

emPower

A FAMILY SCHOLAR HOUSE MAGAZINE



FAMILY SCHOLAR
HOUSE

CHANGING LIVES, FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION



A CELEBRATION OF EDUCATION



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

There is a popular illustration - one which continues to find new audiences - that emphasizes the impact of perspective. You know the one. Within the drawing is **the image of both an elderly woman and a young girl**. Most people see one of the two and then can be coaxed into seeing the other. However, once they are aware of both, they view the drawing differently. **It is all about perspective.**

Similarly, I have experienced and observed **different perspectives on education**. Some view **education as a privilege** - one which should be earned, valued and respected. Others view **education as a right** - something that should be available to all for their personal and professional development. Still others see **education as a responsibility** - a duty to oneself and one's community that makes it possible to be a contributing member of society. Could it be that these views all exist within the same concept?

When one of our parent scholars succeeds in education, graduates with a marketable degree and enters a career in our community, we are all better off. More than two-thirds of the time, our graduates exit our housing to stable employment **and within 90 days are off of all government subsidies**. Many then begin saving for a home of their own - **20 of our graduates are homeowners** and 15 more are in our current homeownership class - and they save for their children's future educational expenses. Our participants who view their education as something they do, **not only for themselves and their children but also for the greater good**, have a unique and valuable perspective.

So, as the new school year gets underway with the smell of freshly-sharpened pencils still in the air, I am **asking for your support and your encouragement** for our scholars of all ages. Our student parents **genuinely appreciate all that you - our donors and volunteers - do to offer them the privilege of getting an education** and they take seriously their **responsibility for becoming financially self-sufficient graduates** who give back to their community. They see this as an **opportunity to make a difference** in their own lives, the lives of their children and **the well-being of their community**. This is a perspective we encourage, model and strive to share with others as a product of our mission and the determination of our special students. I hope that as you read **the winning essays for the Eugenia Ford Powers Education Awards**, pp 4-5, you have a chance to **appreciate the impact of Family Scholar House's mission and community-building** through the perspectives shared by our participants. You are a very important part of making their goals possible and their dreams into reality. From every perspective, **this makes us all winners.**

Cathie Dykstra
Chief Possibility Officer
President & CEO



COVER PHOTO: With Family Scholar House's two generation approach, both Brittany, a nursing student at JCTC, and her daughter, four year old Addyson, are supported and encouraged in their educational endeavors.



Chill Like a Cardinal: UofL student athletes from the women's programs led a service project to support FSH's mindfulness program emphasizing awareness of one's actions and and control over one's reactions.

AROUND TOWN

OCTOBER

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL LUNCHEON

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30
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 30th featuring keynote speaker Roman Oben, a Super Bowl XXXVII Champion, University of Louisville alumnus and Athletics Hall of Fame inductee, leader and advocate for youth sports enrichment and education, and the NFL's Director of Youth and High School Football. Mr. Oben has dedicated his career to mentoring youth and encouraging the next generation of leaders to study hard in school and maintain a healthy balance of nutrition and physical exercise.

NOVEMBER

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1

Help us make the holiday wishes of disadvantaged 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 makes this season of giving even more special for you and your family as you share joy with a grateful FSH family.

For Annual Luncheon reservations or for more information about adopting a family this holiday season, please contact Kate Brackett at (502)813.3086 or kbrackett@familyscholarhouse.org

NOVEMBER

A FAMILY AFFAIR BENEFITING FAMILY SCHOLAR HOUSE

NOVEMBER 20
5:30-10:30 P.M.

On Friday, November 20th, Louisville family businesses will celebrate family with the 2nd Annual "A Family Affair" event. Beginning with family and kid-friendly activities, this night of food, drink and live music continues into the evening, offering something for everyone. Join us at Copper & Kings American Brandy Co. (1111 E. Washington St.). Cost of admission is a suggested donation of \$10 per person, children under 12 are free or bring an educational toy or game for FSH's littlest scholars. We are extremely grateful for our special partnership with Copper & Kings and Heine Brothers and hope you will mark your calendars to attend A Family Affair.

Save the date!
Wine, Women and Shoes
Friday, March 4, 2016 - The Henry Clay



Although she had not attend 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 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: How can education solve our community's biggest challenges and what role will you play?**

LOUISVILLE SCHOLAR HOUSE

MEHELLE ARTIS: "EDUCATION IS WHERE WE MUST BEGIN."

This fall, I am approaching my final year at the University of Louisville. I major in Criminal Justice in the school of Arts and Sciences. Growing up I had brothers and close friends consistently in and out of the juvenile system. They were repeat offenders and often influenced by malevolent peers. To this day those friends have either passed away, are currently incarcerated, or are adults who continue their criminal trend. Having a promising future as a law student, I remain certain of the actions I will take to be an advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves.

A lot of the issues we face start in the homes. I had the disadvantage of growing up with a mother who suffered from a drug addiction. I did not know at a young age what it meant, nor the problems I could eventually face because of it. I realized that in order not to follow my mother's footsteps, education was my only way out. Being educated about the potential risk that drugs can have upon one's cognitive ability made me more aware of my mother's situation.

For me, I enjoyed learning—school was my outlet. It was my place I knew I could go and forget about everything that I was going through. It was something that I had seen as a big thing to conquer. I always had dreams of becoming a lawyer. I would picture myself in the courtroom pacing back and forth, defending the law, and defending the constitution. I realized very early, that I enjoyed analyzing information and identifying inconsistencies from a variety of perspectives. I knew whenever I did pursue college; Criminal justice is what I would major in and then later on, attend law school.

Presently, I serve as a summer associate of Safety and Healthy neighborhoods in the office of Mayor Greg Fischer carrying out our One Love Louisville initiative. Our strategy consists of a campaign and a community action plan. Our Mission is to "create a city of safe neighborhoods where all citizens feel secure, supported and prepared for lifelong success." We focus on the strategy of reducing drug overdoses, homicides and suicides within our neighborhoods. These are pertinent issues that need to be addressed as adolescents if we want our children steered in the right direction so that they can have fulfilling lives. When these issues are met, it makes society more focused on what they can achieve. More children will be back in school; we will experience an increase in graduation rates and an increase in college enrollment and so on. I know that there are a lot of kids that were like me when I was younger, at a disadvantage, wanting to escape from their surroundings. As I said, education was my outlet and I am pretty sure it is for others. We just have to open that door for those who may need only a little assistance. Without getting to the root of the problem in society first, we will not be able to prevail as a community. Education is where we must begin.

DOWNTOWN SCHOLAR HOUSE

LAQUESHA HODGE: IT IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT."

Education is the core of just about everything. One can have it or not have it, and still have a huge impact on the world around them. Everyday we hear both good and bad news around us. In each of those situations, we see that education, or the lack of, can play a huge role in the way things happen, the manner in which they are handled, and the way our world issues are even articulated. Unfortunately, many do not know that the answer to properly handling problems lies in having a great education. Many individuals feel as though they are their surroundings or situations, in other words, they are what they come from. This then creates a never ending cycle of ignorance because those individuals create children and instill those same beliefs. The children hold our world's future in their hands, and it is a scary thought to think the uneducated can have that sort of power. The cycle has to end now and as I continue on the path of my education I will help spread the word of what having an education can do for a person's life.



I am a 25-year-old African American single parent; a huge statistic. However, everyday I am fighting to shake myself free of that. In the world's eyes I am raising two statistics; but my goal is to see to it that they do not fit that mold. My oldest child is a boy who, like my daughter, is growing up in poverty in a fatherless home. It is probably thought that he will have no education either because he cannot afford one or lacks the desire to pursue one. With that it is believed that he will become a product of his environment, make bad decisions throughout life, and ultimately end up in prison or the graveyard; but not my children! By pursuing my own education I have the chance to save my children, seeing to it that the two of them have a chance at education for themselves. I can prove to them, or anyone who may be watching, that with education comes great things. Individuals around me with the "it is what it is" type of attitude can see from me that "it is what you make it." They will see that while the world is capable of ripping us apart, the one thing it cannot take is our education. With education comes power, and with power one can change the world; you just have to start within.

STODDARD JOHNSTON SCHOLAR HOUSE

CHERELLE MARABLE: "I LET MY BIGGEST FEAR BECOME MY GREATEST MOTIVATION."

Education cannot solve all the problems in the world, but a good education can give individuals a chance to overcome barriers many of us face growing up in a world full of obstacles. I grew up not knowing my biological father and my mother stayed high on drugs. Eventually she became addicted to her dangerous lifestyle. She dropped out of college once she had me and never returned. When I became a single parent of two sweet boys, I knew I didn't want to follow the same path as my mother.

I admit that I was scared. When I became pregnant with my elder child I thought I was going to be like my mother. However, I let my biggest fear become my greatest motivation. Juggling work and a family life I did my best to stay on the path to success. Just a few years ago I became the first in my family ever to graduate from college with an Associate's degree in Arts from Madisonville Community College. Do you know how awesome that feels? To be a single mother, to have a college degree, I feel like I can do anything I set my mind too. Most of all, I believe I have touched other young ladies in my life to continue their education.

This December I will officially be a graduate from the University of Louisville with a degree in Communications and a minor in Pan African Studies. In the Spring, I plan to start my Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration at U of L.

I believe an education can solve any obstacle I may face in my life. I believe an education can break down stereotypes that the media places on us such as "welfare queens" and so forth. If I can get a college degree, I will obtain the knowledge I need to get a good paying job to provide for me and my family.

With the right education we can break down the walls of poverty, climb the ladder of success and become examples to others who are students and struggling being single parents. I will be that example and then pay it forward to others in my community. It is time for a change and with my education I plan to change the future.



PARKLAND SCHOLAR HOUSE

KAYLA PRIESTER: "IT TAKES DEDICATION, MOTIVATION AND CONSISTENCY TO ACHIEVE ANY GOAL."

I believe education is very important to any community. Knowledge is power. I believe that when a community has the tools and resources to become educated, the entire community benefits. If the community is educated it could show how much better life can be when you get the training and knowledge necessary to become successful. Poverty is increasing in our community and has been for many years. Over and over, it has been proven that with higher education and skills, a person has better choices of employment, better income, better social status, better healthcare choices and economic wealth.

As a hard-working mother and full-time student at IUS, raising a son is not easy. But when I look into his eyes I see that I have to better myself and keep pushing toward obtaining an education/degree. I know that when I graduate I will be giving my son a head start. I will be setting an example so that he can also see and know how important education is. When he looks at me I want him to see a woman who has made sacrifices to ensure he has the opportunity to become great. I am very grateful for the Family Scholar House Program, since I have become a part of this great opportunity the load of being a single mother and full-time student has been lessened. I am able to focus on school and graduating so that my son and I will one day rise up from poverty and be able to help another family do the same.

After I graduate, I plan to come back to the community and speak to women like myself who have had some challenges and to encourage them that dreams come true, but you have to pursue your dreams. It takes dedication, motivation and consistency to achieve any goal.





Senator McConnell visited Family Scholar House for a tour of our Gladys and Sonny Bass campus.



Ready for school and ready to learn thanks to donations of school supplies.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

MONDAY

Last year, Family Scholar House served 2,479 families with 3,952 children and a full-time staff of 12. The work we do every day, would not be possible without the 1,531 volunteers that believe in our families and our mission. Pictured above is a group of freshman from Bellarmine University that participated in “Knights in Action” day, an annual volunteer event held before the fall semester begins.



TUESDAY

During the summer, our youngest scholars attend workshops and camps to stay actively engaged in learning while school is not in session. Our families utilized cultural passes to visit the area museums and staff facilitated several other field trips throughout the summer. Our families enjoyed an afternoon at Oxmoor Farms for the food literacy project. This field trip allowed our youngest scholars to learn about the importance of healthy nutrition and learn firsthand about the food cycle.



WEDNESDAY

In August, several employees from YUM! filled Stoddard Johnston Scholar House for a Leadership Accel workshop. During the workshop, FSH participants were paired with YUM! employees for a coaching exercise, focused on goal setting. The participants were able to discuss goals they had for themselves and their children, while the YUM! employees provided helpful feedback. This workshop provided an opportunity for all in attendance to benefit from empowering conversation.



THURSDAY

Thanks to Louisville Metro’s “Lots of Possibilities” contest and the collaboration between FSH and Habitat, Channing Banks, a participant of Family Scholar House moved into his very own home in August. Channing, a student at Simmons College and proud father of three girls moved his family a few blocks from our Parkland Scholar House campus. He is excited about being a homeowner and providing a stable home for his three girls. Channing’s family will join the 19 participants that have already purchased their own homes. Additionally, 15 more are in the current “Graduate to Homeownership” program supported by Fifth Third Bank.



FRIDAY

At Family Scholar House, we are so thankful for the generosity of the Louisville community. The success of our families is success for the entire community and we appreciate those in the community that donate their time, talent and treasures to FSH and our mission. On Friday, August 21st, Stout burgers opened their doors for “Giving is Stout” day. This event allowed restaurant patrons to enjoy a delicious meal with proceeds benefiting FSH families.



SPECIAL VISITOR

Family Scholar House had the pleasure of hosting Senate Majority Leader McConnell for a conversation and tour of our flagship Louisville Scholar House campus. We appreciate Senator McConnell for making time to visit with us, meet some graduates and see the special environment we've created (using the low income tax credit) to empower our scholars of all ages to succeed.

PACK-A-BACKPACK

All summer long, we collect school supplies for our scholars of all ages and every August we kick off the school year with Pack-a-Backpack. Before the first day of classes, our families come to pack their backpack with all the school supplies needed to begin a new school year prepared to succeed in the classroom. This year, all 215 residential families and several pre-residential families started the new academic year with the tools needed to be prepared and excited to learn. Thank you to all who made this possible.

LUCY AWARD WINNERS

INDIVIDUAL LUCY AWARD RECIPIENT: JUDGE JENNIFER LEIBSON

Jennifer Leibson is a Judge in Jefferson District Court, currently sitting in Civil division I. She is also the co-author of the book *Kentucky Practice: Elder Law* and is the chair of the Louisville Metro Elder Abuse Coordinating Committee and Fatality Review. Previously she was a prosecutor with the office of the Jefferson County Attorney specializing in elder abuse, domestic violence, child abuse and guardianship. She is active in the community and currently sits on several non-profit boards when she is not busy rescuing animals.

Regarding Family Scholar House, Jennifer likes to think back on her time as Chair of

the Board of Directors as helping to get the organization through its teenage years. "It wasn't always pretty, but those times were necessary for FSH to blossom into what it has become today." She is amazed to think that she was the board chair when the organization's name changed from Project Women to Family Scholar House, when we received our first funding to build housing of our own, and when we opened our first campus. "With all of those amazing things that happened back then, still the best thing we did as a board was hire Cathe Dykstra." Jennifer currently serves on the Board of Trustees for Family Scholar House. "To this day I beam with pride whenever I hear FSH mentioned. My teenager has grown up into a wonderful young adult and I am so honored to be

a part of her past and, hopefully, her future."



CORPORATE LUCY AWARD RECIPIENT: RED E APP

Red e App exists to connect the disconnected. From the disconnected non-desk workforce to volunteers and Family Scholar House participants, our mission is to empower organizations for faster and more efficient mobile communication.

The core of our company culture is working with passionate people and innovative technologies. We love how technology enables people to work and connect, and for its revolutionary way of distributing information. Tech generates

new ideas and creates new businesses. It helps us find solutions and solve problems effectively.

The people 'behind' our technology are passionate about many things: communication and developing our human potential of course, but we also have opinionated foodies and ping-pong aficionados on our team. Yet, all of us at Red e App are committed to building a company that makes a significant impact.

Our zeal for both tech and people has allowed us to work with some of the largest enterprise organizations on the planet. We hope our company continues to see

further global reach but we will always strive for local impact.

We are honored to provide a communication tool that makes connecting and communicating easier and safer for FSH participants and leadership. May our dream of creating meaningful technology be one link in the chain that supports the educational ambitions of every single parent at FSH.



LUNCHEON SPEAKER

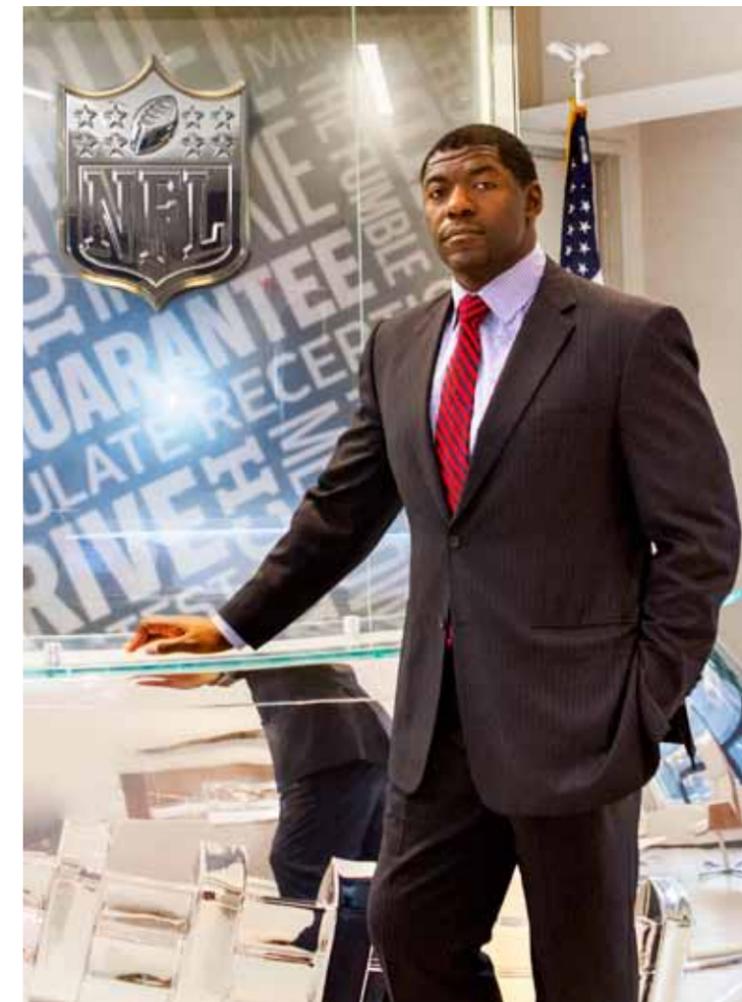
Roman Oben

Born in Cameroon, West Africa, Roman moved to the United States with his mother when he was four years old. Growing up, his mother stressed the importance of education and physical activity. After graduating high school, he chose the University of Louisville to continue his athletic and educational pursuits. Mr. Oben received his bachelor's degree in Economics and was inducted into University of Louisville's Football Hall of Fame in 2009.

Drafted into the NFL, Mr. Oben began a very successful 12-year career, while concurrently pursuing his Master's degree in Public Administration. In January 2015, he was selected as the NFL Director of Youth & High School football, a role in which he advocates for tomorrow's leaders. Mr. Oben encourages youth to be physically active and take a positive approach to education and personal development. His efforts have led to the transformation and development of communities by empowering youth to make a difference within their own communities.

Mr. Oben is a living testament to the positive impact that education and personal responsibility for health and well-being have on an individual, family and community. He will be our guest speaker for our 2015 Annual Luncheon on Friday, October 30th. Please join us and be inspired.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT KATE BRACKETT AT 502.813.3086



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| J. Barry Barker | Elizabeth Conway | Dewey Hensley, Ph.D. | Laura Petry |
| Lisa Cain, J.D. | Martha Neal Cooke | Nikki R. Jackson | Michelle Wells |
| Christopher A. Carmicle | Al Cornish | Cynthia Knappek | |

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.

ON LINE



[Instagram.com/familyyscholarhouse](https://www.instagram.com/familyyscholarhouse)



www.youtube.com/FamilyScholarHouse



www.twitter.com/FamilyScholars



www.Facebook.com/FamilyScholarHouse

BLOG www.FSHstories.wordpress.com

EBLAST To receive event updates and program information via email please call (502) 584-8090 or email FamilyScholarHouse@gmail.com to sign up for our monthly email blast.

Save the Date

Friday,
March 4, 2016

*Be there.
Be fabulous!*

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Benefiting Family Scholar House