving dinner and breakdown! We certainly appreciate their time and service. To see pictures, video presentations and more from our celebration, visit our YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/user/Zenao485>.



Follow Zena's House



YouTube

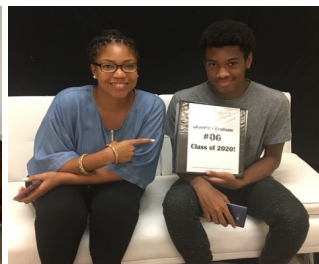
Let's Get College-Ready!

Zena's House, Distinguished Young Ladies and Get to Work held our second annual Let's Get College-Ready workshop. This year's focus was on the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) and scholarships. Our goal was to educate students and parents on ways to minimize college debt, the importance of completing the FAFSA form, and how to identify and apply for scholarships.

The three-hour workshop was held at the Country Inn and Suites in Fairburn. The workshop began with our panel speakers: Ms. Marnessa Vital, Financial Aid Consultant; Mr. Jihad Pratt, Chapel Hill High School Counselor; Mrs. Stephanie Jones, engaged parent; Ms. Sandra Allen, Langston Hughes High School College and Career Coordinator; Mrs. Chaunta Floyd, Get to Work; and Mrs. Bernice Bronson, ZH Executive Director. During our working lunch, attendees watched a five-minute video from Fox 5 News of West Lake High school student, Victoria Lamar, who discussed her approach and strategy to applying for scholarships. Learn more at www.securinglegrees.org.

The main points covered in the workshop were 1. Make every effort to avoid excessive college debt by completing the FAFSA and applying for scholarships. 2. Research the best school for YOU (not friends or what is popular, consider cost, location, etc.). 3. Treat finding and applying for scholarships like a job. 4. Apply for big and small scholarships. 5. Identify the right teachers/mentors to write your recommendations and give them at least 3-4 weeks' notice 6. Know how to request your transcript from school counselors or Fulton students can go to www.parchment.com to make free online requests. 7. Prepare a strong essay and have the right person edit it. 8. Have all your documents ready before you begin applying (teacher recommendations, transcripts, essays should be in PDF and ready to upload.) 9. Get involved with community service and extracurricular activities. Schools and employers look for well-rounded students (good students who are also active outside the classroom and in their communities). Most scholarship applications ask about community service and extracurricular activities. Special thanks to our volunteers from the Tau Epsilon Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Georgia State University and Zena's House.

Operation Graduate (#OG) is in full effect! #OG is a mentoring program Zena's House started this year in partnership with Creekside High School. Eight seniors were paired with Coach Mentors to make sure they are on track to graduate, with an after high school plan. We held an interest meeting for the parents, identified and oriented our coach mentors and held our program kick off. Our students have a variety of interests to include dental hygiene, practical nursing, music production and computer engineering. We are excited to work with the students and help them successfully cross the graduation finish line in May 2020. We connect with the students at least 2 times per month by phone, email or in person. We also have lunch and learns; where we come to the school during students' lunch time to check in. We thank Creekside staff, Mrs. Yolanda Magee and Dr. Maria Bazile for their support.



Donate at paypal.me/zenashouse85

SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT: Mrs. Kizzie Crawford

I am excited to highlight Mrs. Kizzie Crawford, Executive Director of Distinguished Young Ladies (DYL), (<http://distinguishedyoungladiesinc.org>). DYL is a mentoring program geared toward enhancing the lives of young ladies in middle and high schools in South Fulton and surrounding cities.



Kizzie earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Legal Studies from Valdosta State University, a Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix and is a realtor with Keller Williams Realty (<https://kizziecrawford.kw.com/>). She is from a small Georgia town called Adel, moving to Atlanta almost 13 years ago to give her son more opportunities. She is married to Thomas Crawford and between them, they share three children. Mrs. Crawford enjoys traveling and reading.

Kizzie and Bernice met through a mutual friend at their church, Open Word Christian Ministries. They immediately hit it off and began supporting each other's events and programs. In 2017 and 2018, they partnered to host two well-received workshops: Social Media: Benefits and Harms, and Let's Get College-Ready in 2018 and 2019.



When we asked Kizzie why she chose to support Zena's House, she told us that Zena's House is a great organization that benefits the community and provides such great opportunities to the kids and their parents. She further stated that her son, as well as girls from her organization, DYL, have been a part of Zena's House events and they love it. We also asked Kizzie how she would encourage

others to give/donate. She believes that more support is needed for organizations who are providing education, exposure and opportunities to the kids in our local communities. She believes our kids need this type of exposure to enhance their lives.

We salute Kizzie Crawford for her passion in serving the youth and partnering with Zena's House by giving her time, ideas and financial support.

News and Announcements

2020 workshops and events! We are planning for some exciting workshops and activities for 2020! **Back to School supply Refill (1/4/20)**, **The Law and YOU (2/29/20)**, **Spring Break College Tour**, **Community Fun day and Fundraiser**, **What's Your Hustle**, **Social Media: Using it for good or bad?** and **Let's Get College-Ready!** Follow us on IG, FB and Twitter for event details!

GSU MSW students works with Zena's House Zena's House applied and was accepted to work with Georgia State University Master of Social Work students. They will help coordinate our first Community Fun Day and Fundraiser in April. We are excited and look forward to working with them!!

WE NEED YOU! We are in need of a dynamic and talented group of people who can help with social media marketing, flyer design, workshop planning, fundraising and more. If you are interested, please email Bernice@zenashouse.org or call 678-665-6506.

We take Cash App! 706-503-2425 or \$zenashouse

THANK YOU!!

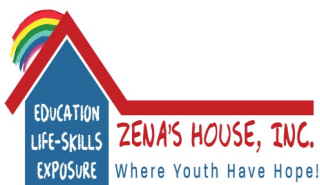
Zena's House 15th Anniversary SPONSORS!

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- Kizzie Distinguished Realty, LLC
- Friendship Tours
- Chick-fil-A (Fairburn)
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Zena's House is a non-profit youth development organization that provides tutoring, life-skills workshops 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!**

Shop at smile.amazon.com and select **Zena's House** as your charity!

Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchase to ZH ! Easy Peasy!