

Zena's House, Inc.

Where youth have HOPE!

FALL 2022

Zena's House sees Black Panther: Wakanda Forever

An invitation for special access viewing of Black Panther with 20 Zena's House (ZH) students and volunteers was a real treat thanks to Carlotta Holloway with The Allen Lewis Agency, **Hallmark Mahogany** and Janine Randall for nominating ZH to attend. Not only did our students relish in the special access viewing of the iconic Black Panther: Wakanda Forever film, but they also learned about Hallmark Mahogany and received a really nice goodie bag compliments of Hallmark. What a truly fantastic and rewarding experience for our students and volunteers-- Thank you again Hallmark Mahogany!



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The Well-Rounded Student

Over 30 students joined us and rotated through 4 stations to learn about the components of being a well rounded student 1. a scholar profile that lays out all the student's accomplishments like GPA, college plans, extracurricular activities, and community service, etc. This profile can be used for jobs, scholarships, teacher recommendations, college applications and so much more 2. A headshot. Students should have a nice 'professional'

picture for their profile and social media. 3. Volunteer and extra-curricular experiences to show that they are engaged in their community and a team player. 4. Lastly, a 30-second elevator pitch that quickly summarizes their name, school, and future aspirations. **Special thanks** to our amazing speakers Arnela Konde, Autumn McNeil, Rachel Corbett and our volunteers Donna Scoggins, Dr. Maisha Standifer, Chiquita Turner and student volunteer Karma, from Westlake High. What is clear is Zena's House is preparing students to put their best foot forward in pursuing their future educational and professional endeavors.



Staying Safe & Social Online

Sadly, there is never a shortage of social media situations that end badly for both teens and adults. Our goal is simply to educate, empower and keep our students safe and aware of online trappings. We heard from High School Administrator, Mrs. A. Freeman, engaged parent, L Sermons, social media influencer Slaymia, C. Milam, Chief Technology Officer with the Rockefeller Foundation and recent Emory graduates A. McNeil and A. Konde. The takeaways from this workshop were: 1. School hands are tied on what they can do with social media issues taking place after school hours/weekends, HOWEVER parents can sue and they are! 2. Parents should read and understand the parent/school handbook, talk with your students and be knowledgeable of their social media accounts and activities. 3. Don't tag your present locations and only post after you are back from vacation, etc. 4. Google yourself and see what pops up and correct as needed. In addition to the solid guidance, parents received a parental social media handbook that shares the latest text lingo and apps to be aware of.



See our videos and workshops at www.youtube.com/user/zena0485

LIFE'S ESSENTIALS Workshops to INFORM and EMPOWER



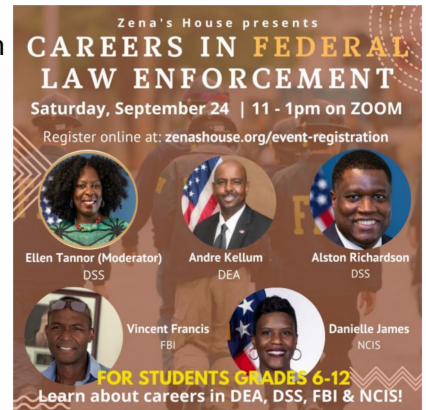
Welcome New Board Member: Trinity Townsend, Esq.

We are thrilled to have attorney Mr. Trinity Townsend join the Zena's House Board of Directors. Mr. Townsend is also co-author of a criminal law guide called [When the Cops Come Knockin](#). He has served as a facilitator of our "Social Media Safety" and "Law and You" workshops since 2017. Trinity is from Michigan and worked as a history teacher for several years. He received his law degree from Emory University and is an attorney with Fulton County. Trinity is a perfect addition to our Board and we look forward to the wealth of knowledge, experience and support he will bring to Zena's House.

Careers in Federal Law Enforcement

We held our Careers in Federal Law Enforcement webinar for middle and high school students to learn and consider a career as Special Agent. We thank, Ellen Tannor-Richardson for moderating and coordinating this webinar with her colleagues in Federal Law Enforcement: Alston Richardson, Diplomatic Security Service (DSS), Vincent Francis, Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) Andre Kellum, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and Danielle James, Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS).

A few takeaways from the webinar were 1. All careers above require a 4-year college degree, 2. Candidates must pass physical and psychological exams and a background check. 4. The minimum age to apply is 23. 5. This is a career that can take you across the world—find the right fit. Careers in Federal Law Enforcement is possible and minority representation is especially needed across all agencies! All agencies are rightly working to increase diversity in Federal Law Enforcement, so if you are interested in a career or know someone who is, the entire webinar can be viewed on Zena's House YouTube page at: <https://www.youtube.com/@Zena0485>



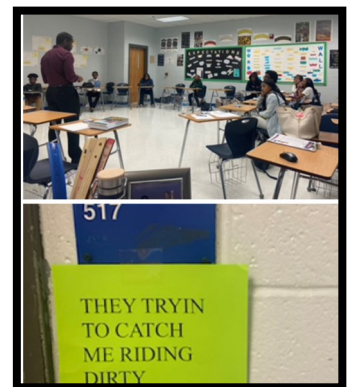
Operation Graduate

We are in full swing with our c/o 2023 seniors at Creekside. This year, we are mentoring 8 students and helping them prepare to graduate and start their next chapter be it a 2- or 4-year college, training or military. We have monthly Lunch and Learns with them at school to check-in and facilitate short life-skills lessons like preparing a scholar profile and a 30-second elevator pitch. Mentors and mentees communicate at least 4 times a month. **If you would like to donate funds, speak or provide opportunities for our seniors, please email bernice@zenashouse.org or donate at www.zenashouse.org.**

They Tryin to Catch Me Riding Dirty (The Law & You 2.0)

We took our Law & You workshop to the Westlake High School Student Takeover Conference a second time this year. Our workshop was led by our Board member, attorney, and co-author of *When the Cops Come Knockin*, Trinity Townsend.

Mr. Townsend presented a number of TV clips of students involved in criminal activities and discussed the issues, charges and what students can do to prevent such situations. A few takeaways were: 1. Try to manage your body language—unclench fists and stay as calm as possible. 2. Watch the crew you keep—are they positive or leading you down the wrong path? 3. A criminal record makes it hard to get a job and attend college. The workshop ended with a pledge to **stay out of the system** and students who answered/asked questions received a copy of the criminal guide.



Sponsor Spotlight: Antoinette Sibley



As always, I'm thrilled to highlight amazing people who support Zena's House in so many ways. Meet Ms. Antoinette Sibley, also known as Toni. Toni and I met at church almost 20 years ago where Toni oversaw the tutoring program, and I served in the teen ministry. Toni is a Real Estate Paralegal, business owner and volunteer Director of Education Support Program.

In 2006, Toni helped me complete the GA Department of Education application to provide tutoring. We received the contract and tutored for 6 years! Toni volunteers and donates to ZH and is a current Z-Squad member where she helps promote our events on social media. Most recently, Toni came up with our fundraising idea of \$37 for 37!!

Toni says she decided to support "because of the vision of the founder, Bernice. She had a heart to help young people. Bernice was willing to sacrifice whatever necessary to see that students had a program that could help with education and life skills. 15 plus years later, she still has the same heart. In fact, I think it is deeper now, because she has seen the fruit of her labor. Students are coming back to the program to help others."

We asked Toni how would she encourage others to support Zena's House? "I encourage people to support any way they can. It may be money or talents. It may be referrals or connections. Or maybe it is prayers. Zena's House is fighting for the lives of young people to let them know that they are loved and someone cares for them. Our job is to help with that fight."

What advice or encouragement would you give to parents and youth? To parents: focus on communicating with patience and love to your child. Do not be afraid to seek help. It keeps you from feeling like you are in a bubble by yourself. To students: Know that God Loves you and therefore you are already validated. You do not have to prove your worth to anybody. Honor your parents and verified authority. Have fun, be healthy in your mind and body and be happy..... We salute Ms. Toni Sibley!

Student Spotlight: Skye Mattison



Meet our amazing student, Skye, an 11th Grader at Fayette County High School. Skye has attended a number of Zena's House events to include our college tour to the University of West Georgia and the Well-Rounded Student workshop.



After high school Skye plans to pursue a career in Dermatology. She would like to attend Emory University with a major in Biology and a minor in Spanish. Skye says Zena's House has made the college experience less intimidating. "Though the workshops I have attended, I have gained an understanding of how college admissions work and feel confident in applying for my senior year. This is information that I will take with me throughout the rest of my high school career and beyond."



One piece of advice I would give to my peers is to follow your dreams. It may seem cliché, but it's so true. There are going to be a lot of people who will doubt you or don't believe in you but as long as you believe in your self, you will achieve your goals.

Thank you, Skye! We are so proud of you and look forward to the great things in store for you!

Want to donate to ZH? TEXT zenashouse to 44321

Thank YOU 2022 \$upporters!

Donors: \$1- \$99 \$100—\$999/year \$1,000+/year (*) Monthly

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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. Ask your friends to donate
4. Post our events on your social media and email networks
5. Select Zena's House as your charity at www.smile.amazon.com

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6. Select Kroger as your charity at www.kroger.com/community-rewards



Zena's House is a non-profit youth development organization that provides life-skills workshops, mentoring 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!