



Achievable Dream
ACADEMIES

Achievements

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Winter 2015

www.achievabledream.org

Smithfield Foods Sponsors Class of 2015

At the 22nd Annual Tennis Ball in November, Smithfield Foods was announced as the sponsor of An Achievable Dream's Class of 2015. Following a processional to the music of "Pomp and Circumstance," members of the class were on stage as the announcement was made. Always a closely guarded secret, the announcement of the class sponsor is a Tennis Ball highlight each year. Each student shook hands with Smithfield Foods executives upon leaving the stage.

"This is an organizational support. All the things we do at Smithfield and around the world allow us the ability to help others," said C. Larry Pope, CEO of Smithfield Foods. He continued, saying to the audience: "Thank you for carrying



Larry Pope at the Tennis Ball

on Walter Segaloff's dream. We're just a minor part of it." Smithfield Foods also sponsored the Class of 2006.

As the class sponsor, Smithfield Foods will provide annual merit scholarships for each member of the class each year that they attend college and maintain a required grade point average. The graduates of the Class of 2015 will be known as The Smithfield Foods Scholars. With just a few months before graduation, students in the class have started receiving acceptance letters from colleges for admission next fall.

Addressing the students, Pope said, "We are overwhelmingly thrilled to be a minor piece in your success. Most of the success is yours. Go hard, go fast. We are absolutely depending on you. I have full faith. Congratulations." 🎉

Community Partnership: Riverside Health System

Widely recognized for its commitment to improving the health and quality of life for individuals in the communities it serves, Riverside Health System has been a major partner with An Achievable Dream from its beginning. Under the leadership of Gerry Brink, former executive vice president, Riverside provided lunches for the Dreamers who participated in the first summer tennis camp in 1992.

Fast forward 22 years and An Achievable Dream's partnership with Riverside Health System continues to provide staff and resources to ensure that our students in Newport News are healthy. Nurses from Riverside Health System work in the schools on a daily basis to operate health clinics, work with administrators on attendance goals by treating students for illnesses or conditions that might cause them

to miss school and provide guidance if a student needs a higher level of care or a specialist. In addition, they offer access to health education and services for family members of students attending the schools. Through the Healthy Living class, part of the SAME® (social, academic and moral education) curriculum, nurses provide education on nutrition, exercise, hygiene and safety to students in *Continued on page 4*

THANK YOU to the Major Sponsors of the 22nd Annual Tennis Ball for your generous support.

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Mark Your Calendar! 23rd Annual Tennis Ball: November 21, 2015
Hampton Roads Convention Center

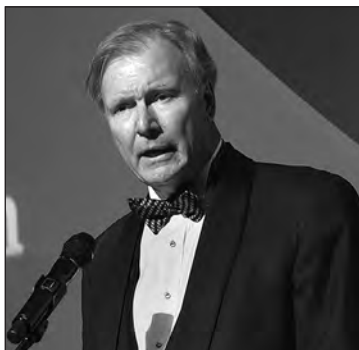
22nd Annual Tennis Ball

Nine hundred guests attended the 22nd Annual Tennis Ball, held on November 15 at the Hampton Roads Convention Center. The event raised a record amount in funds, which will be used to support the students of An Achievable Dream and the SAME® (social, academic and moral education) curriculum, field trips, uniforms and Summer Intersession in Newport News. Guests enjoyed the silent auction, gourmet dinner and the exciting live auction featuring new cars, vacations, dinners in private homes and private plane trips.



PHOTOS BY GENE MYERS AND HELEN'S PLACE PHOTOGRAPHY

THANK YOU to **John R. Lawson, II**, President and CEO of W.M. Jordan Company, Inc. for serving as honorary chairman of the 2014 Tennis Ball, and for his ongoing commitment to An Achievable Dream.



THANK YOU to Auction Co-Chair **Debra Flores**, President **Paul Szabo** and members of the **Rotary Club of the Virginia Peninsula** for their enthusiasm and support.



THANK YOU to the many **volunteers** who gave their time and dedication to make the 2014 Tennis Ball a success. We could not have done it without them!

THANK YOU to the 22nd Annual Tennis Ball Corporate Sponsors for their generous support.

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THANK YOU to the item donors who provided an incredible array of silent and live auction items. Year after year, their generous and unflinching support has allowed us to provide an excellent education and numerous opportunities for the students of An Achievable Dream. For a complete list of item donors, go to achievabledream.org/events/tennis-ball-2014.



third through fifth grade. Clinic administrators also plan and operate annual community health fairs where information and services are made available for students, their families and the surrounding community.

“Riverside Health System has been a vital partner and sponsor since An Achievable Dream was founded. Our founder, Walter Segaloff, recognized early that a holistic approach to educating our students must include meeting their health needs. We are grateful to Riverside for sharing its resources with us and for the outstanding work they do throughout the community.”

Kathy Edwards, President and CEO, An Achievable Dream

At An Achievable Dream Middle & High School, corporate partners participate in the “What It Takes” program, designed to expose our students to career paths while teaching the skills needed to succeed in the workforce. Employees from Riverside Health System participate in this program, bringing speakers and valuable information to the classroom. In addition, *Dreamers* participate in job-shadowing opportunities and tour facilities to learn first-hand about career opportunities that are available through Riverside’s many locations.

“The responsibility for improving the health status of a community is increasingly regarded as a partnership including providers, business and community organizations, and families themselves. There is nothing more important to the future shared by Riverside and An Achievable Dream than the health and well-being of the children and families in the communities we serve.”

Bill Downey, President/CEO Riverside Health System

Riverside Health System employees are active with An Achievable Dream in other ways. Riverside sponsors the medical tent during the annual Run for the Dream Half Marathon and 8K, which takes place in Williamsburg each spring. Doctors, nurses and other medical personnel volunteer their time and talent throughout the weekend to provide valuable care and medical supplies for the participants. Begun in 2011 as a fundraiser for An Achievable Dream, the race is now operated by Flat-Out Events, an athletic events management company based in Newport News. An Achievable Dream remains a beneficiary of the event, now in its fifth year.

In addition, Riverside has been the program sponsor for the annual Tennis Ball dinner and auction since its inception in 1992, producing informational videos shown during the event and on AchievableDream.org.

Full Circle

*By Christopher L. Jeter
Class of 2010, The Hardee Scholars
Tennis Instructor, An Achievable Dream*



I envision my life as a canvas. While I believe that the canvas of my life isn’t yet full, it is painted beautifully. I have been able to accomplish many achievements with the help of An Achievable Dream. Trying to imagine how my life would be without the program is difficult. I believe that my canvas would be close to empty. My experiences in the social rotation classes (etiquette, Speaking Green®, peaceful conflict resolution, etc.) as a student at An Achievable Dream are something that I cherish greatly. They had a profound effect on me. I still remember and use concepts that we were taught in those classes.

An Achievable Dream provides the structure and support that most of the students in the program need. Students like me, who grew up in a single parent household, with their mother raising them, are provided with strong male role models. An Achievable Dream fosters an environment that reassures the students that everything is going to be okay. This program helps ease their stress by providing them with endless support.

The most electrifying aspect of An Achievable Dream is the morning program. It often gives me chills as I attend the morning ritual in the gymnasium each day to hear the enthusiasm and passion in the students’ voices. As a student, I remember saying the same motivational statements every morning. The students repeat and believe them, becoming passionate about their future, gaining confidence and believing that they can go to college if they work hard, that they are somebody, etc.

An Achievable Dream invests in its students by providing them with opportunities that they may not have been able to experience. These opportunities, in turn, help the student’s dreams become achievable. All of the great experiences I have had with An Achievable Dream (meeting Serena and Venus Williams, attending the Telluride International Jazz Festival, etc.) would have never happened without the program. If I had not been in the Achievable Dream Program, my canvas would more than likely be empty. 🎨

LETTER FROM A PROUD PARENT

Good afternoon,

I just wanted to share some wonderful news! My son, **Mekhi Garner**, has been selected to participate in the Newport News Shipbuilding eShip Program, and I attribute part of his success to the hard work and dedication of the An Achievable Dream staff and administrators. An Achievable Dream has done an excellent job preparing “My Senior” to be College, Career and Citizen Ready, and for that I would like to say, **“THANK YOU.”**

Proud Parent, LaTessa Davis

An Achievable Dream Happenings



Seatack Elementary, An Achievable Dream Academy's Go Green Club, participated in the 2014 Virginia Waterways Cleanup in October, part of the International Coast Cleanup at Croatan Beach in Virginia Beach. The club members were given certificates to show their commitment to trash-free rivers, beaches, coastal waters and seas.

In November, An Achievable Dream juniors participated in a three-day job-shadowing program at **Newport News Shipbuilding**. In addition to touring the new apprentice school, they worked with mentors in engineering, modeling and simulation and technology.



- An Achievable Dream students, **Rash'd Bernard** and **Xavier Taylor**, were recently accepted into the **Young Entrepreneur's Academy**, sponsored by the **Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce**. The program, which began in November 2014, includes 30 weeks of classes on topics such as business plans, market research and non-profits.
- Board members, friends and members of the Virginia Beach community joined together for the **Winter Coat Drive** for An Achievable Dream in December, bringing 129 new coats for students in need of them.
- Motivational Speaker **Peter Sklar**, a nationally known educator, author, producer and talent scout, spoke to An Achievable Dream students and parents during an evening event in January. His message included tips on nutrition and wellness, being your best under pressure and how to make the most of your talents, no matter what they are.



A joint meeting of all **An Achievable Dream Boards of Directors** was held in December at Seatack Elementary, An Achievable Dream Academy in Virginia Beach. Board members enjoyed discussing common goals and touring the school.

*Santa and his elves visited Seatack Elementary, An Achievable Dream Academy in mid-December. Students enjoyed meeting Santa, taking photos, making crafts, art activities and attending a performance of a holiday play. In addition, each child chose Christmas gifts donated by the students of **First Colonial High School**.*



In mid-December, members of the **Peninsula Noblemen and Noblewomen** donated and presented toys to students at An Achievable Dream Academy in Newport News. Their generous gifts continue a longstanding commitment to support our Dreamers and their families.

Classroom Dedications at Seatack Elementary, An Achievable Dream Academy

Continuing a tradition begun at An Achievable Dream Middle and High School, classrooms and spaces at Seatack Elementary, An Achievable Dream Academy in Virginia Beach are named for specific character traits such as citizenship, hope, responsibility, etc. Classroom sponsors and their guests joined members of An Achievable Dream's Boards of Directors, Virginia Beach Community Advisory Board and staff at the school on December 10 to dedicate the first of the panels during a special ceremony, followed by a holiday reception.

Thank you to the following sponsors:

Dominion Enterprises, sponsor of the Library

Ferguson Enterprises, Inc., sponsor of the Teamwork Hallway

Craig and Sue Grube, sponsors of the Perseverance Classroom

Joe and Frances Luter, sponsors of the Gymnasium

The Patricia and Douglas Perry Foundation, sponsor of the Courtyard

PRA Group, sponsor of the Respect Classroom

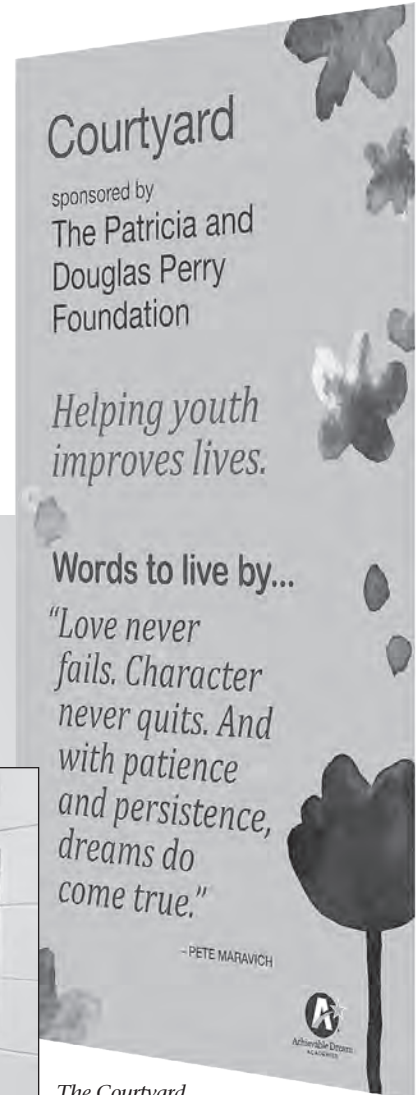
Sentara Healthcare, sponsor of the Cafetorium



Jack Ross and Joe and Karen Fuller, representing Dominion Enterprises



Sue and Craig Grube



The Courtyard, sponsored by The Patricia and Douglas Perry Foundation

For information on sponsoring a classroom at Seatack Elementary, An Achievable Dream Academy or An Achievable Dream Middle and High School, please contact Kim Luckes at 757-599-9472 or kluckes@achievabledream.org.



Joe, Stuart and Frances Luter



Representing the PRA Group: Chris Graves, Steve Roberts, Steve Frederickson, Craig Grube and Rick Goulart



Mike Taylor, Sentara Healthcare

Teachers and administrators in Newport News were recently asked,

“What is your favorite part of working at the Dream?”

“My favorite part of An Achievable Dream is the students, with their eager fresh faces filled with hope, knowing when they walk through the doors of the Academy they are somewhere safe, that they are important and with teachers who care.”

—Audra York-Edwards, Kindergarten Teacher, AAD Academy

“The Dream is where I’m needed. Simply put, it is where I am supposed to be. Many of our students don’t have the same advantages that students from middle-class and upper-class families have, and I feel obligated to give students the best education possible so they can be college, career and citizen ready and contribute positively to the community at large.”

—Terra Harris, Principal, AAD Academy

“My favorite thing about working at the Dream is the extra time I spend with the students. We offer a more enriched learning experience because we have more time to cover material and “experience” history. This makes me feel like a better teacher, and the students gain more enriched knowledge than they would at any of the other public schools.”

—Lori Buck, AP World History Teacher, AAD Middle and High School

Why do you support An Achievable Dream?

“One visit will absolutely convince you that your support is literally changing the world for children in our community. Through a values-based foundation, this incredible journey prepares young people to take their rightful place in society and creates a pathway to a future filled with respect, hope and promise.”

—Bob Aston, President and CEO, TowneBank

Did you know?

Fun Fact about An Achievable Dream

The SAME® (social, academic and moral education) curriculum includes classes on etiquette, ethics, peaceful conflict resolution, healthy living, financial know-how and Speaking Green®, which stresses standard business English and public speaking.

Words to Live By

“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is to not stop questioning.”

—Albert Einstein

Quote on the Gymnasium panel
at Seatack Elementary, An Achievable Dream
Academy in Virginia Beach,
sponsored by Joe and Frances Luter

*To our Boards of Directors, thank you for
your time, your support, your commitment
and for “Sharing the Dream.”*

An Achievable Dream, Inc.

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Achievements

An Achievable Dream, Inc.

10858 Warwick Blvd., Suite A
Newport News, VA 23601
(757) 599-9472
information@AchievableDream.org

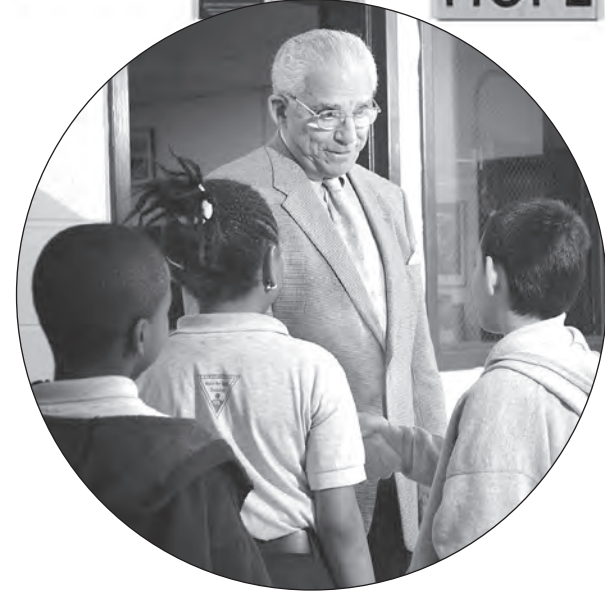
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Support the Founder's Hope Wall

Please support the Founder's Hope Wall to honor the memory of Walter Segaloff, founder of An Achievable Dream and a remarkable dreamer. Walter's vision to give all children hope and the education they need to achieve their dreams lives on in the students, faculty, staff and friends that he inspired. The Founder's Hope Wall will be installed inside the entrance to An Achievable Dream Middle and High School. Reflecting Walter's spirit and passion, the colorful design will complement the corporate feel of the school's lobby and will provide daily inspiration through personal quotes and memories. Support this effort with a one-time gift of \$2,500 and add your expressions to pay tribute to Walter. For information, please contact Kimberly Hansin at 757-599-9472 or khansin@achievabledream.org. 