

Zena's House, Inc.

Where youth have HOPE!

SPRING 2023

Donate! Text zenashouse to 44321 * Cash App \$706-503-2524 * Paypal www.zenashouse.org

2023 Zena C. Gyasi Academic Scholarship Winners Announced!

Zena's House awards the Zena C. Gyasi Academic Scholarship to students who have demonstrated exceptional scholastic and leadership qualities. This year we received 33 applications from 17 different high school students in metro Atlanta. Zena's House thanks each of the amazing students who applied and we wish them all the best. We are proud to announce this year's recipients of the Zena C. Gyasi Academic Scholarship: Matthew Cook from Charles R. Drew Charter School and Kellsey Miller from Sandy Creek High School. Matthew will attend Alabama State University, with plans to major in Biology. Kellsey will attend the University of Georgia with plans to double major in Political Science and Psychology, with a minor in Journalism.



Congratulations, Matthew and Kellsey!



We are extremely proud to announce that the generous contributions from our donors allowed us to increase the financial award this year from \$1,000 to \$1,250! Our donors are our financial lifeline and we could not do it without their dedication to assisting our students in their quest to further their education. The impact of their donations will continue to reverberate for years to come. Our goal is to increase every year with the continued support of our donors. Please support our efforts to increase scholarship opportunities in 2024 by donating to Zena's House.

Contributions can be made on the following platforms: www.zenashouse.org; Cash App: 706-503-2524 (\$zenashouse); Text Zena38 to 44321. Please make sure to note 'scholarship'. We thank you in advance!

Last but certainly not least, Zena's House owes a very special thanks to our scholarship review team for their dedication to this process: *Francis Tannor, Ellen Tannor Richardson, Aseda Addai-Deseh, Kimberly Cannon, Dr. Andrea Francis, Autumn McNeil, Anfernee Morgan, Donna Scoggins, Antoinette Sibley, Trinity Townsend, Chiquita Turner and Danielle Veal*. We are honored you all have chosen Zena's House to lend your talents and expertise and we cannot thank you enough.

Welcome New Board Member!



Please join me in welcoming Dr. Tamara Candis as our newest Zena's House Board Member! We are thrilled to add Dr. Candis to our roster. In addition to her many other achievements, Dr. Candis is a Zone Superintendent for Fulton County Schools. She brings 22 years of experience in education as a counselor, teacher and principal. Her vast experience in education and working with schools at various levels will help us better understand and support the needs of our students. We expect to expand our outreach efforts to new heights with the expertise of Dr. Candis. We look forward to working with Dr. Candis as we continue to instill vision and commitment in our young people.

Board of Directors: Bernice Bronson, MPH *Tamara Candis, Ed.D. *Trinity Townsend, Esq.*Danielle Veal, MPA

Mailing Address: 5050 Union Street Unit 262 Union City, GA 30291 * 678-665-6506 * www.zenashouse.org

Money Moves Financial Literacy Workshop

Money Money Money! We all need it ... We all want it, but do we know how to get it? And more importantly, how do we KEEP it? Well, that was our focus at our Money Moves 101 Workshop. Zenda's House (ZH) and Kizzie Crawford of Distinguished Young Ladies partnered to host this event. More than 20 students and parents attended this Saturday morning workshop. Students and parents rotated to three different 'stations' and learned about credit, banking and investing.



Important takeaways from the workshop:

1. Get it, save it, and make it grow. No amount of money is too small to save. **The important thing is to SAVE SOMETHING!** 2. **Credit scores** generated by credit reporting agencies range from 350-850. The higher your score, the more confident lending institutions will be to loan you money. A high score indicates to them that you are trustworthy and will pay your bills on time. 3. **Interest:** The amount it will cost you to borrow money. A \uparrow high credit score = a \downarrow lower interest rate. 4. **Build your wealth portfolio** by investing in real estate, mutual funds, stocks, etc.. 5. **Establish a relationship with a local bank or credit union.** These relationships provide opportunities to set up checking and savings accounts to keep your money secure. Remember to utilize your financial institution to cash checks and handle other financial matters.

EACH STUDENT received a laminated Money Moves 101 resource sheet to reference key points at a later date. Students were quizzed on information they learned in each workshop. Those who answered questions correctly won cash prizes and digital banks to get into the habit of saving. **Big shout out to our phenomenal**

presenters: Tamesha Walker, Financial Coach, Author and Realtor; Talesha Bates, Financial Coach and Author; Danielle Veal, ZH board member, and Benard Dorsey, Academy Design Consultant with Bank of America.



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS of 2023 OPERATION GRADUATE (OG) GRADUATES!

Mission Accomplished! WE ARE PROUD TO REPORT THAT OUR STUDENTS GRADUATED!! What a joy it was to see them walk across the stage. Special thanks to our amazing OG mentors, Creekside administration and staff Mrs. Yolanda Magee and Dr. Maria Bazile. We are especially grateful to the parents, our financial donors and **Publix** for their support. The path to graduation was not without its challenges. Our mentors and mentees demonstrated incredible resilience and commitment to seeing the process through to the end. The consistent communication, face-to-face interactions, and lunch and learn attendances eventually broke the ice and began to foster trust between Coach mentors and mentee!

Learn more about our *OG mentoring program* in our *Special Edition Newsletter*.



Coach Mentors (top left to right) Yolanda Harris, Lynn King, Percy King, Katrina Sloan, Trinity Townsend, Chiquita Turner and Bernice Bronson



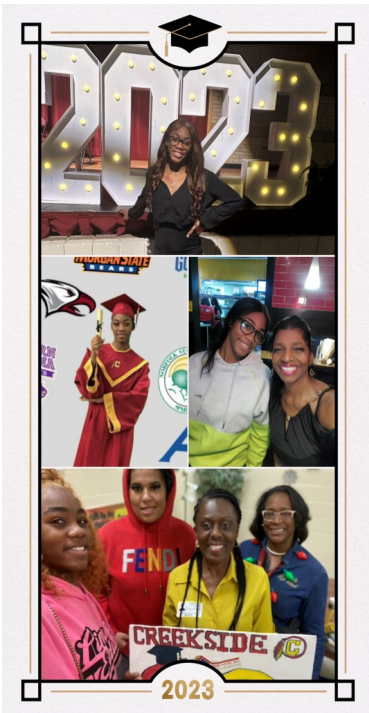
Sponsor Spotlight: Alisa Gentry

Generous is the first word that comes to mind when I think of our Sponsor Highlight, Mrs. Alisa Gentry. Alisa received her MBA from the University of Pittsburgh and is currently employed as a Promise Customer Experience Manager with Subaru of America. In 2019, Alisa saw a posting for Zena's House Atlanta College Tour and inquired about registering her niece, Amaris. To my astonishment, Alisa was so determined to have her niece participate she agreed to fly Amaris in from Pittsburgh for the tour! As promised, Amaris arrived in Atlanta and attended the college tour with our group. It was at that point, I was able to meet Alisa face to face. We learned we had so much in common – including being **sorority sisters!**

Since then, Alisa has become a staunch supporter of Zena's House, especially in our fundraising efforts. As a Z-Squad member she also helps to promote our events, which in turn increases revenue. We asked Alisa why she is so committed to the success of Zena's House. She replied, "Because I like what you all stand for. I support your desire to educate and provide opportunities for our young people." Lastly, we asked Alisa how she would encourage others to support Zena's House. She said she would encourage others to "Get involved and volunteer with community organizations like Zena's House. I would also tell them to donate financially, if you can, no amount is too small." We are so grateful for supporters like Alisa!



Student Spotlight: Taleiah Weaver



We are delighted to highlight an amazing Zena's House mentee, Ms. Taleiah Weaver. Taleiah was a participant in our 2022-2023 OG mentoring program and has blossomed beautifully! She is hard working, talented, and smart. We watched her verbal and written communication skills improve tremendously. Taleiah was paired with her Coach Mentor, Mrs. Lynn King and the two created quite a bond.

Taleiah says "Zena's House has impacted my life in many ways! They showed me there was hope and pushed me to my fullest. They made sure I was on top of things so I could graduate on time and pursue a college education. Zena's House provided me with a lifelong mentor and also taught me skills like table etiquette, financial literacy, resume writing and interviewing techniques." We asked Taleiah what advice she would give to her peers, given what she has learned through the mentorship program. She said, "Never decline help - even when you don't think you need it. It will eventually come in handy and will help you through your journey into adulthood." Taleiah graduated from Creekside High School on



May 18, 2023. She expects to attend college, pursuing a degree in early childhood education. We are extremely proud of Taleiah and wish her all the best!

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

Thank YOU 2023 \$upporters!

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

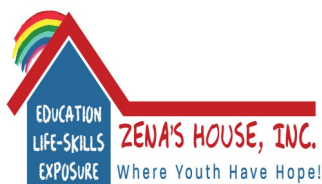
Vena Ansong Donna Scoggins Ellen & Alston Richardson
Bernice & Jerry Bronson Rebecca Gyasi* Jo Ann Fuller Tommy Mattison
Dr. Surjit Chandhoke* Dr. Maisha Standifer Antionette Lavender
Kizzie Crawford Tranell Guthrie* Dr. Joseph Oppong Jr.* Cynthia Barnett Gail Molock
Beatrice Adai Desseh Danielle Veal Dr. Andrea Francis* Dr. Stacey Kontoh
Teresa Doniger Shelbia King* Dr. Natasha Lyles* Verla Neslund
Dr. LaTisha Marshall Helen Rebecca Amissah-McKinney William Johnson
Dr. Angela and Mr. Clyde Corbin Theresa Story/Likely Story Financial Group*
Franchesca Warren* Tracy Hessaway Trish Miller Cynthia Barnett
Jadey Brock Lynn King Kathy Hood Candace Tenga Jewel Mcghee
Beatrice and Kwadwo Addai Deseh Trinity Townsend Francis Tannor*
Aseda Addai Deseh* Zhara Tannor Stanley Morgan

How Can YOU 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. Ask your friends to donate.
4. Post our events on your social media and email networks.
5. Go to www.kroger.com/community-rewards and select Zena's House as your charity.



Remembering Zena! Text Zena38 to 44321
Help us celebrate the life of Zena with a donation of \$38. Zena would have turned 38 on April 10, 2023.
Donations will support our 2024 scholarships.



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!