

Zena's House, Inc.

Where youth have HOPE!

Spring 2020

Zena's House Fundraising Week of Love, April 1-10

These past three months have been unbelievable as the world faces the Corona virus pandemic! The entire world was literally STOPPED in its tracks. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone during this very difficult time! As a result of this pandemic, we had to cancel our events.

Last fall, Zena's House applied to work with Georgia State University Master of Social Work students. We asked for assistance with a fundraising project and four awesome ladies accepted our application. Our fundraising Week of Love project, was developed for April 1-10. The goal was to encourage our supporters to donate \$5 for every child they love and to show love to their children with their love language.

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Mailing address:

PO Box 262
Union City, GA 30291
Phone: (678) 665-6506
www.zenashouse.org

Our week (10 days) of love consisted of highlighting the 5 love languages on social media, Family Game day and a fundraiser at Chipotle (Camp Creek). Parents were asked to have their tweens and teens take the Love Language Quiz and make a 60 second video about it. The videos were posted on our

Instagram and Facebook pages. Parent and students enjoyed learning more about their children's love language.

We were so excited to plan and host our first Family Game Day where families would attend our event, play board games and enjoy quality time with their family and friends as we raised funds (registration fees, snacks, raffles). The team secured many great raffle prizes from Donation Match to include Escape Room tickets! Our Do Good with Burritos fundraiser at Chipotle would allow ZH to receive a percentage of funds from the lunch or dinners that our supporters purchased that evening.

While we were disappointed about our cancelled events, we are grateful for the GSU MSW team for creating a fundraising project outline that we can use for years to come. We are also thankful for the many people who are still able to donate to ZH during this challenging time. We truly appreciate you!

STAY SAFE– Wash Hands and Continue to Social Distance



Isis Wilson, Brianna Hilton-Isaac, Jazmin Maye, and Kamaria Baysmore



My Children & Their Love Languages

Follow Zena's House



The Law and YOU!

Zena's House and our community partners: Union City Mayor, Vince Williams, Union City Police Department and Next Level Boys Academy, hosted the Law and You workshop at the Gathering Place in Union City on February 29, 2020. It was an engaging, thought-provoking workshop on the law and its impact on the African American community.

The workshop began with a compilation of videos of news clips about notable crimes committed by local youth, snippets from an episode of TV One's, For My Man, and an informational video about Gary Davis' diversion program (Next Level Boys Academy). Participants had the opportunity to attend two sessions: one centered around the justice system, with panel members including, Judge Ronald Freeman, Union City; Sergeant R. Pittman-Delancey, Union City Police; Dejaesic Zellers, Creekside High School Resource Officer, and facilitator, Judge Fani Willis.

Panel members in the second session discussed the social impacts of the law in the community, and included Gary Davis, Portia Summers-Thurston (Parent), Dr. RJ Verwayne (Clinical Psychologist), and Attorney and ZH Board member, Riah Greathouse, who served as the session facilitator. Students and parents gave personal accounts of their encounters with the legal system, as well as sought advice from panel members on how to stay out of the criminal justice system. Officer Davis also shared the importance of parents telling their kids they love them. One participant stated, "I learned a lot of great information that I will apply to my life from both sessions today."

Workshop attendees also met author, Trinity Townsend, who had available for purchase the book he co-authored, titled *'When the Cops Come Knockin'* – an illustrated guide to criminal law, a must-have every home library. The ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha Tau Epsilon Omega Chapter were also on hand to assist attendees with voter registration.

The afternoon concluded with all guests being treated to pizza donated and served by **OZ Pizza**, the announcement of raffle winners and participants completing a quick online survey about the workshop. The surveys reveal that session goers departed armed, not only with increased legal knowledge, but some new life skills, which include: **1.** Spend quality time with your kids, know their friends and parents and keep them active and engaged in after school programs. (clubs, sports, etc,) **2.** Learn how your kids best respond to you (yelling and nagging is not always the best solution). These simple suggestions can make THE difference between being in the system and freedom. #stayoutofthesystem

Information and knowledge IS power!



Donate at paypal.me/zenashouse85

Congratulations to our OG Creekside Seniors!

DeAndre, JaMark, Jaylen, Jonathan, Kimaj, Malik, Sensoury, Sierra



Our seniors are cleared to graduate! We partnered with Creekside High School and began our Operation Graduate (OG) mentoring program in the 2019-2020 school year. Seven **AMAZING** ladies and myself answered the call to be Coach mentors– **Talesha B, Chaunta F, Kathy G, Stacey G, Katrina S, Felicia T, and Danielle V.** Mentors were interviewed, trained and matched with the students. Interestingly, our mentees comprised of six young men and two young ladies. At the kick-off in August, parents, students and mentors met and learned a little about each other and the mentorship began. Mentors were to check in with their student at least twice a month.

I want to thank everyone on this group chat, without this organization, I would never have known I can be friends with the school's smartest kids and they influenced me to do better.— Kimaj

After a few months, we realized that calls or texts alone was not enough, so we implemented monthly lunch and learns where we would meet our students at school during lunch– provide lunch, get and give updates and encouragement. We also emailed teachers, met with students and parents face-to-face outside of school, reviewed progress reports, assisted with scholarship applications, wrote recommendation letters, etc. They were also given assignments to include preparing a scholar profile and creating a parchment account to send us their official transcripts. Students earned surprise \$5 cash app rewards for completing assignments, etc. At times, we got a little firm with them to get them on track. Additionally, we encouraged them to attend ZH sponsored events such as our scholarship and law and you workshops. In February, we had a fun outing at Dave & Busters with students, parents and mentors. We enjoyed the time to further bond, share, eat and play games.



OG ZOOM Lunch and Learn

During the shelter-in-place mandate, we held our lunch and learns via Zoom (thanks to Sensoury for the suggestion). Our ultimate goal was to ensure that our students graduate and developed an after high school plan. Some of our students have been accepted into 4-year colleges, technical college and or will receive training or certifications. We are very proud of them and grateful for the support from their parents, grandparents, aunts and Creekside staff, Principal Pollock, Dr. Maria Bazile, Mrs. Yolanda Magee, counselors and teachers. #village



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

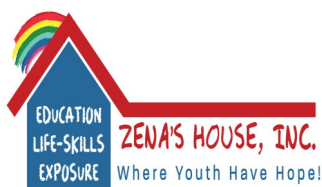
THANK YOU!!

For your Support of our 2020 Fundraising Week of Love and OG Seniors

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Zena's House, Inc.
Thanks our 2020 Corporate Sponsors!



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!