

ZENA'S HOUSE, INC.

Journey to Ghana, W. Africa April 4-14, 2009



Spring 2009

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Board of Directors

Ms. Yolanda Gallman-Chair
Mr. Keith Morris, Vice Chair
Mrs. Alcana Morris, Secretary
Pastor Roger Harris, Member

ZH is two months away from embarking on its first international journey to Accra, Ghana and boy are we excited! Despite the recession, friends, family, businesses, and churches are still making donations to our journey. And for that, Zena's House passionately says THANK YOU! I am reminded of a scripture that reads...I will bless those who bless you. You are blessed because you are blessing us. Know that your donation is a seed and your seed is on good soil and is producing strong exposed leaders of tomorrow! In the last three months before we depart, we are securing passports and visas, preparing for vaccinations and for our service project and learning the language. We will be working with two orphanages in Ghana, Global Civic Preservation, GCP (www.globalcivicpreservation.org), and Trinity Baptist Orphanage Hope Centre (www.trinitybaptist.org.uk).

We will donate school supplies and give our students the opportunity to learn about the Ghanaian culture from a student's view, as well as have the Ghanaian students learn about the US culture. The students are excited at the opportunity to learn and share and are telling their friends about their trip to AFRICA! Our students will also develop pen pal relationships with the students of GCP. The 18-month long preparation has been a test of faith, perseverance and patience. We started out with close to 30 students and chaperones and now 14 students and adults will take this journey. The six students going on this journey are **Evan Hall, 6th, Killian Hill Christian School; Attorney Gallman, 6th, Dobbins Middle; Zaakira Gallman, 8th, Dobbins Middle; Elijah Wallace 10th, Westlake High; Jarekia White, 11th, Creekside High; and Briana Benn, 11th, Hiram High.** Donations are still being accepted to help our students take this once in a lifetime journey and can be made at www.zenashouse.org Within the past four months we have initiated several fundraising activities including adding Development Director, Mrs. Kim-Sellers-Bates (www.kstblc.com) to our fundraising team, having car washes, Taste of Ghana Gala, and a Christmas raffle with prizes of a 19' flat screen TV, an Obama T-shirt and a 2009 Obama Calendar and an 8' digital frame. Winners were Ms. Shanna Wingfield, Regan Keebaugh and Lindsay Handelsman respectively.



Chaperones Gabrielle and Angela washing cars for Ghana!



ZH group fundraising for Ghana!



Business is coming in!
We're going to Ghana!!!

Taste of Ghana Gala

Zena's House Taste of Ghana Gala was a huge success. The Gala was held on October 26, 2008 at Clayton State University. The evening was filled with food, fun and fellowship. Guests were "edutained" by sister Yomi and Roots to Fruits (www.rootstofruits.com) with dance, spoken word and storytelling. The students made us feel proud to be an African with the chant "I am African, I'm an African and I know what's happening, Are you an African?, Are you an African? Do you know what's happening!" The guests were served Jollof rice, chicken, Waakye, fufu and soup, and plantains prepared by Mrs. Margaret Kumi of United Ghana Christian Church in Atlanta. The food was delicious and enjoyed by all. Guests also learned about the life of Zena through a presentation by ZH students and learned about our 10 day journey to the motherland by Kwadwo Gyasi of Adiamo Services and Tours (www.adiama.com). Ms. Tannor's family attended, spoke about Zena, and thanked everyone for their support of Zena's House. We also gave away great prizes. Mr. Rasheed Marshall won an African wood carving called "Gyname" (Omnipotence of God), Dr. Ivy Smith won a male and female African wood carving and Mrs. LaTisha Marshall won 2 roundtrip Airline tickets sponsored by AIRTRAN. We would like to thank all the businesses, family and friends who supported our Gala with monetary donations. We would also like to thank our volunteers who helped make the evening a success: Mr. Chris Rivers, Ms. Regina Rivers, Ms. Kyssa Haskell, Ms. Joycelyn Foster, Ms. Rotrishia and Ms. Robernece McGee, Mrs. Rebecca Gyasi, Mr. Richard Lawson, Mr. Robert Hall and entire ZH family!



ZH students present The Life of Zena



Sis Yomi and Roots to Fruits perform



Group Dance



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Mrs. Rebecca Gyasi, Mr. Richard Lawson, Mr. Robert Hall and entire ZH family!



Monica & Jeremy Johnson



ZH Students enjoying the cuisines



Angela, Clyde and Darlena & Robert McGee



Yolanda smiles for the camera



Rasheed & LaTisha Marshall



Guest in line to "Taste"



Mary Kay Consultants Mary and Kim and Bernice with ZH



Sis Yomi and students Roots to Fruits

What's Going On At Zena's House?

Sponsor Highlight: Ms. Sebrena McBean

Ms. Sebrena McBean has been a monthly supporter of Zena's House for close to 4 years. Sebrena is originally from Jamaica and currently lives in Virginia Beach, VA. She received her MBA from Regents University and currently works as an Admissions Counselor at Regents. Sebrena also manages a software-based company. Sebrena chose to support Zena's House because of the passion she saw in Executive Director Bernice Tannor to help young people succeed. As Sebrena was blessed with financial increase, she chose to increase her giving to Zena's House and says she plans to continue increasing her giving for years to come. Sebrena truly believes in giving as she also supports another ministry called Love and Hope Ministries as well as friends who participate in missions trips. When asked what piece of advice or encouragement she would give to young people, she says she would tell them "do not be greatly moved by your circumstances be it finances, relationships or family, God will see you through no matter what." We salute and thank Ms. Sebrena McBean!



2008-2009 Emory conducts Community Needs Assessment on ZH Tutoring Program

Emory alum and ZH tutor and evaluator, Mrs. Kimether Barlow, suggested that ZH participate in an Emory course where students conduct an evaluation or community needs assessments of our organization. Soon after, Kim connected ZH with Dr. Cam Escoffery, assistant professor at Emory University Graduate School of Public Health to conduct a community needs assessment for our tutoring program. Ms. Tannor met with graduate students, **Carolyn Alvino, Chryston Jones, Holly Dentz, Kati Cooper, Lindsay Handelsman, and Jennifer Felner**, and discussed the history of the organization, its vision, and the programs and services provided to the youth in the community. Based on the information given and time restraints, the group decided to assess the motivators of parent involvement in their children's educational lives and to assess the value placed on education and tutoring by parents. They also provided recommendations to ZH on how to increase and encourage parent interest in the tutoring programs. After 8-10 weeks of research, visits to the communities and schools, and contacts with parents and tutors, the students presented their findings to their class. The data showed that the perceived barriers to enrolling students into tutoring services were a lack of awareness of free tutoring and eligibility. Data further indicated that lack of time and parent educational aptitude further dissuaded parents from enrolling their children in tutoring services. Ms. Tannor and Ms. Gallman (Board Chair) were in attendance for the students' presentation. The students did an outstanding and thorough job. They made poignant observations and recommendations. As a result, ZH received an increase in the number of parents calling and students enrolling. ZH would like to thank the team for doing a great job and providing a very useful product to our program.



L to R, L.Handelsman, H. Dentz, Y.Gallman, B.Tannor, K.Cooper, C.Alvino, C. Jones and J. Felner



Emory students present their findings



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ZENA'S HOUSE WOULD LIKE TO THANK

Ghana 2009 Sponsors

Monthly contributors: Ms. Sebrena McBean, Dr. Joseph Oppong Jr.

Dr. Melissa Hagan Hughes, Mr. & Mrs. Terry Ferrell, Dr. Roz Breslow, Ms. Holly Dentz, Ms. Lindsay Handelsman, Ms. Chyston Jones, Ms. Kati Cooper, Ms. Carolyn Alvino, Mrs. Kate Addo, Ms. Tranell Guthrie, Ms. Yvonne Murray, Mrs. Vanessa Wright, Ms. Phyllis Cutts, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Birdsong, Dr. Helen St. Aubin, Ms. Audreianna Smith, Mr. Kevin Wigenton, Esq, Ms. Cathy Dawson, Mr. S. Ridgeway, Dr. Chyree Thomas, Mrs. Michelle Christian, Ms. Janessa Hodges, Ms. Altovese Gadson, Mr. Sylvester Culbreath, Dr. TOB Townsley, Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Benn, Mr. Clyde Corbin, Mr. Clyde Corbin, II, Mr. Jerome Millender, Ms. Kimbla Williams, Ms. Rosalyn Smith, Ms. Lila Gyasi, Mr. Argo Williams, Ms. Adwoa Awotwi, Mr. and Mrs. Alston Richardson, Mrs. Louceta Hodges, Elder and Mrs. Wallace, Ms. Shanna Wingfield, Mr. Darryl Hickmon, Mr. Justice Agbey, Mrs. Kim Hixon, Ms. Linda Boles, Ms. Donna Scoggins, Mrs. Kim Barlow, Ms. Augusta Nartey, Ms. Tina Nartey, Dr. Peter Thomas, Rev Antoinette Kemp, Mr. Ralph Baker, Mr. Johnny Pickney, Ms. Paula Martin, Mr. & Mrs. Rasheed Marshall, Ms. Janice Cash, Mr. & Mrs. Danny Costello, Mr. & Mrs. Stedman, Mr. & Mrs. Michael, Ms. Ruby Thomas, Ms. Gloria Louis, Ms. Barbara Sterling, Dr. Emmanuel Lartey, Ms. Gail Wilson, Ms. Carla McCall, Tiwa Works, Ms. Tanika Ramsey, Mrs. Jeanine Perves, Mrs. Andrea Perdue, Mrs. Cherreca Scandrett, Ms. Pat Jones, Ms. Celeste Ngeve, Ms. Chastidy Harvey, Ms. B.J. Bryson, Ms. Pat Jones, Mrs. Betty Jet, Ms. Susan Sims

Businesses

Dr. Yvonne Smith (Rophe Adult and Pediatric Medicine), Dr. William Lamb (One Step Ahead Logistics), Mr. Mike Russell (Body By Inches), The Atlanta Voice, The Southside Insider, Mrs. Nana Siriboe, Afro Mart, Polly Lewis and Jean Gilbert (Lewis Funeral Home), Benjamin E. Robinson, Inc. Funeral Services, Islamic Funeral Services, Model Nail Salon, Dr. Ivy V. Smith (Genesys Family Practice), Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Moore, Hottees, United Ghana Christian Church, Ms. Joyce Anderson, Aabacus DUI defensive driving, JB & Company Barber Studio

ZH is a non-profit youth development organization that provides tutoring, life skills/health education workshops and exposure trips for middle and high school students. **Our vision is to instill hope in youth through education, life skills workshops, exposure, encouragement and love – ultimately to see youth full of hope whereby they know and believe nothing shall be impossible to them!**



ZH Director, Ms. Tannor and Board Members, Ms. Gallman, Mrs. Morris, Mr. Morris.