



# Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation

Opening the Gates to a Brighter Future  
PO Box 89, Altoona, PA 16603 814-949-8838 director@ggmf.org

## December 2016

### Officer Dion Tallie

The Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation is proud to announce that one of our former students is now a part of the Altoona Police Department. Dion Tallie was enrolled in the GGMF as a young boy while living his grandmother. It was obvious even then that Dion would make an impact on this world. He was a very compassionate yet comical and charming kid . On one particular day when Dion was about twelve years old, a troubled little girl had crawled under a table and was having a tantrum. Dion said “I got this” and was able to talk the little girl into calming down and getting back into her chair. He was also able to understand and explain why another young boy would react with anger so often. “He just misses his mother

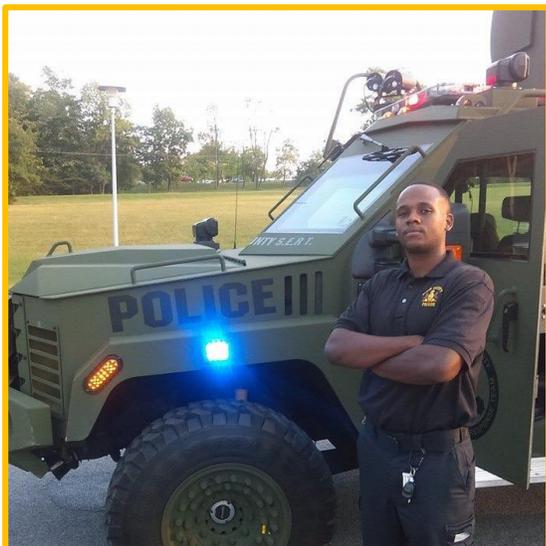


because she’s away for a few months”. Dion’s insight was helpful back then and will certainly be an asset in his new career.

There were many people who were a part of Dion’s formative years. However, the GGMF recently received this message from Officer Tallie: “The Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation served as a major stepping stone early in my life. It did and has continued to offer a reliable place for kids to get the mentorship that they need. The “program” not only allowed me to focus primarily on my school work, it helped me develop skills that I will continue to use for the rest of my life.....I am ecstatic knowing that the after school program can now reach as many young kids as ever.

### First Quarter Report Cards

The GGMF uses the enrolled children’s school report cards as one of the many ways that we measure the impact of our after school programs. The first quarter report cards were issued in November. The average reading grade for the children was 92%. The average math grade was 89%. We are very proud of the children, and we know that with your support, they will continue to succeed.



### GGMF Board of Directors

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Kathi Ardizzone | Elena Grab      |
| Bill Beard      | Tom Irwin       |
| Fritz Beard     | Lenora Irwin    |
| Kim Van Buren   | Brian Isenberg  |
| Padget Burkey   | Brad Kanuch     |
| Zane Gates      | Tony Pellegrino |
| Ed Grab         | Mickey Port     |

### **GGMF Staff Viewpoint**

The GGMF staff members get together at least twice a year to discuss common goals and to share ideas and solutions. The staff members were asked to list their biggest personal goals in relation to the children. Allura Phiester who works at two of our after school program sites summed up her thoughts: "My biggest goal is to be available for whatever the kids need me for that day. Whether it's homework help or just someone to listen to them talk about their day." Other staff members mentioned having children recognize the value of education or learning the values of respect and kindness. We are very fortunate to have an excellent team of staff members this year, and they are all working hard to serve as role models and coaches as children overcome life's obstacles.

### **Golf Tournament**

You probably already have a shiny new 2017 calendar. Please open your calendar to June and mark June 10<sup>th</sup> as the day you'll join us for the annual "For the Kids" golf tournament to be held at Park Hills Country Club in Altoona. The tournament benefits the Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation and has proven to be a lot of fun with great camaraderie.

### **How Many Ducks will Float in a Boat?**

At the GGMF after school program at Fairview Hills, staff member Becca Brown has initiated weekly STEM challenges. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Once a week, the children are put into teams along with visiting Penn State students. They are given a set of building materials such as tape, straws, paper cups, etc. and instructed to build a specific object. At first, the children argued and some even quit the activity. But eventually, the kids learned to work together and really enjoy each new challenge. One challenge was to build a boat that would float while holding a stack of rubber ducks. The boat that could hold the most ducks without sinking won the challenge. Everyone had fun and no ducks were harmed!



**Please consider making a holiday donation so that we can continue to help children take their first steps towards a bright future.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Donation : \$25\_\_\_\_\_ \$50\_\_\_\_\_ \$100\_\_\_\_\_ \$200\_\_\_\_\_ \$500\_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation, PO Box 89, Altoona, PA 16603