

VOLUME 14 • ISSUE 1 • WINTER

emPower

A FAMILY SCHOLAR HOUSE MAGAZINE



FAMILY SCHOLAR
HOUSE

CHANGING LIVES, FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION





PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

"Keep your heels, head and standards high."
~Coco Channel

It was in my Nonnie's closet that I first fell in love with shoes. She would let me explore through her carefully arranged racks of shoes and play dress up with her high heels. As much as I enjoyed trying them on and attempted to walk in them, for me, **my love of shoes was never about the actual shoes but always about who I could be in them.**

Shoes do not have to be sky-high stilettos to make a statements. They just need to be the right shoes for the person wearing them and consistent with the activities to be undertaken at that time. I believe that while they do not make the person, **shoes can be a reflection of who one most desires to be.**

Our Wine Women and Shoes event is a fun evening with wine tastings, shopping, fashion, friends and shoes. But, most importantly, it is about supporting programs that give our Family Scholar House single parents **new opportunities to put their best foot forward** by being prepared for the future of their dreams.

There is a reason that we call making a good impression, **"putting your best foot forward."** For some of us that seems more intentional if that best foot is in fabulous footwear.

For our parent scholars, putting one's best foot forward means being prepared for college classes, getting to work on time ready to contribute, **making the most of opportunities to learn new things, devoting time to one's children and giving back to the community** that cares about our special families. It means attending financial education classes and developing a household budget in order to begin saving for homeownership. It means helping children with homework before playtime and **demonstrating the work ethic that supports success.**

On Friday, March 6th, we will hold our second annual Wine Women & Shoes event at the Henry Clay. Tickets are on sale now at <http://www.winewomenandshoes.com/louisville>.

While we would love for you to support our event, **my hope is that you see the bigger picture and want to support all of our "best foot forward" programs** that prepare our disadvantaged parent scholars to **step into the fulfillment of their goals** and be active members of our community.

Cathe Dykstra
Chief Possibility Officer
President & CEO



COVER PHOTO: Luncheon Speaker Dr. Tererai Trent and Cynthia Brown of Marian Development Group sharing a "MOTHERS' MOMENT". We wish to thank Bill Sheets Photography for generously providing the photos from our 2014 Annual Luncheon for publication in our Winter Magazine.



Kim Chan and her son, Kayden, taking a Family photo at our Stoddard Johnston Scholar House campus. Community members volunteered to take family portraits for all of our families to have in their homes.

AROUND TOWN

SAVE THE DATE

18TH ANNUAL LUNCHEON

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2015

LOUISVILLE MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN

After a wonderfully successful 17th Annual Luncheon on October 21st (read more on page 5), the event returns to the Marriott in 2015. Mark your calendars now to join Family Scholar House's participants, staff, Board of Directors, community service partners and supporters for this special annual event.

MARCH



FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2015

THE HENRY CLAY

6:00 – 9:30 PM

Family Scholar House is pleased to present our second annual, Wine, Women & Shoes event! The evening will feature wine and bourbon tastings, live and silent auctions, marketplace – and a fashion show for women who enjoy fine wine and great style – all to support Family Scholar House! We want to offer special thanks to Vicki Dortch and WLKY-TV, our media partner for the event.

APRIL

GIVE A DAY

MAYOR'S WEEK OF SERVICE
APRIL 18 – 26, 2015

As a Compassionate Louisville partner, Family Scholar House is excited to participate in the 4th Annual Give a Day – Mayor's Week of Service. Each year, FSH and several other community service organizations partner with thousands of volunteers to complete service projects and perform acts of compassion. If you or your family, office or church group would like to learn about volunteer opportunities at FSH, please contact Community Engagement Specialist Nicole Gabriel at (502) 584.8090 or ngabriel@familyscholarhouse.org.

MAY

MOTHER'S DAY

SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2015

Mother's Day is right around the corner, so be on the lookout for opportunities to support our mothers on our website, on Facebook and in the mail! With more than 200 hard-working single mothers in residence, Mother's Day is a very special Day at FSH. You can also support Family Scholar House when you order flowers or gifts from Nanz and Kraft Florists. You can choose to have \$2 donated to FSH for each order you place, through the Helping Hands program.

If you were to talk to any of our families you would hear how appreciative they are for the opportunity to study and get a degree while juggling being a single-parent. What has led them to Family Scholar House may vary, but the vast majority of them arrive needing a fresh start, they are done not being able to make ends meet, no matter how hard they try. We open our doors, and provide not only a safe place but an extended family of support. Those dreams and goals they had previously been told were impossible, are re-examined and with the support of our Academic Advisors, a plan is set in motion. A sense of hope is restored in realizing that their dreams can become their realities.

Cherelle was attending college part-time, taking care of her ailing grandfather and raising her two boys, Jeremiah and DeonTre. After her grandfather passed away, Cherelle felt alone, like she had no one to lean on. Cherelle recalls that they moved around a lot after her grandfather passed. She couldn't concentrate on school work, and knew something had to change. Around this time, her friend told her about Family Scholar House and Cherelle called immediately. Cherelle knew that Family Scholar House was the stability and support she needed if she was going to graduate from college and gain complete self-sufficiency for her family.

Cherelle found more than a program at Family Scholar House, she found security and the support of a family. Family Scholar House was able to fill a void in her life, and empowered her to overcome obstacles, become a full-time student and provide a nurturing life for her children.

The residents and staff of Family Scholar House have had a front row seat, witnessing Cherelle evolve, developing into a leader, both in and out of the classroom. This past December, Cherelle walked across the stage at the University of Louisville's commencement ceremony, earning her Bachelor's degree in Communication. Jeremiah and DeonTre,



December graduate, Cherelle with her two sons Jeremiah (age 2) and DeonTre (age 4).

her two biggest fans, were in the crowd, cheering her on! Cherelle is excited about her future and that of her children, as well. She is very grateful for the Family Scholar House program and all the people who support this program and her family. "I can't wait to make everyone proud!" she says. Cherelle's dream is to work in broadcasting, but says, no matter what comes next she wants to continue to be a positive role model for her children and

other young people in the community- to make sure they know the importance of education and never giving up on their dreams!

Cherelle is one of the many inspirational stories here at Family Scholar House. Each of our participants value the importance of education and strive to create a better life for not only themselves but most importantly, their children.

By Jennifer Eberle

On Tuesday, October 21st, seventeenth Annual Luncheon at the Louisville Marriott. The Annual Luncheon is an opportunity for FSH to demonstrate gratitude for sponsors and supporters, including the 2014 Lucy Awards to Heine Brothers' and Jeremy Sharfe, AKA Buddy Bat.

I knew this year would be another amazing luncheon with an equally great speaker. Typically I leave the event feeling grateful, inspired and blessed to be a part of such an awesome organization. But leaving the luncheon this year, I felt different, I was brought to tears listening to our speaker, Dr. Tererai Trent. She had such a powerful message of hope and perseverance, one of fighting social injustice through education. She opened her speech by asking, "What is your earliest childhood dream of what you wanted to be?" I thought, oh that's easy, I remember wanting to be a teacher or a nurse. What I bet many of us remember as

a child. Dr. Trent's childhood memories were of being sold off at the age of 11, abused and beaten and becoming a mother of 3 by the age of 18. I don't think this was her dream, of course, girls in Zimbabwe weren't supposed to dream.

Dr. Trent went on to tell her story, how she was desperate to learn, but only boys had the opportunity to go to school. She would take her brother's books and teach herself how to read, and then began doing his homework. She spoke of the hunger inside her and the power of great hunger. Not the little hunger that wants food for the belly, immediate gratification, but the great hunger for a meaningful life! She so desperately wanted a meaningful life.

Again, she was never asked about her dreams until one day when she met Jo. Jo asked her what her dreams were and she realized she had harbored those dreams deep down inside. Her dream was to travel to the United States, earn her Bachelor's degree, her Master's degree, a PHD and then return to Zimbabwe to help women

and girls get an education. Dr. Trent's mother told her to write her dreams down and bury them in a can and never give up. Her mother also told her to break the cycle of poverty, to gain an education and not pass the baton to another generation!

This message is exactly what Family Scholar House stands for – not passing the baton of poverty- breaking the cycle! Dr. Trent broke that cycle, just like the single mothers and fathers of Family Scholar House are doing every day through earning an education, gaining career track employment and becoming contributing citizens of our community.

Dr. Trent identified 4 powers that we can utilize to improve a community as a whole: The power of great hunger, the power of mentorship, the power of the pen and the power of giving back. The luncheon inspired me to identify my own powers that I can tap into, to benefit Family Scholar house families. I challenge you to think about what powers you possess and how you can help improve the community.



2014 Individual Lucy Award Winner, Jeremy Sharfe (aka Buddy Bat), with Board Member Beverly Keepers and Chief Possibility Officer, Cathe Dykstra.



2014 Corporate Lucy Award Winner, Mike Mays on behalf of Heine Brothers Coffee, with Board Chair, Gregg Cobb, and Chief Possibility Officer, Cathe Dykstra.



Honorary Chair Gill Holland, FSH participant Mechille Artis, Cathe Dykstra and Luncheon speaker, Dr. Tererai Trent.



FSH families gather for a picture with Phil Hawkins from Indatus and Cathe Dykstra before the start of the race.



Students and staff from Paul Mitchell-the school present a check to Chief Possibility Officer, Cathe Dykstra at our Louisville Scholar House campus.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

MONDAY

On Monday, November 24th, our fourth annual Green Eggs & Turkey was generously hosted by Steepleton's on Hubbards Lane, with the leadership of Gunnar Graven and David Schweitzer. Our corporate sponsors, including BB&T, BosseMattingly Constructors, fahe, Kizan Technologies, Messer Construction, Mountjoy Chilton & Medley, St. Matthew's Fire Department, and Wicked Sheets smoked 60 turkeys! Thanks to these volunteers, 215 families with 324 children were able to enjoy traditional turkey dinners, and celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday.



TUESDAY

Thank you to the many volunteers who made it possible for all our children to Trick-or-Treat safely this year. Before coming to FSH, many of our children had to miss out on this childhood tradition because of unsafe neighborhoods. At Family Scholar House, we rely upon volunteers to bring the fun of Trick-or-Treating to our families.



WEDNESDAY

Homeownership is an important part of the American Dream for Family Scholar House graduates. To date, 17 FSH graduates have purchased their own home through our Homeownership Program. As our parent scholars complete their education and enter the workforce, Fifth Third Bank is now helping them purchase a home of their own in which to raise their children. The Graduate to Homeownership check was presented by Tom Partridge, president at Fifth Third Bank and Janet Beard, vice president of Community Affairs.



THURSDAY

Family Scholar House supporters, Alicia Johnson and Christine Congleton, enjoyed an evening at Butchertown Market, getting a jump start on holiday shopping. This fun evening allowed members from the community to shop and support Family Scholar House at the same time. Special thanks to; Cellar Door Chocolates, Jackknife, Moss Hill and Work the Metal for hosting a wonderful event.



FRIDAY

Last year our community came together to build a KaBOOM! Playground for our youngest scholars at our Stoddard Johnston Scholar House campus. This year, we had the opportunity to come together in celebration of the playgrounds 1st birthday. Thank you to the PNC Foundation, community volunteers, and our participants for making our KaBOOM! Playground a reality, and for giving our youngest scholars a safe place to play and grow.



SATURDAY

FSH families, staff and supporters enjoyed a beautiful, brisk 5k at Iroquois Park on November 15th. The event supports our Family Nutrition and Wellness program to encourage healthy lifestyles for our student parents, their children and the Louisville community. We truly appreciate the continuous support of Indatus, and feel lucky to have the opportunity to partner with them for this annual 5k, benefiting FSH.

SUNDAY

In addition to generous donations throughout the year, Paul Mitchell-the school offers complimentary haircuts for our families. A haircut with updated style provides a self-esteem boost for our scholars and helps them make a great first impression in the classroom and the workplace.

SPOTLIGHT



TOP: Cathe Dykstra and Mike Mays from Heine Brothers with Kayleigh, one of our youngest scholars. **LEFT:** Matt Jamie and friends served delicious food, provided by Bourbon Barrel Foods. **RIGHT:** Family Scholar House is fortunate to have tremendous support from our Board of Directors.

A Family Affair

Friday, November 21st was "A Family Affair," an evening of dinner, drinks, and live music to benefit Family Scholar House. The celebration was held at Copper & Kings American Brandy Co. in the Butchertown distillery's outdoor courtyard. FSH Families joined families from the community, FSH supporters and local businesses to indulge in delicious food and beverages provided by Bourbon Barrel Foods, Copper & Kings, Creation Gardens, Heine Brothers, Mattingly Foods, RYE, Rooibee Red Tea, and Willett Distillery. This fun evening brought Louisville

family businesses together to create a family-friendly event to support Family Scholar House; thus, A Family Affair! King Kong provided live music that had the crowd dancing into the evening hours. It was moving to see so many of our community members come out and enjoy themselves all while giving back to their community. We are extremely grateful for our new partnership with Copper & King's and look forward to next year's event.



wine women & shoes®

We hope you will join us for our second annual Wine Women and Shoes evening, featuring world-class wine and bourbon tastings, shopping, silent and live auctions and raffle for a \$15,000 shopping spree. The night includes a high-end fashion show and a marketplace of the hottest fashion trends showcasing glamorous collections of shoes, handbags, hats, accessories and more! Don't miss the opportunity to get

an Elements foot massage for your tootsies and check out our sexy "Shoe Guys" helping with our event. We promise, this year's Wine, Women and Shoes evening will be an event you don't want to miss. Seating is limited so reserve your spot now at <https://familyscholarhouse.ejoinme.org/WWSregistration>. For more information and sponsorship opportunities, call Natalie Reteneller a (502)813-3077.

DONATE



FSH participant, Terenca Hall-Juuko, and 9-year-old daughter, Nailah.

At Family Scholar House we are empowering not only one generation, but many generations to come. Our children are watching their parents pursue a college degree, and in doing so are imagining themselves as professionals- they aspire to be doctors, nurses, teachers, lawyers, social workers, financial planners and engineers. They do so because their parents are modeling a commitment to educational success to show them the way. You can be a partner in our families' success by becoming:

- A **Champion for Families** by donating \$199.58 per month to provide the funding needed to support an FSH residential family.
- An **Advocate for Families** by donating \$88.76 per month to provide the funding needed for programs that promote health, wellness, self-esteem and family bonding.
- A **Friend for Families** by donating \$29.04 per month to provide the funding needed to support an FSH pre-residential family, receiving assistance while waiting for stable housing.

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Cooking with Chef Nancy

At Family Scholar House, we are committed to ensuring all the children we serve have the best start in education and in life. One workshop we provide is entitled, Mommy & Me! This workshop allows our parents and children to gather around the kitchen together to prepare a healthy snack. We hope your family enjoys making this recipe together for a quick and easy snack.

Ingredients

- 4 Apples, diced
- 1/2 or more Greek yogurt, non-fat vanilla
- 1/4 Sunflower seeds
- 1 squeeze of Honey (optional)
- 1 good shake of Cinnamon

Method

- Place diced apples in a bowl.
- Add the other ingredients.
- Stir to coat. Eat up!



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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



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