

emPower

A FAMILY SCHOLAR HOUSE MAGAZINE



FAMILY SCHOLAR
HOUSE

CHANGING LIVES, FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION





PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



"To see things in the seed, that is genius." Lao Tzu

Most of my life, I have been around gardeners. I have learned that **autumn is an exciting time for those who find their joy in a garden**, not because it is a time of harvest, but because it is a **time of planning and hope**. For a gardener, ideas abound for next season. As the ground prepares for a winter's rest, gardeners fill their time with soil preparation, seed catalogue shopping, and visions of next year's garden.

At Family Scholar House, **our garden is filled with wonderful scholars of all ages** and we nurture them, provide sustenance and eagerly anticipate seeing them come to full-bloom. As gardeners in this work, we first encounter our participants when they are best **characterized by their potential and their desire to fulfill it**. They are motivated by their dreams for a better life for their children and their goals of becoming, in the words of our alumna Elizabeth Scott, "independent, self-sufficient tax-payers and contributing members of our community."

With apologies to Dr. Eure, my Wake Forest Biology professor - and with a reminder that I majored not in biology but in economics - I offer the anatomy of a seed as a parallel to the dreams of our parent scholars. You see, **each seed has a special protective coat** called a testa that protects the embryo within the seed from insects, infection, abrasion and from being crushed by the weight of the world around it. Similarly, **the protective coat for the dreams of our scholars is hope**. The greatest poverty is a lack of hope. Hopelessness is debilitating; it infects an individual and derails growth; **hopelessness is capable of crushing one's dreams**.

In many ways, **Family Scholar House is a greenhouse**, a nursery for tender plants and for more mature plants that need extra attention to get back on track. We are a place in which **hope is abundant, dreams are nurtured and harvests are celebrated**. **Each dream fulfilled produces new seeds that take root in our community**.

At our upcoming luncheon, **Dr. Tererai Trent** will share her story of **writing her dreams on paper** she wrapped in a piece of tin can and **buried in the ground**. **Coated in hope and fueled by her desire for education**, she not only completed each of her dreams, she returned to her community to build a school to educate children and provide teacher training. **From one seed, many continue to be born**. This is a luncheon you will not want to miss! Your investment in the garden we are growing at Family Scholar House is producing a bountiful harvest that changes the landscape of our community as many new seeds result from each dream fulfilled.

Thank you for joining us in 'seeing things in the seed' and providing an environment rich with **opportunities for dreams to mature and become reality** as families thrive and reach their full potential.

Cathe Dykstra
Chief Possibility Officer
President & CEO



COVER PHOTO
Mechelle Artis, with her son, 4 year-old Leon. Leon's dream is to become a doctor when he grows up.



The Family Scholar House Class of 2014 graduates posed with their children and Cathe Dykstra at the Graduation Celebration at Hilliard Lyons in June. This year's class of 51 brings the total number of degrees earned by FSH parent scholars to 176.

AROUND TOWN

OCTOBER

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL LUNCHEON

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21

LOUISVILLE MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN

11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Please join the Board of Directors, staff, participants and supporters of Family Scholar House for our Annual Luncheon on October 21st featuring keynote speaker Dr. Tererai Trent, motivational speaker, humanitarian, mother, mentor and educator. Dr. Trent had a desire to learn from a young age and never gave up on her dream to gain an education. She is the founder of Tinongona (Shona for "it is achievable"), which builds and repairs schools in rural Zimbabwe.

You can learn more about Dr. Trent on page 9. Information about table sponsorships can be obtained by contacting Natalie Reteneller at nreteneller@familyscholarhouse.org or 502.813.3077.

NOVEMBER

BUTCHERTOWN MARKET HOLIDAY OPEN SHOW

NOVEMBER 13, 2014

6:00 - 7:30 P.M.

Come join us at Butchertown Market for a Holiday Open House. A variety of winter accessories, including necklaces and bracelets, will be on display and available for purchase. In addition, attendees may bring a donation item for the families of Family Scholar House. Please contact Kate Brackett at (502)813.3086 for a list of donation items needed.

INDATUS 5K RUN/WALK TO BENEFIT FAMILY SCHOLAR HOUSE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

9:00 A.M.

Join FSH families, staff and supporters for the 3rd Annual Indatus 5k at Iroquois Park. Indatus, a Louisville-based telecommunication firm, understands the importance of technology to 21st century college students and has been a long-time partner of FSH. The event will support our Family Nutrition and Wellness program to encourage healthy lifestyles for our student parents, their children and the Louisville community. Visit familyscholarhouse.org for more information or call Kate Brackett at (502)813-3086

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SAVE THE DATE
THE HENRY CLAY

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2015

Although she had not attended college, Eugenia Ford Powers ensured each of her eight children graduated. Then, at age 66 – 50 years after her 1932 high school graduation – Eugenia became a first-year college student. Eight years later she graduated from the University of Louisville with a bachelor's degree in Sociology.

Before she passed away, she asked that her children use memorial contributions at the time of her death to establish the Eugenia Ford Powers Memorial Scholarships at Family Scholar House. Through this scholarship, her legacy continues to support parents who are pursuing college education.

These are the four winning Powers Essays written by Family Scholar House student parents. This year's topic was: *Where do you see yourself in five years? Where do imagine your children will be in ten years?*



LOUISVILLE SCHOLAR HOUSE
Brandise Mockbee

I have always wanted children – and lots of them! I always enjoyed kids and spent countless hours babysitting growing up. I have always been a nurturer, looked forward to having kids of my own. Attending college was always something I knew I was going to do as well. My mother instilled the importance of education and obtaining a college degree from a very young age. She would always ask me, “Where do you want to go to college?” and never, “Do you want to go to college?” I remember my first college tour, I was 10. My mom took my sister and me to Eastern Kentucky University to get us excited for attending college. We went on many of those “little college tours” all around KY. She was the first and only college graduate in her family and knew how difficult attending college could be if you didn't have the proper support and motivation. As I get older, the more important owning my own house becomes to me. I want to own something that I am proud of. I would love a big yard for my child to play in. I want enough space for a playroom and

office. I want a huge kitchen and dining area to share meals with my family.

At 21, my dreams are coming true much sooner than I ever expected. My first blessing and dream come true, happened much sooner than planned. I found out I was pregnant a month before I was scheduled to leave for University of Kentucky. Instead of quitting school, I had the support that allowed me to attend school and raise my Ryland at the same time. He was truly a blessing that kept me on track. Many of my friends that I graduated high school with have changed their major several times and as a result are still far from obtaining their degree. Being a mother became my motivation to do well in school and finish on time so that I can provide for my family. I am proud to say that I am two semesters away from accomplishing this monumental goal. My final dream of owning a home is now finally within reach. I have been able to save money towards a down payment on a house while being a part of Family Scholar House. In five years I know I will be a mother, college graduate, and home owner. I plan to be working towards my Master's degree at this time.

In ten years, Ryland will be 12. He will be enjoying his big yard and own room that I am working towards right now. I will also be taking him on “little college tours” to get him excited and motivated to attend college. I hope he is a happy and carefree preteen that is proud of me for finishing school and providing for him.



PARKLAND SCHOLAR HOUSE
Wes Tolbert

Five years from now, I'll be walking across the stage, having just completed my Juris Doctorate degree from University of Louisville – Brandeis School of Law. I plan on competing my Bachelor's in Political Science with Law and Public Policy concentration and Economics and Social Change minors in 2015. My passion to see constant improvement as well as my civic experience has by this time prepared me to engage policy changes in my community. My aspirations to improve the community have created the chance to mentor hundreds of students, in the process of discovering what their passions are and how to best pursue them. Five years from now, the experiences that I've had will be accessible in book form as a roadmap for others searching for solutions to tough questions regarding the best way to make their adult lives as imaginative and fearless as those we lived as children. I will be gearing up to take this motivational method on the road, to create dynamic change on a national level.

In ten years, my son will be gearing up to enter his second year of high school because

as advanced, I forsee him being the youngest in his class but that won't stop him from being a leader amongst his peers. At thirteen, Isaac will be actively participating in extracurricular sporting activities, performing arts and as a mentor himself able to be a role model to his other classmates. I can envision him preaching on the necessity to make positive choices and creating lasting change by first being the change you'd like to see in the world around you. The lessons he is learning now at three from his dad's participation in, collegiate debates, community forums and community service projects will solidify within his character that you can both serve the community and serve your individual needs at the same time; both with a mutual net benefit. At the same time, I don't see my son just falling in line with what is expected. Having had a foundation of excellence under him, Isaac will be paving his own way and creating the foundations to

ensure that the life being prepared for is one that intersects passionate pursuits and a high degree of consideration for those around him. I am not raising a follower, but a pioneer to change the future world we will all have to live in. With what is expected. Having had a foundation of excellence under him, Isaac will be paving his own way and creating the foundations to ensure that the life being prepared for is one that intersects passionate pursuits and a high degree of consideration for those around him. I am not raising a follower, but a pioneer to change the future world we will all have to live in.



STODDARD JOHNSTON SCHOLAR HOUSE
Aleshia Thompson

Five years from now, ten years from now. It can sometimes be difficult to think of the future when there has been so much that has gone wrong in the past. For every good thing that has come in my life, a small amount of time is spent reflecting on how far I have come. When I think of five years, I think of the amount of time I was out of college, living life

as a productive citizen of KY, working hard in the medical field and a dedicated member of my church. It sounds like an okay life, but I was completely lost. Due to many obstacles that came in my life, I was changed from a top scholar in high school, graduating with honors, full of promise, to a woman that felt like there was no hope, there was no way out, and there was nothing left to live for. The great thing about my life is that the story did not end there. Right now, I still have close to nothing, as far as material possessions go, but I am so close to achieving everything.

It still amazes me that I have a future worth fighting for. From the childhood abuse, to the abusive relationship, to the miscarriage, to the birth of my daughter, and to the poverty that seems to dominate my life. I am thankful that I stand today with my sanity intact. At my lowest point, the only thing that kept me going was my daughter, her impending birth was a constant reminder that things in my life needed to change. I was eight months pregnant with her when I decided to leave her father. My fear of her growing up in a violent home, trumped my fear of what he would say and do to me – so I called my family and the police, gathered my things, and left. My next greatest concern was that I could not provide her the future she deserved working as an entry-level medical technician, but I knew that the medical field was where I wanted to stay. When my daughter was four months old, I carried her to JCTC with me as I enrolled in college after being out of college for five years. For the two years I was there, I met some amazing teachers that saw my potential, encouraged me, and challenged me to reach further than community college. Family Scholar House also opened their doors to me, and provided me with the support I needed to focus on my education. Since then, I have transferred to UofL, majoring in Biology, participated in a summer program at the University of Virginia and became a tutor and mentor to several students and family members in elementary, high school, and college. Where there was once uncertainty and frustration in my future, I can see with clarity what I see myself doing in five years. I plan on being graduated from the University of Louisville and well into my training at medical school. I plan on being in either OB/GYN or Emergency Medicine. I plan on giving back to my community and Family Scholar House for all the support they have given me and my daughter. The future I plan on giving my daughter has always been clear. In ten years, she will have seen me accomplish all of my educational goals and will be in the process of attaining her own. She will be thirteen years old and preparing to enter high school. I will make sure she is involved in extracurricular activities and our church. I am excited to see the young woman she will become because everything that I have done has been to give her all the opportunities I can, and the best way to do that has been to value our educations.



DOWNTOWN SCHOLAR HOUSE
Angela Wimsatt

As a Sophomore at Spalding University, and an accepted student of their BSN (Bachelors in the Science of Nursing) program I see myself in five years making a difference in all of the lives surrounding me every day. I hope to be working in a hospital, where my care and company will enrich the lives of my patients. I want to play a key role in the healing process, for those suffering from an acute illness, or diagnosed with a terminal disease. I will be an independent woman, who can take care of my family without the help of government assistance. I hope to be investing in a home where my son can grow into a man in a loving, safe environment. I will be financially, emotionally, and physically stable in my professional and personal life. In ten years I want my son, Tyler to be proud of his mother and his childhood. I want him to be able to know where he is going to lay his head every night. I don't want Tyler to worry about his my ability to financially take care of him, as I did when I was 13. He will be a happy child, who will know the importance of a good education. I hope in ten years he will be growing into a respectful young man, who appreciates women. I will teach him to treat other women with the same respect he gives me. I hope to have raised him to be a young man; others will look at and know he's going to do amazing things with his life. I want to be an inspiration in 5 years. I want single, teenage parents like myself to look at me and have hope in their future. I believe that Family Scholar House is the beacon of hope, and the path to a successful life for single parents like me. Therefore I plan to be the fairy tale success story of the program in 5 years, with my son as the happily ever after in 10.



FSH participants received individual mentoring by employees participating in the YUM! Leadership Accel program.



Brittany and daughter Addyson, show off Addyson's new backpack at this year's Pack-a-Backpack event.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

MONDAY

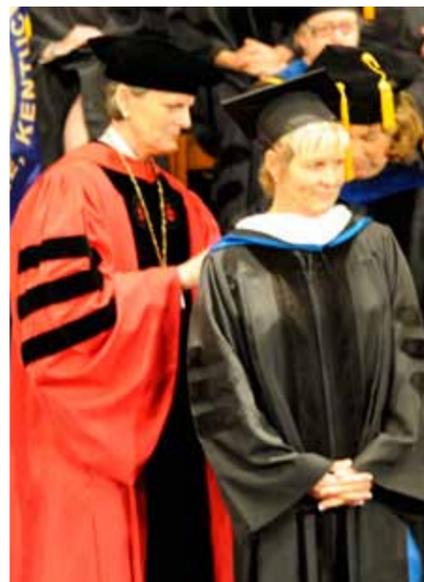
In July, Congressman Todd Young, Indiana – District 9, Chancellor Rita Shourds of Ivy Tech, Sellersburg and Kent Lanum of Paul Ogle Foundation, came for a tour of Louisville Scholar House. As our Ivy Tech, Sellersburg outreach continues to grow; we look forward to the opportunity to build an Indiana Family Scholar House campus.

Pictured below is Chancellor Rita Shourds, Cathie Dykstra and Congressman Todd Young.



TUESDAY

This past June, our very own Chief Possibility Officer, President & CEO, Cathie Dykstra was awarded an honorary doctorate in Public Service from Spalding University. President Tori Murden McClure led the hooding ceremony. We are so proud to have such an inspirational, forward thinker and compassionate leader.



WEDNESDAY

GE Employee Fund allows Family Scholar House to now offer workshops focusing on the Stem program for girls. These workshops allow young girls the opportunity to establish an interest in and knowledge of science, technology, engineering and math fields. In the picture below, elementary-aged children had fun learning with Goldiblox. The girls spent the afternoon building their own machines- to gain knowledge of the inner workings of mechanical things.



THURSDAY

Tiffani Johnson, a graduate of Family Scholar House with her daughters, Majesty and Countess. Tiffani's dream has always been to work in the healthcare field to provide care for those in need. In preparation, she completed classes and became CPR certified. This summer, Tiffani used the knowledge she gained in training to perform CPR on a young child that had gone underwater at a local pool. This act of quick thinking and compassion is only a glimpse into her bright future.



FRIDAY

Even during the summer it is important to teach kids the importance of eating healthy. Chef Nancy Russman regularly takes time to teach our families how to prepare tasty, healthy, kid-friendly meals and snacks.

These workshop are specifically designed for our youngest scholars, focusing on nutritious snacks they can make. Chef Nancy talks to the children about the importance of eating healthy, while having fun creating a healthy snack.



SATURDAY

In July, several individuals from YUM! filled Stoddard Johnston Scholar House for a Leadership Accel workshop. During the workshop Family Scholar House participants were paired with YUM! employees for a coaching exercise, focused around Goal Setting. The participants were able to discuss their goals and received helpful feedback through the coaching exercises. This was an inspiring day for everyone in attendance.

SUNDAY

To ensure our students of all ages are ready for the start of the new school year, each summer FSH collects school supplies for our Pack-a-Backpack school supply drive. This year, our Friends at ARG Financial Group, Doe Anderson, Morgan & Pottinger and Toast on Market served as collection sites around town. Before the first day of class our student parents and young scholars pack their backpacks with all necessary items from their school supply lists.

LUCY AWARDS

Each year, we present a Corporate and an Individual Lucy Award, named in honor of Dr. Lucy M. Freibert, SCN, to recognize community leaders with a commitment to gender equity and post-secondary education. This year's recipients are Heine Brothers and Jeremy Sharfe, AKA Buddy Bat.

CORPORATE: *Heine Brothers*

Heine Brothers' is Louisville's 100% fair trade & organic coffee roaster. The first Heine Brothers' coffee shop opened October 1, 1994, in the heart of the Highlands, connected to Carmichael's Bookstore. Today, Heine Brothers' operates 13 neighborhood shops, all in Louisville, and employs over 200 people. From the beginning, Heine Brothers' has been committed to being a mission-driven, for profit business focused on operating responsibly and sustainably. Over almost 20 years, Heine Brothers' has served millions of cups of coffee while proudly donating to and supporting numerous Louisville community groups, recycling a "bajillion" milk jugs and co-founding the world's 1st fair-trade coffee buying cooperative. In an effort to build understanding and community, Heine Brothers' has sent it's employees all over the world to visit coffee farming cooperatives from whom they source their coffee. Closer to home, Heine Brothers' has supported and built relationships with groups like Family Scholar House who are doing



Heine Brothers' and their employees make volunteering a priority, not only supporting Family Scholar House but also many other local nonprofits.

important work in our Louisville Community. As it gets ready to begin its 3rd decade in Louisville, Heine Brothers' looks forward to continuing to be an example for how do run a business that "does well by doing what's right."

INDIVIDUAL: *Jeremy Sharfe AKA Buddy Bat*

Jeremy Sharfe is a teacher in Jefferson County, dedicated to educating and inspiring high school students in the community. Jeremy helps at-risk students transition back into classroom settings. He has developed leadership programs for students and developed mentoring opportunities for Elementary age students. Outside of teaching, Jeremy Sharfe has been Buddy Bat for the Louisville Bats Baseball team for eleven years.

Jeremy Sharfe, AKA Buddy Bat, has been a longtime supporter of Family Scholar House and, more specifically, reading programs for our youngest scholars. For years, FSH has been blessed to have Jeremy as a dedicated Toddler Book Club volunteer, and last spring Jeremy, went a step further in support of FSH's youngest scholars, releasing a children's book, **A Different Kind of Buddy**. To learn how to receive a signed copy of the book, please contact Kate Brackett.



Jeremy with wife Kasey and son Tate make volunteering at Family Scholar House a family affair.

LUNCHEON SPEAKER

DR. TERERAI TRENT



Dr. Tererai Trent, founder of the Tinogona Foundation and the keynote speaker for our 17th Annual Luncheon.

Growing up in Zimbabwe, Dr. Trent did not know that education and independence were possible for her. Girls in her village were not allowed to attend school, but using her brother's school books she had been able to teach herself to read and write. She was married by age 11, and had three kids by the age of 18. Despite her circumstances, Dr. Trent never lost hope of fulfilling her dream of getting an education.

She followed her mother's advice and wrote her dreams on a piece of paper and buried them. She traveled from Zimbabwe to the United States for the opportunity to earn a GED and then a bachelor's, master's and finally a Ph. D. Despite the many obstacles that stood in her way, she accomplished every dream she buried all those years ago - all while raising five children and working multiple jobs to support them. Continuing to follow her mother's

advice, after achieving her dreams - she returned to Zimbabwe, to begin rebuilding schools for children in her community.

Dr. Trent is an example of the power of education, to save lives and the long-term impacts education can have on an individual, family and community. She will be our guest speaker for our 2014 Annual Luncheon on Tuesday, October 21st. Please join us and be inspired.

ADOPT A FAMILY

Help us make the holiday wishes of our families come true this holiday season - support our single-parent students and their children by adopting a family. Holiday sponsors are matched by Family Scholar House staff and receive the wish list via email. Your generosity will make this season of giving

even more special for you and your family as you share the joy of the season with an FSH family. For more information or to sign up for Adopt-a-Family contact Kate Brackett at kbrackett@familyscholarhouse.org or call 502.813.3086

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Thank you to eyedia, design it again for hosting Beer and Brats in the Bluegrass for a seventh year! Thanks to everyone who attended the event in July to donate school supplies for Pack-a-Backpack and enjoy a fun evening of shopping, live music, food and refreshments. However, you don't have to wait until next summer to visit eyedia to support FSH. Through Consigning for a Cause, you can take a piece of furniture or household item in need of a new home to eyedia and tell them you want the profit you would have made from its sale donated to family Scholar House.

For more information, contact eyedia at (502)540-4940.



Rebecca Ward, a resident of the Stoddard Johnston Scholar House campus picking out a backpack to prepare for the new academic term.



Young scholars appreciating the generous donations to support our students as they begin a new school year.



Board Member Bob McClelland, Grill Master, and volunteer Nick Adams, cooking for the crowd at Beer & Brats in the Bluegrass.

OUR THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Donations received as of August 15, 2014

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on March 6, 2015.

Be There, Be Fabulous!

For more information or reservations call Kate
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MISSION STATEMENT

*To end the cycle of poverty and transform
our community by empowering families
and youth to succeed in education
and achieve life-long self-sufficiency.*

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