

Zena's House, Inc.

Where youth have HOPE!

Fall 2020

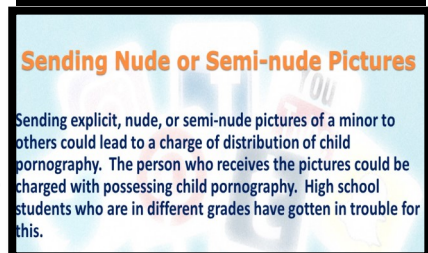
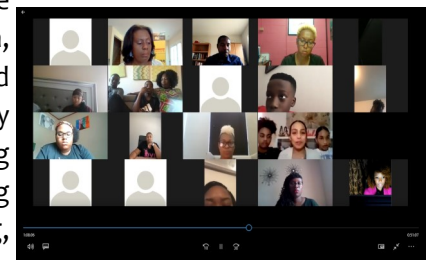
Social Media: The Good, Bad and Super Ugly!!

COVID is not stopping this show and yes, our workshops continue online even in the thick of the pandemic! With students and adults on social media now more than ever, we felt it was so important and timely to host this workshop on Zoom. Our speakers were Anfernee Morgan, recent Morehouse graduate and law enforcement officer, Shavon Brown, recent Kennesaw State University graduate and teacher, N'Naserri Carew-Johnson, college student, entrepreneur and speaker, Attorney Trinity Townsend, and Dr. Raushannah Johnson-Verwayne

(Dr. RJ), Licensed Clinical Psychologist. The speakers presented the benefits of social media, and of course the inherent dangers associated with online platforms. Further underscored by our presenters was the importance of branding and rebranding, consequences of posting inappropriate pictures and videos like fighting, twerking, underage drinking, and the grim and highly disproportionate consequences of illegal online activity for African American boys and girls, which include fines, litigation and yes--jail time.

The workshop also included watching three videos covering: 1. how postings lead to the death

of a high school student, 2. arrest of a group of gang members posting what they were going to do to a rival gang member and 3. tips to staying safe on social media by Jerisha Bronson, current ATL Falcons Cheerleader.



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A few important tips worth noting included: **Don't talk bad about parents on Social media as predators target unhappy teens.** Don't show or brag about what you have (shoes, clothes, games, etc.); it's sad but people may target and attempt to rob or steal them. **If you are not proud of your social media 'reputation', you get a DO OVER by deleting your posts, unfriending certain 'friends' and starting over.**

Cash prizes were given to our students for answering questions correctly. Although we miss face-to-face workshops, using Zoom allowed families from all over the world to attend like my sister and nephews in Germany! Lastly, participants completed an evaluation at the end of the workshop. Overall, the participants enjoyed the workshop, learned a number of new things and felt the workshop was a good use of their time. You can watch our workshop on our YouTube page at www.youtube.com/user/Zena0485.

Follow Zena's House



YouTube

Let's Get College-Ready!



Applying to colleges in the middle of a pandemic can be even more of a challenge, so we pivoted and held our “Let’s Get College-Ready Workshop” on Zoom! We addressed changes in the application process due to COVID and discussed the steps to take. Our speakers were (from left to right) Ms. Marnessa Vital, Education Consultant; Langston Hughes High School Counselor, Ms. Faylena Lewis; recent college graduate Mrs. Shavon Brown and Zena’s House Executive Director, Mrs. Bernice Bronson.

How has COVID-19 Affected Your Financial Aid?

SOME STUDENTS WILL HAVE THEIR FINANCIAL AID INCREASED:

- If COVID-19 has resulted in unemployment or a reduction in income for parents who were previously making financial contributions
- Families faced with high medical bills could also be entitled to additional help in paying for school

CONTACT THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE AT YOUR SCHOOL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

SAT and ACT Score Reports

- TEST SCORES MUST BE SENT DIRECTLY FROM THE TESTING ORGANIZATIONS
- PLEASE MAKE REQUEST AT LEAST FOUR – SIX WEEKS BEFORE THE COLLEGE APPLICATION DEADLINE
- SCORE REPORTS CAN BE ORDERED FROM:
 - SAT: www.collegeboard.org
 - ACT: www.actstudent.org

Look for Scholarships EVERYWHERE!

- GA Futures
- Where you eat and shop
- Where you work
- Where your parent's work
- Counselor's office
- Zena's House 5K pages
- Your school's website
- EVERYWHERE!

We started the session with two videos about scholarships followed by Ms. Lewis who presented on the college application process. Some details were specific to students in Fulton county, GA only (using NAVIANCE software). She provided many helpful tips to include starting the process EARLY, researching and prioritizing schools, scheduling virtual visits, how to ask for recommendations, and creating a brag sheet. Mrs. Brown discussed using your contacts, mentors, and professional connections to your advantage. Such as family members in the military, sorority or fraternity as they may provide scholarship opportunities, etc. Additionally, update your resume regularly and always make sure you have a second person review and edit your essays!

Ms. Vital spoke about college debt, explained the purpose of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA), how to complete it and tips to include: 1. use all 10 spaces given to enter the schools you are applying to, 2. don't lose your password because it's a long process to set a new one, and 3. collect all documents before applying including your parent's tax information. Lastly, Mrs. Bronson discussed a number scholarship strategies and available scholarships students can currently apply for. Missed the workshop? No problem! Find the video on our YouTube channel : www.youtube.com/user/Zena0485.

News and Announcements

Welcome new Board member Emily Pena! We are excited introduce you to our newest board member, Ms. Emily Pena. Emily join us with experience in human resources, event planning and marketing. Further, Emily is a commissioned Naval Officer, an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and passionate about mentoring youth.



Meet Zena’s House at the Polls! We celebrated our first-time voters (ages 18-20) with a free slice of Oz pizza when they showed us their “I voted sticker”. We hosted the events at South Fulton Library, Welcome All Recreation Center, South Service Center and Bear Creek Middle school.

We believe it is important for our young adults to understand the importance of exercising their right to vote in every local and general election. We will host again for the GA run-off election.

Special thanks to **Oz Pizza, Fairburn** for donating 20 boxes of pizza for our events!

Another way to donate! Text zenas house to 44321

Sponsor Highlight: Ms. Gale Hill



I am thrilled to highlight McDonalds franchise owner and devoted supporter of Zena's House, Ms. Gale Hill. Gale is the former supervisor of my younger sister, Ellen. They developed a mentor/mentee relationship and friendship through their time at General Motors in Detroit in the late 1990's. Gale met Zena while she was visiting Ellen in Detroit where she became very close to them both. "Zena was the most loving and humble human being I've ever met. She was only 15 or 16 at the time and such a sweet soul."

Gale received her BA in Marketing from Western Michigan University and her MBA from Central Michigan University. She worked for GM for over 20 years and held leadership positions in Finance, Sales and Marketing. She purchased a Chevrolet Dealership in Buffalo, NY from 2002-2007 and purchased her first McDonald's franchise in Columbus, OH in 2008.

We asked Gale a few questions. **Why is it important for you to give to others?** "Youth work contributes to young peoples' learning and development. The key purpose of supporting Zena's House and other youth-serving organizations is to help young people to develop holistically. It also enables them to find and develop their voice, influence and place in society and to reach their full potential. Gale went on to say that "It's important to give to Zena's House because youth develop the skills that they will use to their own benefit for the rest of their lives. It's so important that we believe and invest in their future as well, if not us then who? **In your experience as an African American, female business owner, what advice would you give to our youth?** I was once sitting where you are with my life ahead of me excited and scared and applying for colleges. My dream was to attend college, major in nursing and live in Los Angeles. I took a marketing class and it changed my life and career aspirations. Don't limit yourself; explore other options and go where your passion, talent and desire leads you. Feed your imagination and your thirst for exploration by continuing to educate yourself. Own your decisions and own who you are without apology! If you can't find a way, make a way!!! Thank you Ms. Gale Hill for loving and supporting our youth and communities.

Student Highlight: JaMark McGuire aka JaytheHitz

We are excited to start a new section featuring our students! Thanks so much to my stepson, Jerry B, for making this great suggestion! We start this new section highlighting JaMark McGuire aka JaytheHitz. JaMark McGuire is a 2020 graduate of Creekside High School. During his senior year, he participated in Zena's House Operation Graduate mentoring program, where he was provided mentorship and various opportunities to participate in community service, college readiness, and other volunteer activities to help prepare him for life after high school graduation.



Mr. McGuire has continued to work towards his goals of sharing his creative performance artistry around the world. Currently known by his stage name, "JaytheHitz," JaMark is a R&B, hip hop and mime dance performer and uses social media to connect with his fans. He also loves making beats and video editing.



JaMark says Zena's House (ZH) has helped him in several ways. First, to be a more responsible person and to stay engaged in the community from voting to volunteering. Second, to never give up on his goals and third, to effectively communicate with others and to take advantage of networking opportunities. We are very proud of JaMark and excited for his future. **Want to book JaytheHitz for a performance? Please email him at lijaymcguire@gmail.com. You can find him on IG, Twitter and YouTube @Jaythehitz.**

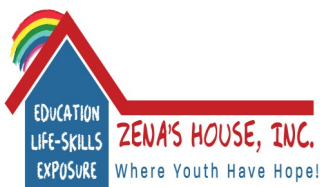
We take Cash App! 706-503-2425 or \$zenashouse

THANK YOU!!

For your Support in 2020!

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Monthly Donor/\$500-\$999/year Monthly Donor/\$1,000+/year



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!