

# emPower

A FAMILY SCHOLAR HOUSE MAGAZINE



FAMILY SCHOLAR  
HOUSE

CHANGING LIVES, FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION





## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Earlier this month, we celebrated our **Family Scholar House Class of 2014 – fifty graduates and the children who are watching and learning from their parents' educational attainment.**

**We could not be more proud of our scholars** as they transition to self-sufficiency through education **or more pleased with the impact that their success has** on their families and our community as a whole.

In response to our announcement of the graduating class, we received a visit from one of our supporters, **Connie Williams**, and a **request that we pass along a gift** that she had for several of our graduates. Let me share with you a portion of Connie's letter to our graduates:

"Hello—You don't know me, but....I want you to have this gift.

I am betting that everyone is very proud of you and I hope that you are proud of yourself too.

**This is just because you deserve something pretty.** But there is a **story behind this gift...**

"My aunt died when she was just shy of 99. Her father came over from Germany with no more than a 6th-grade education. He opened a bakery on Bardstown Road and my Aunt Helen grew up over that bakery. She put herself through school (sound familiar?), got her Bachelor's degree from the University of Louisville, a Master's degree in teaching, and then a second Masters from Columbia University in New York City in the 1930s. That was when women just didn't do those kinds of things. She taught school all of her life and worked in the library during the summers to earn Social Security credits because teachers didn't get Social Security.

She bought these dishes in Canada as a treat to herself because she thought they were pretty and that she deserved them. Now I want you to have them because you deserve something pretty too."

Connie closed with, "Congratulations and good luck!!!" And, then added this:

"P.S. If any of these dishes happen to chip or break while in your care, don't worry. They are just things. **It is what they represent that is important and you can't break that.** Now go do something good for someone in this world – including yourself and your family!"

I love that Connie shared these heirlooms with our graduates and I am even more thankful to her for understanding that the legacy of education that our parent scholars earn, honor and share as a family value with their children is the greatest gift. China teacups may break; yet, Connie is right, "It is what they (the dishes) represent that is important and you can't break that."

**Congratulations to our graduates and many thanks to you –supporters who understand the legacy of education and value our mission and the success of our scholars.**

Cathe Dykstra  
Chief Possibility Officer  
President & CEO



FSH participant Tecoula Burnside, with daughter Ariana (age 3), graduated from the University of Louisville with a Bachelor of Science in Justice Administration in May 2014.

## AROUND TOWN

### JUNE

#### PACK-A-BACKPACK

Each Year, Family Scholar House collects school supplies to ensure our students of ALL ages are ready for the start of a new school year. We will be collecting the items on the checklist (below) through August at various locations around Louisville. Check [Famylscholarhouse.org](http://Famylscholarhouse.org) for drop off sites.

- Backpacks • Binders
- Calculators
- College & Wide Ruled Paper
- Crayons • Folders
- Flash Drives • Glue Sticks
- Highlighters • Index Cards
- Kleenex • Markers •
- Notebooks
- Pencil Pouches or Boxes
- Pencils & Pens
- Small Scissors

### JULY

#### BEER & BRATS ON THE BEARGRASS

FRIDAY, JULY 25

6:00-7:30 P.M.

Join Family Scholar House for another fun evening of shopping, delicious food and refreshments during the Frankfort Avenue Trolley Hop at eyedia, design it again. Located at 1631 Mellwood Avenue, eyedia will donate a portion of the day's proceeds to Family Scholar House. Attendees are encouraged to bring school supplies for our Pack-a-Backpack drive. To learn more about the unique consignment household items available at eyedia, please visit [www.eyedia.com](http://www.eyedia.com)

### NOVEMBER

#### INDATUS 5KRUN/WALK TO BENEFIT FAMILY SCHOLAR HOUSE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

8:00 A.M.

Start your training now, and 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 the 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 community. Stay tuned for more information on registration!



**COVER PHOTO**  
Mechill Robertson, with her daughters, 14 year India, 15 year old l'iyah, and nineteen year old Ivori who has earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Human Resources from Spalding University. Shaniece Llera, with her 3 year old daughter Aaliyah, who has earned an Associate of Arts JCTC. Amy Fritz, with her son Jack, who has earned a Bachelor of Science in Social Work from Spalding University. Photo courtesy of Kevin Talley



Joi Williams along with her son Noah (age 6) and daughter Lidia (age 2).

## SCHOOL LESSONS

### JOI WILLIAMS

*Graduation is not the end of learning but the continuation of life long Learning*

As we celebrate the successes of our 2014 graduates, we continue to celebrate our past grads and the paths they have each traveled since graduating from FSH. When a single-parent comes to us, they are not only joining a program, their family becomes a part of the larger Family Scholar House community, consisting of participants, staff and community members, all which will support and cheer them on through life journey. We could not be more delighted when the job placements allow post-program participants to circle

back and impact the lives of those first entering the doors of Family Scholar House. One of these FSH graduates is Joi Williams; she graduated from the University of Louisville in May of 2010 with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. In January of 2014, she started a position at the University of Louisville with the Metropolitan College program. Along with Family Scholar House, this is a program that played a vital role in her success as an undergraduate college student. In this program, she worked part-time 3rd shift at UPS and attended the University of Louisville as a full time student, and her tuition was paid in full. She is now

the Recruitment Coordinator for this program traveling the state sharing information with high school students about how they can graduate from a four year institution debt free. Ask Joi what FSH means to her, and she'll tell you FSH instilled in her an appreciation for education for which she will forever be grateful. She is teaching her children to value education and be thankful for the opportunities to learn new things. Now, she says her career revolved around the same principles, and she is so thankful she is able to share her story with people across the state. We could not be more excited for Joi and this new chapter.



Saks Fifth Avenue Fashion Show at Wine Women, & Shoes



Casey Wilson, Heyman Talent model and Mistress of Ceremonies Vicki Dortch

## wine women & shoes®

On March 6, 2014, Family Scholar House hosted its Inaugural Wine Women & Shoes event at the Henry Clay, with Mistress of Ceremonies Vicki Dortch. This event was a huge success, with over 350 people in attendance, the largest fundraising event to date for our organization.

Wine Women & Shoes was a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together to support the Family Scholar House mission, while enjoying an evening of fashion and fun. The evening began with guests receiving a personalized Wine Women & Shoes wine glass and enjoying a step and repeat photo shoot. Guests were then led upstairs to partake in fine wine and bourbon tastings, shop in the Saks Fifth Avenue Marketplace, relax with foot massages by Elements, purchase a chance to win the Norton Women's Care Key to the Closet raffle- a \$15,000 shopping spree to Saks Fifth Avenue- and bid on silent and live auction items. A highlight of the evening included the fashion show by Saks Fifth Avenue, featuring exquisite looks for the upcoming season. Live and Silent Auctions were also available to bid on, with all proceeds benefiting the hardworking single-parent families of Family Scholar House. The Second Annual Wine Women & Shoes will be held in March, 2015. For more information on sponsorship opportunities, please contact Kate Brackett at [kbrackett@familyscholarhouse.org](mailto:kbrackett@familyscholarhouse.org) or 502.813.3086

## ANNUAL LUNCHEON 2014

We are pleased to announce that the keynote speaker for our Seventeenth Annual Luncheon will be Dr. Tererai Trent, motivational speaker, humanitarian, mother, mentor and educator. Dr. Trent has captured worldwide attention for her story of perseverance as she has overcome overwhelming odds. Originally from Zimbabwe she was faced with poverty and barred from formal education but refused to give up on her dreams of gaining an education. She is the founder of Tinongona (Shona for "it is achievable"), which builds and repairs schools in rural Zimbabwe. Dr. Trent truly understands the importance of education and perseverance, and we hope her message is valuable to our community.

Family Scholar House's Seventeenth Annual Luncheon will take place on Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at the Louisville Marriott Downtown.



Dr. Tererai Trent

# CLASS OF 2014

Family Scholar House is honored to announce the Graduating Class of 2014! Once again, we are celebrating our largest graduating class to date, with 50 student parents earning 51 college degrees, bringing the total degrees earned by FSH participants to 188. We are so proud!



**TECOULA BURNSIDE**  
Mother of Ariana (age 3)  
*University of Louisville*



**SHALONDA CURRY**  
Mother of Ariana (age 8)  
*Spalding University*



**AMY FRITZ**  
Mother of Jack (age 9) and Elise (age 13)  
*Spalding University*



**MEGAN GEARY**  
Mother of Brayden (age 7)  
*Spalding University*



**CHRISTINE HALE**  
Mother of Nevaeh (age 7)  
*Lindsey Wilson*



**MARY JORDAN**  
Mother of Shian (age 20), Christopher (age 15), Alyssa (age 12) and Wyatt (age 5)  
*Midcontinent University*



**DAWNEQUA KNOX**  
Mother of Shaniya (age 14), Donavyn (age 9), and Coryon (age 7)  
*Spalding University*



**JAMES PETERSON**  
Father of Jay'Leayah (age 11)  
*University of Louisville*



**MECHILL ROBERTSON**  
Mother of India (age 14), I'liyiah (age 15) and Ivori (age 19)  
*Spalding University*



**DAZIA STAMPS**  
Mother of Maya (age 4)  
*Spalding University*



**TERNIKKA STEPHENSON**  
Mother of Coriyan (age 7)  
*Spalding University*



**MEGAN STIVERS**  
Mother of Tanner (age 5)  
*University of Louisville*

## MASTER'S DEGREE



**TRACY DARDEN**  
Mother of Jayden (age 7)  
*Lindsey Wilson*



**ALICIA BOWMAN**  
Mother of Amiya (age 5)  
*Bellarmine University*



**MEGAN GEARY**  
Mother of Brayden (age 7)  
*Spalding University*



**JAMES PETERSON**  
Father of Jay'Leayah (age 11)  
*University of Louisville*



**MEGAN STIVERS**  
Mother of Tanner (age 5)  
*University of Louisville*

## BACCALAUREATE DEGREES



**LATOYA COX**  
Mother of Jabbarry (age 7)



**FELICIA DIXON**  
Mother of London (age 14) and Amber (age 8)



**TIFFANI JOHNSON**  
Mother of Majesty (age 16) and Countess (age 16)



**KARLI KERR**  
Mother of Kaylei (age 5) and Kylei (age 4)



**JULAUN LEWIS**  
Mother of J'Necial (age 6) and J'Viontae (age 3)



**CHERELLE MARABLE**  
Mother of DeonTre (age 4) and Jeremiah (age 2)



**SUNDAY MILLER**  
Mother of Kwanetaye (age 5) and Khaleyah (age 4)



**SHANIECE LLERA**  
Mother of Aaliyah (age 3)



**FELECIA PENNERMAN**  
Mother of Thomas (age 10) and Terazae (age 12)



**LAPRECIOUS WRIGHT**  
Mother of Tremaine (age 19)

## Photos Unavailable

For safety reasons, 2 additional graduates and their children, all survivors of Domestic Violence, could not be photographed or included in this publication

## BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

**ASHLEE APPLETON**  
Mother of Kayden (age 4)  
*Indiana University Southeast*

**CESALEY BRITTON**  
Mother of Shane (age 8)  
*University of Louisville*

**ALEACE COURTNEY**  
Mother of Brooklyn (age 3)  
*Bellarmine University*

**KATRINA KELLY**  
Mother of Katya (age 15)  
*Oakland City University*

**NANCY LASHER**  
Mother of Alex (age 20), JT (age 14), Maddie (age 13), and Nathan (age 7)  
*Oakland City University*

**VICTORIA MALONE**  
Mother of DeAndre (age 7)  
*University of Louisville*

**KAYLA MEYERS**  
Mother of Aalyah (age 4)  
*University of Louisville*

**TABITHA MORRIS**  
Mother of Bentlee (age 5)  
*Oakland City University*

**BRITTANY REID**  
Mother of Jaidence (age 3)  
*University of Louisville*

**TINA RIGGS**  
*Oakland City University*

**STEPHANIE WADE**  
Mother of Brishauna (age 19), Diamond (age 14), Ariyauna (age 10) and Amari (age 9)  
*University of Louisville*

**JAN WYNN**  
Mother of Penny (age 3) and Maddi (age 5)  
*Vincennes University*

**ASSOCIATE DEGREES**  
**JENNIFER ANDREWS**  
Mother of Josie (age 3)

**KORI BLACK**  
Mother of Kaiden (age 1)

**HONEY DOZIER**  
Mother of Tayshaun (age 14) and Ebony (age 17)

**DOMESHIA GORE**  
Mother of Imani (age 9)

**KIMBERLY JONES**  
Mother of Ethan (age 14), Ayden (age 8), and Maddi (age 6)

**LESSA JONES**  
Mother of Paylee (age 1)

**LACOLE KNIGHT**  
Mother of Braylon (age 5) and Bryson (age 1)

**ROSHEA MCGINNIS**  
Mother of Shadea (age 5) and Sadaya (age 1)

**REDA MESSALLAM**  
Mother of Rana (age 10), Baraa (age 9), Neur (age 8) and Rekaia (age 3)

**FREDISHA TOWNS**  
Mother of Malachi (age 5)



In April, FSH residents joined council woman Attica Scott and members of the community for Family Café at Parkland Scholar House



FSH children visit with members of the UofL Soccer Team.

## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

### MONDAY

FSH young scholar, Teara (age 9) sold Girl Scout Cookies at First Choice Market to support her troop. Girl Scout Troop #2364 formed this year, making it the first troop in the Parkland Neighborhood. Our youngest scholars observe their parent's complete volunteer hours each month, and many want to contribute in some way. Teara and several other FSH children saw joining the Girl Scout troop as their way to give back to the community they love.



### TUESDAY

Thank you to our friends at Humana for hosting a Speed Mentoring event for FSH participants. As our participants work hard in the classroom to achieve their goals, they want their resumes and interview skills to reflect the knowledge they have gained. Individuals from Humana gathered at Stoddard Johnston Scholar House for a night of networking, interview training and work life balance.



### WEDNESDAY

Toddler Book Club incorporates fun and energy into reading classic children's books, while spurring a life-long interest in reading and learning. Long-time supporters from Younger Women's Club hosted a Toddler Book Club for the children of FSH, followed by a fun activity and healthy snack.



### THURSDAY

In January FSH received our brand new Toyota Sierra, that we won-through Toyota 100 Cars for Good program! Thank you to our friends at Toyota of Louisville and Sam Swope Auto Group. The van will be put to good use ensuring our families have safe and warm transportation to access such basic needs as pediatricians, the grocery store and school activities.



### FRIDAY

The Avenue Church, once again hosted a community Easter egg hunt in Central Park this year! FSH families were excited to participate in the massive Easter egg hunt- and cook out! Children and parents danced to a DJ's music and bounced on inflatables. It was a wonderful afternoon for all that attended.



### SATURDAY

We are so grateful for the supporters of our Family Nutrition and Wellness programming. The Family Café at Parkland Scholar House provides an opportunity for community members and residents to come together for a meal and participate in conversation around the dinner table.

### SUNDAY

Thank you to UofL Soccer Coach Ken Lolla and his players for spending an afternoon with our youngest scholars. The team played outside with the children before going inside to have story time. The youngest children gathered to listen to players read a book while the older group listened to an inspirational message from the Coach about goal setting and the importance of education. The two groups joined together again and each child left with their own copy of Finding your Gift, signed by the coach. It was a beautiful day, full of laughter, and certainly a day our children will not soon forget

# OUR THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS....

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Megan Geary, one of our 2014 Graduates, with her son Brayden.

## 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.*

## ONLINE



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