



Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation

Opening the Gates to a Brighter Future
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“Somewhere inside all of us is the power to change the world.” *Roald Dahl, author of “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory”*

Changing the World of a Child

by A. B.

I look into the little face,
Her shirt trimmed in tattered lace.

She is high in spirit and really bright,
But will her life turn out all right?

I ache to think how hard it will be,
For her to walk away from poverty.

She needs more than gifts and toys,
Though they bring her certain joys.

It takes guidance, encouragement, and folks
who care,
To extend their support and keep it there.

YOU help her to believe, hope, and learn,
So she can fly when it comes her turn.

Thank you for changing the world of this child,
She looked at her future, and she smiled.

Our Mission

The Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation offers after school programs for children in kindergarten through 6th grade. The goal of the Foundation is to help children succeed in school and to learn respect, kindness, and perseverance so that they will grow to be responsible adults. The Foundation hopes to break the cycle of poverty and to encourage children to reach their full potential.

A New School Year

The Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation is happy to announce that all three of our after school program sites are bursting with children. We have ten staff members working directly with the youth, and we are often joined by volunteers. We are all very excited to start a new school year, and we are so happy to offer a safe place for children to learn, play, and socialize. We are grateful to all of our donors and grantors that make this possible.

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College Bound GGMF Students!

The Gloria Gates Foundation loves to hear from past participants. Since the former students, their parents, and their teachers know that we are always waiting for good news from them, we hear it often.

Recently, the mother of one of our past students flagged down our Executive Director. It was Courtney Dell whose daughter, Aurora, attended a GGMF after school program all through elementary school. Courtney was proud to show a photo of Aurora with her early acceptance certificate from Clarion University. Aurora hopes to major in math. She will be a shining star.



Another former GGMF participant, Ta'Shay Seward, has been accepted to the Altoona Area High School's SOAR program. The SOAR program reaches students who have perseverance, focus, and ambition to attend college. The SOAR program inspires students to earn good grades while preparing them to choose a college and submit an application. It provides mentoring from community members and field trips to visit area colleges.



Penn State Kids College

In mid-July, the Gloria Gates Foundation took eighteen kids to Penn State Kids College for a week of fun and learning. The children received scholarships from Penn State which were provided by Investment Savings Bank. Each day, the children boarded the blue and white bus and travelled to the Penn State Altoona campus. They took part in indoor and outdoor activities where they learned everything from sign language to making moon sand. We were very proud to hear from the Kids College teachers that the GGMF students had wonderful manners, were respectful, and always cooperative. Just like parents, we were glad to hear that what we practice at the after school programs was put into action at Penn State.

Golf Tournament

The 8th annual "For the Kids" golf tournament was held on Saturday, June 9 at Park Hills Golf Club. The tournament benefits the GGMF after school programs and is always held on the second Saturday of June. This year's winning team was Thompson Pharmacy. The tournament raised \$12,000 thanks to our sponsors, golfers, and board members. GGMF board member,



Tony Pellegrino, donated funds to cover the operational costs which allowed the foundation to bank most of the income. Dinner sponsors included Grane Hospice, Senior Life, Tony Pellegrino, UPMC Altoona, and Value Drug. We are grateful to all of the many tournament sponsors and golfers. We also thank Scott Rhine, Galen Grimes, and Matt Hileman for organizing this tournament each year.

Thank You Altoona Housing Authority!

Many agencies have a lot to worry about in addition to carrying out their mission. They also have to worry about keeping a roof over the agency. The Gloria Gates Foundation is so grateful to the Altoona Housing Authority which provides a free two-story office, utilities, and internet service for the foundation. The office is located at 118 East Spruce Court in Fairview Hills. We have five rooms for office work, storage, and meetings. The Housing Authority keeps the office space clean and repaired. We are so grateful to AHA Executive Director Cheryl Johns, Fairview Hills Administrative Officer Brad Kanuch, all of the maintenance staff, and even our Fairview Hills neighbors who often offer a helping hand.

*Toni Bilik, Executive Director
Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation*

