



# Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation

Opening the Gates to a Brighter Future  
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“Education is all a matter of building bridges.”  
*Ralph Ellison, American novelist and scholar.*

## **GGMF Strives to Provide a Bridge**

As the above quote implies, education can build bridges to knowledge, skills, confidence, and a hopeful future. As the Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation is starting the new school year, we are often contemplating our methods. We want to create the best atmosphere and design the most effective program to maximize our impact on the children that we reach. We want to choose words that can convince the children that they are smart, important, and worthy of a bright future. We hope to instill kindness, tolerance, patience, and perseverance amidst hardship.

The new school year provides us with a challenge to make the next nine months the best yet. Staff members will work together to share talents and ideas for the benefit of the kids. There will be guests, science experiments, group challenges, and cooking lessons. There is a promise to those that support this foundation that we will think and act with determination to change the future for the better.

## **Dr. Zane Gates Receives Honor**

Zane Gates was honored on August 5, 2017 by the Sisters of Divine Providence in Pittsburgh, PA. He was presented with the Ketteler Award for Social Justice. The award is given in memory of Bishop Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler who is honored in Germany as the social justice bishop that worked tirelessly for the rights of the working class. Like Bishop Ketteler, Dr. Gates is dedicated to people who struggle to afford basic human necessities. In his case, Zane devotes his time and energy to health care access and affordability. His other passion, of course, is children from low income households. Zane started the Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation in honor of his mother so that children will be encouraged and directed towards a bright future.

To receive the award, Zane travelled to Pittsburgh with his wife, Natalie, and their kids. He received the biggest surprise of the evening when he realized that a very special teacher, Sister Kathryn, was at the award ceremony. Sister Kathryn has always been credited by Zane for being the first to realize his intellectual capability despite his difficulty with focusing. Sister Kathryn stayed with Zane each day after his elementary school classes were over and helped him to excel in his studies.



## Meet Navaeh and Savannah

In the past, this newsletter has introduced readers to several children and young adults who attended a GGMF after school

program for many of his or her early years. In this issue, we would



like you to meet Savannah Green and Navaeh Gibson. Both of the girls were enrolled in our after school program from the time that they were very young. They attended the program daily and even stayed on as volunteers once they entered junior high. They attended the “Amazing Girls Summit” hosted by the GGMF and Penn State Kids College along with many other field trips. **They are now honor roll students taking advanced classes.** They remain close friends and they stay in touch with former GGMF staff member, Jody Christen. We are so very proud of them.

## They Thought They Couldn't But..

By Becca Brown, Site Director

As an educator, there's nothing more exciting than hearing the words “I can't.” Those words are a challenge and something I hear quite often from the children, though nothing elicits that response quite like a STEM challenge. I'm very fond of doing STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) challenges with the children for that very reason. The challenges I present to the kids are quite simple, but then once I show them what materials they have to complete it, that's when I hear the

chorus of “can'ts” and “impossibles.” It may take some prompting and encouragement on my part and quite a bit of trial and error on their part, but there is something very satisfying in watching a child's eyes when they realized that they, in fact, can. And as I will remind the children, if they can build a table out of paper or a bridge out of cotton swabs, who's to say that the other impossible challenges in their lives might not be achieved with an attitude of “I know I can.”

## New Computers!

The Gloria Gates Foundation received a donation of eight brand new all-in-one computers complete with software and virus protection. New computers are a real luxury to us. Four of the computers were placed at our Evergreen Manors site and four were placed at our Fairview Hills site. We were also given new modems and routers to make sure that all of the technology is updated. The donor wishes to remain anonymous, but our students are so grateful to him.

## GGMF 2017-2018 Board of Directors

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