

Top Teens of America
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

THE VOICE

Fall/Winter Edition 2020

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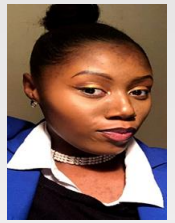
Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.

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Greetings from the Editor...

TEEN FAITH CHAMBERS, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



I am so proud to present the Fall/Winter Edition of the TTA Newsletter. As this year comes to an end, I would like to put emphasis on starting anew. Even amid COVID-19, Top Teens have persevered to serve the community, while following health and safety guidelines. While the New Year is a perfect time to reflect on what we could have done better, I challenge all Top Teens to give themselves a "pat on the back" and take a moment to relax. The holiday season is the time to enjoy family and friends. We very seldom get a Christmas Break; enjoy it!

Happy Holidays,

Teen Faith

President's Message

TEEN AMARI VENZOR, NATIONAL TTA PRESIDENT



Greetings Readers of The Voice!

As the National TTA President, I would like to welcome you to the Fall/Winter, 2020 edition of the Top Teens of America Newsletter, "The Voice" and wish you a Happy Holidays! We've done some extremely exciting things in the past year, so I would like to begin by congratulating each and every one of you for the work you've done in your Chapters. Though we've had to shift our lifestyles in the midst

of the COVID-19 pandemic, we remained, we have remained vigilant in our participation and dedication to Top Teens of America, upholding our motto - ***"Participation is our foundation as leaders of tomorrow."***

We've accomplished a lot thus far and if you need a reminder of how far we've come, check out the [Back-to-School Fall briefing](#). While there is still much work to do, I know that our Top Teens across the country have the endurance, resilience, and passion required to meet the needs of those we serve. As we embark on a new year and this holiday season of TTA, we have many activities planned: virtual inductions; Holiday Jingle Jam; Spring Teen-2-Teen roundtable; Area conferences, and of course, our bi-annual magnum opus, SynLod 2021.

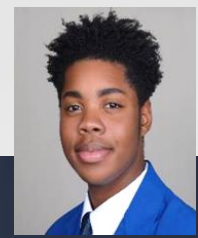
We've had an excellent start to the second half of this 2019-2021 Administration, and I'm proud to say that none of it could've been possible without each of us working together as ONE TTA. We've accomplished so much that when I look back on the year and a half that we've spent together, I sense of pride sweeps over me. It's a reminder of just how great this organization is, and that I am privileged to be in such great company. Enjoy this edition of "The Voice" and continue to strive for EXCEL-lence in all that you do!

Yours in service,

Teen Amari

Chaplain's Corner

TEEN ZAKIAH CARPENTER, NATIONAL CHAPLAIN



Top Teens of America:

As we move into this new year, we must remember all the heartaches that we have experienced from our past year. We must remember where we came from so we can move forward. The world is changing every day. The world is constantly being reborn. God tells us we must be consistently changing. He tells us of how the world will always sway from good to bad like a pendulum. I want to deliver the message of change for you all as stated in Ecclesiastes 3:1, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."

This verse preaches that everything happens for a reason. It tells us that change is inevitable, it is constant. Whether you are religious or not, whatever lifestyle you practice, we all experience a Divine change in ourselves or in the world. The year 2020 has shown us uncovered hate that was hard to see at first but not surprising. It showed us death from the Coronavirus and even obvious corruption in our government. As we move into a new year and a new set of opportunities, let's remember that we have shifted from our old selves and have grown to become a better version of our past and if not, your change is still coming. Remember, the only way to find a better future is to change from the past.

Remember the reason for the season!

Teen Zakiah

Reflections

by Teen Zakiah Carpenter

The Year 2020 has been quite the year for us all. As this year comes to an end, let us move forward as we reflect on the experiences of a lot of heartaches, lack of communication with our friends and the huge amount of unjust and civil unrest in our streets and communities. Yes, this year has been filled with pain. As we move into 2021, it is important to remember that we can only grow from the past - mentally, spiritually and emotionally. We have all experienced some form of pain this year. We have known an unsurmountable COVID-19 deaths and the rise of killings from police that have continuously affected our communities. We have seen teens taking their own lives and how the lack of care for one another has led to hatred.

This year has revealed underlying hate, racism and prejudice. These negative attitudes affect teens particularly African-American teens. We have heard our parents repeat these same stories. It is time to change, time to move forward but not forget the past in this compromised pandemic. Our health comes first. Sometimes we must take a break from the breaking news, school and parents. We need to sit back, have a one-on-one conversation with ourselves, breathe, reflect and understand where we are and where we need to be. 2021 is the year for us to grow and continue to fight. It is going to be the job of Top Teens to fill that emptiness in our communities by serving others. We must move forward again - mentally, spiritually and emotionally. **IT'S OUR TIME FOR CHANGE.**

Making an Impact in our Communities

----- TEEN QUIANA MORRIS, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT -----



Hello Teens,

What a strange and abnormal year we've had, I can't believe we've made it towards the end, and how grateful I am of that. No matter the challenge each one of you have faced, you remained TOPS! You have carried the purpose of this organization well, even within a pandemic.

Between virtual meetings, conference calls, school, and the daily challenges of being a teen in this day and age, it can all be a lot. But through it all, you've continued to serve your communities to make a difference in the lives of others. You've dropped off food, mailed cards, and went online to deliver educational programs, raising awareness of issues we face. You even helped to get out the vote! Yes, through it all, you have EXCELLED!!

We love you and know you are capable of anything you put your mind to. Stay strong. Stay determined. Keep your head up teens! Continue to do great things and continue to shine your light in this organization.

Stay safe, and happy holidays!

Teen Quiana



HOLIDAY THOUGHTS Reflections for the Season

by Teen Jamie Davis
Area II Representative
Southern Maryland Chapter

January

November

Thought:

Be thankful that you and your family are ok. Don't let hate and fake friends ruin your mood. You can and will do better than last month. You are God sent. You are a very special person who has a purpose.

Quote:

"Be thankful for the struggles you go through. They make you stronger, wiser and humble. Don't let them break you. Let them make you." - *Unknown*

December

Thought:

We made it through a crazy year. But we still have to keep pushing. Don't let this year stop you. Let it make you stronger than before. Let it help shape your future. Let it allow you to help those who need help. Let it let your voice be heard. Stand strong on what you believe in and what you fight for.

Quote:

"You know life is what you make it" - *Drake*

Thought:

5...4...3...2...1..HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!! Happy new year everyone. It is now 2021. Seniors have 6 months left before graduation. Before they leave for college. And we are still in 2 pandemics - racial inequality, and COVID-19. But we made it. We have proven that we are strong and though the battle is tough, we can still fight it.

Quote:

"If you can not fly, then run. If you can not run, then walk. If you can not walk, then crawl. But by all means, KEEP MOVING.
- *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr*



COMMUNITY SERVICE



Highlights

Area 1



BEAUMONT | STATUS OF WOMEN

Breast Cancer Awareness and Domestic Violence

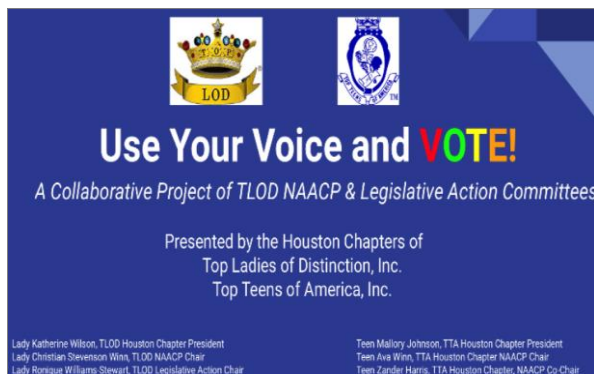


OCTOBER 2020 - The Beaumont Chapter (Area I) hosted a Virtual Tea on Sunday, October 11, 2020. The Beaumont Top Teens of America were active participants in the program. The tea raised awareness for breast cancer and domestic violence. The Teens gave greetings, performed fine arts, and gave the history of the occasion - all virtually. It was a well-attended virtual event with very good educational information given as well as interactive occasions.

HOUSTON | NAACP

*Taking Legislative Action: Use Your Voice and **VOTE!***

OCTOBER 2020 - With a focus on building the next generation of leaders through cultural, educational, and leadership experiences, the Houston Chapter (Area I) of TLOD and TTA hosted a voter education webinar, "Use Your Voice and Vote," on October 27, 2020. This distinguished learning opportunity provided information and resources to encourage active engagement in the 2020 election and beyond.



Using discussion prompts, videos, and hip-hop lyricists, the audience reflected on the past 150 years of struggles for the right to vote from the 13th-15th Amendments. There was also an emphasis on the importance of voting in every election and using helpful resources to create an informed voting plan. Lastly, the presenters celebrated TTA first-time voters for this life-changing milestone they are approaching in their lives.

The webinar was hosted via Zoom with more than 70 attendees from across the nation, ranging from Florida to the Pacific Northwest region including Alaska. Another point of pride was the collaborative programming between the TLOD and TTA NAACP, and TLOD Legislative Action Committees. The steering committee of nine included Houston Chapter Ladies and Teens: Lady Katherine Wilson, TLOD Chapter President; Lady Karen Baker Sonier, TTA Chapter Advisor; Lady Jacqueline Carter, TTA Assistant Chapter Advisor; Lady Christian Stevenson Winn, TLOD NAACP Chair; Lady Ronique Williams-Stewart, TLOD Legislative Action Chair; Teen Mallory Johnson, TTA Chapter President; Teen Ava Winn, TTA NAACP Chair; Teen Zander Harris, TTA NAACP Co-Chair; and Teen Zion Alexander, TTA NAACP Committee Member.

Area 1

HUMBLE INTERCONTINENTAL | SENIOR CITIZENS

National Grandparents Day Program

SEPTEMBER 2020 - The Humble Intercontinental Chapter (Area 1) Teens celebrated their grandparents with a special virtual program presented to the Ladies. Each Teen held a picture and shared heart-felt testimonies and memories of what their grandparent(s) meant to them. They also expressed the role they played in their lives and the importance of listening to the wisdom and amazing golden "nuggets" they share with them regularly.



Emphasis was placed on keeping God first in their lives and to always adhere/abide by the words found in the Bible. During the program, a poem was dedicated and a special song tribute, "Way Maker" mixed with "Made a Way," commemorating the moment. This tribute to their grandparents will be remembered and appreciated for years to come. During this unprecedented time we were overjoyed with true, meaningful words - spoken from the hearts of our Teens!!

LAKE CHARLES | COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION

Hurricane Laura Church Grounds Clean-Up



Pictured: Teen Amaiyah Charles at Evergreen Baptist Church.

SEPTEMBER 2020 - As part of the Community Beautification project, Teen Amaiyah Charles of the Lake Charles Chapter (Area 1) of Top Teens of America worked hard to help clean and restore at Evergreen Baptist Church after Hurricane Laura, which left the community of Southwest Louisiana heavily damaged and devastated.

Teen Amaiyah recognizes that even in the midst of COVID-19, we must continue to do our part as Top Teens to help keep our community and city beautiful, whether it be individually or in a group. Because of her willingness to help, this church was able to get back to get back to a more normal state as it continues to reach the masses, spread the gospel, and meet the needs of people in many other ways.

Area 1

LAKE HOUSTON | COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

"Me and My Mentor" Buffalo Soldiers Museum Virtual Tour



OCTOBER 2020 - On October 10, 2020, the Lake Houston Chapter (Area I) Top Teens and Top Ladies took a virtual journey to learn more about the Buffalo Soldiers' story. The Houston-based Soldiers museum illustrates their culture and historic contributions. This exceptional "Me and My Mentor" joint event was organized by the Chapter First Vice Presidents, Lady Tobin Hawkins and Teen Alaysia Brandley.

Pam Hollman, Vice President, Buffalo Soldiers National Museum (BSNM) Board of Directors, provided a virtual tour and history lesson of the courageous Buffalo Soldiers. The Teens and Ladies thoroughly enjoyed taking a step back in time to learn how the Buffalo Soldiers contributed to the war efforts from 1866 to 1951 from the American Indian Wars through the Korean War. Participants were left in awe of their distinguished and honorable service to the country.

We discovered that their courage ran deep, their history long and we were honored to expose our Chapter to aspects of our heritage often never shared or forgotten. The Buffalo Soldiers are not normally included in public school history instruction. As a Chapter, we thought it was a great idea to partner with the museum to equip our members with important information on who the Buffalo Soldiers were and how they contributed to our legacy. Our future is bright because we honor our past.

MONROE | COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Assisting Hurricane Laura Senior Citizen Victims

SEPTEMBER 2020 - The **Monroe Chapter** (Area I) came to the aid of Hurricane Laura Senior Citizen victims. After Hurricane Laura many of the citizens of Monroe were left without lights, water, or air. Senator Katrina Jackson asked Monroe Top Teens to assist her pass with the distribution of 65,000 boxes of food to seniors in their senior communities as well as citizens in the surrounding area. Teen Brandon Kimes, President called the Teens to action and assisted the Senator with this special request.

Area 1

NONPAREIL | COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Blessings in a Backpack



AUGUST 2020 - For the Nonpareil Chapter (Area I) Retreat in August 2020, the Chapter decided to donate backpacks to two of our local middle and elementary schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic and financial crisis occurring in this nation. This project was called "Blessings in a Backpack." A community partnership had already been established with Capital Middle and Villa Del Rey Elementary Schools. Due to COVID-19, the chapter accepted backpacks, supplies, and monetary donations via drop-offs, Cash App, Zelle, and mailed checks to our chapter.

Five Teens and 15 Ladies donated over \$400.00. Five Ladies and seven Teens purchased their own backpacks/supplies. Supplies included pens, markers, crayons, notebooks, pencils, paper, etc. There were 18 backpacks that was donated to Villa Del Rey Elementary School and 15 backpacks were donated to Capital Middle School on September 25, 2020. The Chapter was also able to donate 12 backpacks to Status of Women for the Backpack donation to local domestic violence women's shelter.



PRAIRIE VIEW | SICKLE CELL

Top Teens Host a Virtual Sickle Cell Table Talk



SEPTEMBER 2020 – On September 27, 2020, the Prairie View Chapter (Area I) Top Teens hosted a meet and greet with Teens and Ladies from Prairie View, Texas and surrounding areas. A total of 48 teens, Ladies, and parents met via Zoom to discuss Sickle Cell.

During the discussion the presenter, Ms. Naomi Scott, the parent of a Sickle Cell survivor, led the talk with much vigor. At the time of the discussion, Ms. Scott's daughter was in the middle of a sickle cell crisis. She went on to discuss the importance of research and donations for the cause. The discussion ended with a very lengthy question and answer period.

Area 1

ROSE CITY | STATUS OF WOMEN

Breast Cancer Awareness



OCTOBER 2020 - During the month of October the Rose City (Area I) Top Ladies and Top Teens focused on Breast Cancer Awareness. Ladies and Teens involved family and friends in their project. "Acts of Kindness" were directed to individuals with breast cancer or individuals who were affected by breast cancer.

"Acts of Kindness" included reading, moving lawns, shopping, singing to, cleaning, praying, calling and doing errands. Ladies and Teens wore pink as they assisted individuals. Due to the pandemic, there was no face-to-face contact. Some of our Outstanding Ladies, Teens and individuals are pictured here. The "Acts of Kindness" hours were over 100 hours.

Lady Sharon Mosley, 50 hours; Teen Jared Scott, 30 hours; Lady Martell Williams, 41 hours; Lady Vickie Williams, 32 hours; Lady Linda Lewis, 29 hours and our smallest "Act of Kindness" was by four year old JaKaylen Lewis texting his grandmother an encouraging picture as she fights breast cancer.

SUGAR VALLEY | COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION

Beautifying America – "Trash Dash" Weekend Project

OCTOBER 2020 - Sugar Valley's (Area I) hard working Top Teens are continuing to make an impact in the community by "Beautifying America," even though the COVID-19 has shifted to a new normal, virtual, and behind the scenes individually together. Each Teen's neighborhood is a cleaner more beautiful place. The Teens virtually came up with a plan for "The Trash Dash Weekend" project, which included removing trash in and around their neighborhoods. The trash was sorted into groups of "Throw Away" and things to "Recycle." The things recycled were taken to the recycling center, which is an ongoing chapter project with the South Post Oak Recycling Center. The Teens are doing their part to reduce the carbon impact.

They assisted their parents in beautifying their yards by raking leaves and sweeping grass, planting flowers and plants, pulling weeds, and/or trimming trees and shrubbery. Since this was an outside project and socially distanced, some teens included their grandparents' home and/or area in the process. The upcoming virtual chapter meeting will include the sharing of their experiences, things learned, and how this project impacted the community. Sugar Valley's Teens are making a difference one community at a time! Maybe the project will move to a quarterly project. --
#SVCTTAbautifyingamerica



Area 2

SOUTHERN MARYLAND | COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Drive By & Drop Off Community Food Drive



Teen Lorenzo James, Community Partnership Co-Chair, delivering food.

AUGUST 2020 - On August 30, 2020, the Southern Maryland Chapter (Area II) Top Teens hosted a Drive By & Drop Off Community Food Drive. Since school is virtual and COVID-19 requires strict safety regulations, the Chapter must find creative ways to continue to serve their community.

The Southern Maryland Chapter decided to help students who attend Park Hall Elementary School in St. Mary's County, MD. Some of the students receive breakfast and lunch from school and a backpack full of food every Friday. Due to the pandemic, students are now at home during the week without meals they would usually receive during school. The Teens and Ladies collected pasta, pasta sauce, oatmeal, canned goods, Nutragrain bars, peanut butter, jelly, microwavable meals, rice, snacks, bread and more.

The day of the food drive, everyone dropping off food stayed in their cars. As they arrived, one person unloaded food donations from the trunk. Once all donations were received, one Top Lady filled her SUV and delivered the food to the school the next day. The Southern Maryland Chapter was proud to donate 100 bags filled with groceries in this time of extreme need. Almost 50 TLOD/TTA families donated food to support over 100 students.

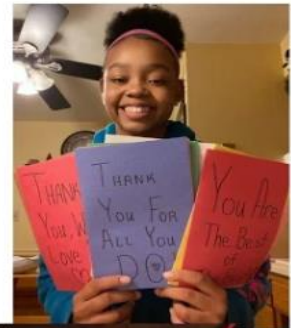
The Teens received a certificate of recognition for their donation from the Park Hall Elementary School family for joining their fight against hunger.

Area 3

EVERGREEN PARK CHICAGO | COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Honoring Hospital Essential Workers

Thank You Mercy Hospital Essential Workers!



OCTOBER 2020 - Founded in 1852, Mercy Hospital & Medical Center holds the distinct honor of being Chicago's first chartered teaching hospital. Located on the south side of Chicago, the hospital is set to close in 2021. The Top Teens of Evergreen Park Chicago Chapter (Area III) wanted to show their appreciation for the selfless work of all employees at Mercy Hospital by creating personal "Thank You" cards.

Over 100 cards were distributed to the essential workers in the various departments throughout the hospital. The dedication and service of the hospital workers will always be appreciated.

Area 4

BRYAN-LIBERTY COUNTIES | NAACP

Letting My Voice Be Heard: A Teen Testimonial



Teen Darius posting campaign signs on behalf of NAACP.

JUNE 2020 - Community service to me means giving my time and talent to an organization I believe in. As a youth member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Liberty County Branch, I decided to volunteer. My job responsibilities included displaying campaign signs for the candidates. During the weekends, I would stand with my NAACP advisor in a selected area of town. This opportunity afforded me a chance to display my civic duties. This year the elections are very competitive. I am experiencing history in the making by participating in the election process. This is better than reading about the elections in my history class. I was able to make connections with other youth in the community.

When you vote, it allows your voice to be heard. I'm old enough to vote, but I have learned about the process and can share with my chapter. Being a member of Top Teens of America, Inc. Bryan-Liberty Counties Chapter (Area IV), I have learned to let my voice be heard. My membership in the Youth Council of Hinesville where I held the job of Mayor (Pro Tem) helped with my self confidence. - *Teen Darius Jackson*

MIAMI | COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Chapman Homeless Shelter "Move-Out Kits" Donated

JUNE 2020 - From homeless to self-sufficiency is what Miami residents are smiling about during this pandemic. On June 7, 2020, the Miami Chapter (Area IV) Ladies and Teens were able to provide over 20 "Move-Out Kits" totaling over 100 items to Chapman Partnership. This is a shelter for homeless women, children, and men in the downtown Miami area. Kits consisted of pillows, sheets, towels, cookware, utensils, shower curtains and dinner ware. Chapman Partnership was honored to see a group of youth volunteer to help those that are homeless during this time of uncertainty. There are so many homeless people on the street of downtown Miami that needed our chapter help.

This event was organized by TTA Advisor Lady Julia Gilchrist and Teen Jordan Pastora, TTA Community Partnership Chair. There were seven Ladies and 10 Teens in attendance.



Area 6

LOS ANGELES | SENIOR CITIZENS

Helping the Elderly and Homeless

HELPING THE SENIOR CITIZENS

The Los Angeles Chapter (Area VI) Top Teens helped distribute masks to the various Senior Citizens Homes with Lady Hattie Jiles who is the Chair of the Senior Citizens Committee. Delivering the masks to the Senior Citizens was a learning experience because I realized how life evolves from youth to a senior citizen. We liked that we could “gift” our elders masks so they can stay safe. We know that they are older so they can’t do everything themselves; so giving the little things that they can benefit from will help them.

FEEDING THE HOMELESS

At my school Lacedfacts Academy, we give back to the community by feeding the homeless. The first time we went to feed the homeless, it made me aware of how blessed I am. When I was out there, I really felt the happiness in their “thank you’s.” We saw some people that were at rock-bottom, but seeing how thankful they were when we were handing out the lunches brought joy to my heart. I wish the best for all of them and I hope they get back on their feet soon.

Teen Ksani Jiles

STARLIGHT | COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION

Annual Trash Dash!



OCTOBER 2020 – On October 18, 2020 Teen Tijarhee Davis and Lady Cassandra Lewis of The Las Vegas Starlight Chapter (Area VI) enjoyed participating in the 2nd Annual Trash Dash. They help to clean up the area around Dolittle Senior Citizen Center in Las Vegas, NV.

This was also a great granddaughter and grandmother bonding/mentoring time for both Lady and Teen. Community service for them is a “family thing.”



Let Our Voices Be Heard: A CALL TO ACTION!

TEEN JAMIE DAVIS, NATIONAL NAACP CHAIR



Greetings Top Teens!

My name is Teen Jamie Davis and I am the TTA National NAACP Chair and moderator for our very first all-Teen led National NAACP Juneteenth Town Hall, "Let Our Voices Be Heard." During this event, we focused on racial inequality and COVID-19, learning about the disparities impacting our community. All were encouraged and continue to let your voice be heard. I thank the TLOD leadership and the NAACP Committee for allowing my vision to be realized.



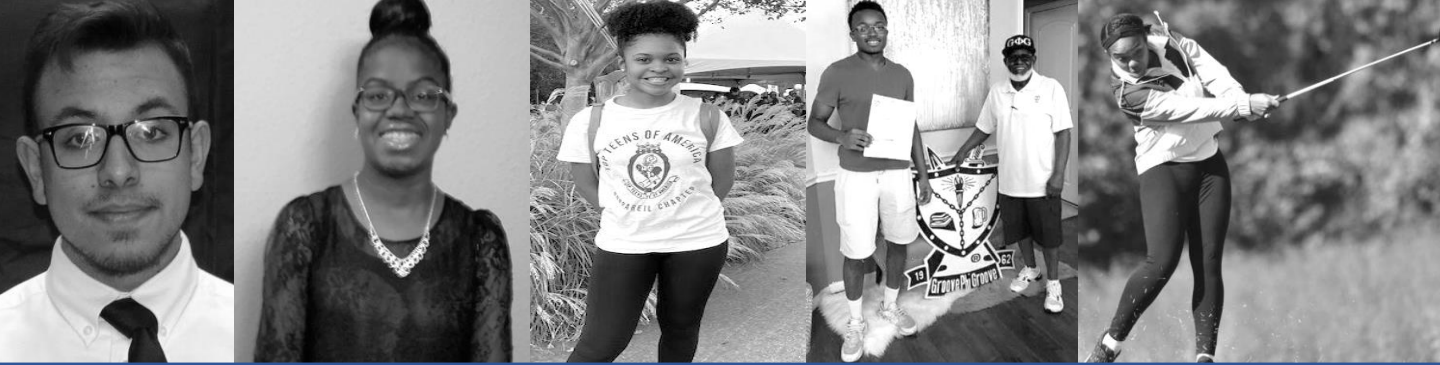
Today, I am checking in to see how the progress has gone with letting your voices be heard. I know we talked about joining your local NAACP branch. I hope you have and not just you but also your Chapter and your friends and family members that attended. Another way that you all can let your voices be heard, is by talking to your friends in school. Or having a town hall yourself. Social media is a very powerful thing and infused right can make a huge difference.

We saw the impact that we made with Ahmaud Arbury, George Floyd, and Breonna Taylor. We saw that with us posting about them, posting black squares, and putting out there that "enough is enough" - our voices were finally heard. But we don't stop there because even more African-Americans continue to experience racial Inequality. We need to keep fighting. Keep fighting for those who no longer are able to speak for themselves. Fight for those who have survived and need help speaking for themselves.

Post online and talk about ways that we can engage in social justice. Educate those who need to be educated so they know is going on in their community and across the Nation. Talk to your younger siblings and family members and let them know that while America is a challenging place, and even more challenging for an African-American. But as a whole, we will fight this fight together. We will push for the equality that is needed but not just out on the streets, but inside of the workplace, and even more importantly in our schools.

I encourage you all to never give up and speak what is on your heart about this systemic pandemic that has been happening for years. Don't turn a blind eye - fight for yourself, your family, and your future. Because I would hate to see a fellow Top Teen be the next hostage or the next person saying "I Can't Breathe."

Teen Jamie



TOP TEEN Spotlight



Area 1

BEAUMONT | TEENS JUSTYCE, SHAILA AND ERIANNA MAKE HISTORY!

History has been made by three Beaumont (Area I) Top Teens of America females becoming 2020-2021 Senior Class Presidents at their respective Beaumont ISD High Schools. These are the three high schools in the city - Beaumont United HS, West Brook HS, and Early College HS.

Teen Justyce Rideau, a TTA member for over a year and Chapter NAACP Chairperson, is Beaumont United HS Senior Class President. She is a Varsity Volleyball and Track member, ranked top 5% of class, Zeta Youth Affiliate member, etc. She wants to attend Prairie View A & M University to major in Biology with plans to attend medical school.

Teen Shaila Murphy, a TTA member for four years and Chapter 2nd Vice President, is West Brook HS's Senior Class President. She is an 4 year All-American Cheerleader, member of Xinos, etc. Her favorite scripture is Romans 8:28.

Teen Erianna Smith a TTA member for three years and Chapter Assistant Recording Secretary is Early College HS's Senior Class President. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and Yearbook Editor. She plans on majoring in Forensic Science in college.

They are all members of the Student Council and National Honor Society as well as many other school and civic activities and organizations. They credit being a member of Top Teens has strengthened their leadership skills to prepare them for their role as Class President.

EL PASO | TEEN BRETT DOYON



Teen Brett Doyon (Area I) is Mr. Top Teen and the chapter Parliamentarian. He attends Transmountain Early College High School and is currently a junior. At school Brett is an All-A student, ranking in at #9 in his class. He also maintains a 4.0 GPA at El Paso Community College where he will be graduating with an Associates Degree in Science next year. At school he participates in various activities such as; Student Council where he was just recently voted in as president, 2021 Class Committee where he is the secretary, and The Technology Student

Association where he is the secretary, and also a participant in national level of competition, finishing in second place.

He was recently selected to be a member of the GECU Student Board of Directors. will have the chance to engage with professionals, learn more about the credit union movement and gain real-world experience as the next generation of leaders in our community. Being a part of various organizations allows him to spend his time doing something productive while also strengthening his leadership skills so he can continue to be the best version of himself. He volunteers with the El Paso Food Bank and the Ronald McDonald House helping provide food and meals to families in El Paso. In his spare time, he enjoys listening to music, writing poetry, and weightlifting. In the future he hopes to major in sociology at the University of Wisconsin, where he will follow his passion for education and become a professor.

Area 1

HUMBLE INTERCONTINENTAL | TEEN AKIRA BROWN

Teen Akira Brown (Area I), is a proud member of Humble Intercontinental Chapter of Top Teens of America, currently holding the positions of treasurer for Chapter and National TTA Senior Citizen Chair, which is dear to her heart. She is a sophomore at George Ranch High School. Of all the community activities she is involved in, she sincerely enjoys Senior citizens the most. They remind her of her grandparents which are deceased and missed dearly. So, being able to spend time with the seniors is extremely rewarding for them, as well as herself.



Previously, we focused on the Nursing home we adopted and on Grandparent's Day, she made sure they were presented with cards and a small package as a token of our love and appreciation for them. For the Christmas season, Teen Akira assisted in serving dinner to the residents, passing out greeting cards, serenading them with Christmas carols and presenting each special senior with a gift. It was such a joy to see their smiling faces and the awesome, kind expressions of gratitude displayed from the Seniors and Teen Akira. The same special moments were shared for their Valentine dance. She states, "a lot of the Seniors are lonely with no family visiting them. It is an honor to show love by being a Senior Citizen Chair." Teen Akira affectionately recites - according to Psalms 71:9 - "Do not cast me away when I am old; do not forsake me when my strength is gone." Top Teens and assisting the Senior citizens has been life changing and fulfilling for Akira. She knows and feels she has and will continue to make a difference in their lives!!

NONPAREIL | TEEN JAYDA MORRIS



My name is Teen Jayda Morris, I am 17 years old, a senior at the Madison Preparatory Academy, and I am the TTA President of the Nonpareil Chapter (Area I). Along with TTA, I am a member of the National Beta Club, Lambda Tau Youth Sorority Inc., Molly Myers Dance Academy, and the Greater Mount Carmel Baptist church youth ministry. I recently was accepted to Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA. I have been a part of TTA for about five years now. What I like about being a Top Teen is the full experience! The community service projects, the meetings, the trips, the conferences, etc. My chapter, Nonpareil, and my fellow Teens make giving back a fun and fulfilling

experience. It is also exciting to meet and network with other teens from many different chapters.

Top Teens has taught me that giving back comes in many different forms and that it's the little gestures that count. You don't have to donate hundreds of thousands of dollars to a charity in order to give back. If you sacrifice your time for a cause and contribute to it somehow, you are giving back. With TTA, my fellow Teens and I have given back by face painting at festivals, speaking at events, distributing food and other items at events, etc. I also deeply enjoy interacting with all different types of people of different age groups and warming the hearts of those in need. TTA has overall been a beautiful and enlightening experience that I would recommend every teen to partake in!

Area 1



PRAIRIE VIEW | TEEN MAHALEY SMITH

In light of COVID, Teen Mahaley Smith managed to compete in several indoor percussion competitions before school activities were shut down permanently in the Spring of 2020. At the district meet, she placed first. In the regional meet, she managed to place second. For the preliminaries, Teen Mahaley placed third. In making the finals, she placed second. The last competition before the COVID shutdown, Mahaley placed fourth. Mahaley continues to be the best she can be in band and in outside school activities. Teen Mahaley Smith serves at present as Sergeant at Arms in the Prairie View Chapter (Area I). At present, she is a sophomore attending Bridgeland High School in Cypress, Texas.

In her first year with Top Teens, Mahaley was very helpful in arranging the Easter baskets for our adopted Nursing Home in Navasota, Texas. She participated in the Sickie Cell pajama party in Houston last December. Also, Teen Mahaley distributed Thanksgiving Baskets to five families in the Prairie View area. This past Spring she attended her first Area I Conference for Top Teens and Top Ladies in Houston, Texas. Whatever way she is able to be involved, Teen Mahaley is always present. Teen Mahaley Smith's mother, Ms. Celia Tisdell, is a former Teen of the Prairie View Chapter.

PRAIRIE VIEW | TEEN JARIUS TURNER

Teen Jarius Turner of the Prairie View Chapter (Area I) was recently awarded as one of the recipients for the Groove Phi Groove scholarship for the 2020 school year. Groove Phi Groove is a non-Greek organization founded at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland whose purpose includes promoting academic awareness and working towards alleviating both social and economic problems in disadvantaged communities.

Teen Jarius is a product of Cy Ranch High School in Cypress, Texas. He will be attending Prairie View A&M University for the upcoming 2020 academic school year majoring in Business Administration. Jarius's parents are Mr. Merton and Stephanie Turner-Hines of Cypress, Texas.



*Pictured from left to right:
Teen Jarius Turner, scholarship
recipient and Groove George Nelson.*

Area 1



RIVER CITY | TEEN SYMANTHA NOEL

I am Teen Symantha Noel. I am 15 years old and am a Sophomore, at Byron P. Steele, II, High School, in San Antonio, Texas. I presently serve as the Financial Secretary for the River City Chapter (Area I) of Top Teens of America, Inc., and also serve as the Area One Chair for the National Council of Negro Women Partnership. I aspire to become an Engineer and Entrepreneur in the future. In my free time, I like to play saxophone, practice drawing, cook and read. My community service includes participation in other group activities such as Girl Scouts and Girls Who Code.

I truly enjoy serving my community. Community service is a big deal for me because I love being able to give back to people who need help. I long to provide help to anyone, not only to put my hours in, but also to put smiles on people's faces and show my gratitude for what I have been given.

SUBURBAN BAYOU CITY | TEEN DORIAN CARTER

Teen Dorian Carter, ninth grader attends Shadow Creek High School, Pearland, Texas. She was inducted into The Suburban Bayou City Chapter (Area I), October 2019, and serves as the Assistant Financial Secretary. She is also a Girl Scout Cadette of Troop 2310 and earned a coveted Silver Award. With approval of the Girl Scout Council, her Silver Star Cadette Journey was to complete 50 volunteer hours from July-August 2020, by conducting the Cell Phone Clinic 101 at the Floral Gardens Senior Apartments with senior citizens that lacked knowledge using their phones. She researched and prepared her 2-hour weekly class which soon included all types of devices.



Due to COVID-19, she was unable to have classes face-to-face. She decided to continue sharing her knowledge long term by creating and providing each senior citizen with a Cell Phone Clinic Instruction Binder. During the Virtual Bridging Ceremony from Cadette to Senior Girl Scout, August 23, 2020, it was announced that she is the first to achieve the Silver Award in her troop and that only 10% of Girl Scouts nationwide complete the Silver Award.

Teen Dorian stated, "When COVID-19 is no longer a pandemic, I'll have face-to-face classes and hopefully help more people, especially senior citizens." Her favorite Bible verse is "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me", Philippians 4:13.

Area 1

SUGAR VALLEY | TEEN LACY CASTILLE



Teen Lacy Castille has been a member of Top Teens for nearly four years and serves as the Sugar Valley Chapter (Area I) Assistant Recording Secretary and the Area I Amenities Chair. She previously served as the chapter Literacy Chair. Lacy is a Junior at Stafford High School, Stafford, Texas where she is also a member and officer of the Sensations dance team. Teen Lacy is also a twelve-year member of Girl Scouts of America.

While Teen Lacy has participated in numerous community service activities during her time in Top Teens, she has a particular interest in community beatification activities and working with senior citizens. She volunteers annually at the Stafford City Wide Cleanup and City of Houston tree and wildflower planting activities.

She recently took part in the TLOD Trash Dash, held on October 18, 2020 by picking up trash in her grandparents' neighborhood. Teen Lacy has made many visits to a local senior citizen home where she reads, sings, and visits with the residents. While the senior citizens home has had restricted access during the COVID-19 pandemic, Lacy has combined community beatification activities and working with senior citizens by spending more time with her grandparents and helping them beautify their yard. Teen Lacy has continued to support chapter operations during COVID-19 by presenting a topic during the virtual chapter retreat held in August 2020.

CONFLUENCE | TEEN RYAN HARPER



On July 17, 2020 Teen Ryan Harper of the Confluence Chapter (Area III) hit two (2) holes in one at Eagle Spring Golf Course in St. Louis, Missouri. She is a sophomore at Villa Duchesne High School and has been coached by Mr. Sam Davis of the First Tee of Greater St. Louis for seven (7) years.

The First Tee Program encourages teens to graduate from high school on time with the life skills needed to succeed in college and life, with the ability to make healthy choices and with the desire to positively impact their communities.

She hit the first hole in one from 70 yards and the second from 120 yards just 15 minutes later. Teen Ryan hopes to use golf for future scholarships and play through college. Most recently on October 19 and 20, 2020 She shot a 96/95 to take 8th place for the state golf championship and she also received first team all -state honors. Teen Ryan reminds us that the secret to success isn't just doing what you love. It's finding something you are interested in, and then working to be good at it!

LINCOLN PARK CHICAGO | TEEN KAMERON WILLIAMS

Teen Kameron Williams is a Junior at Leo Catholic High School. He has been a member of Top Teens since eighth grade. Prior to becoming a member of the Lincoln Park Chicago Chapter (Area III), he was inducted as part of the first A.T.E.A.A.M. graduation class for the Chicago area. After graduating he returned the following year as an Ambassador to assist with the next group enrolled in the program. Teen Kameron is currently the Membership chairman for Lincoln Park Chicago Chapter (LPCC Teens). He recently was a featured performer in the LPCC Women's conference.

Teen Kameron has attended three area conferences and two clusters since his induction into TTA. Teen Kameron's Community service activities include:

- Top Teens LPCC Membership Chair (2019-2020)
- TLOD LPCC Presentation Ball participant (2018-2019)
- Dance With Me Productions
- Oakdale Christian Academy Children's Choir
- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Mentoring Program
- C.H.A.M.P.S. Male Mentoring



Teen Kameron, thank you for your service to Top Teens of America!

Area 3

WILL COUNTY BLACK DIAMOND | TEEN ALLEGRA COLEMAN

Teen Allegra Coleman is a Junior at Lane Technical High School in Chicago, Illinois. Allegra participates in the following activities: cheerleading, the track team, the school's newspaper, the Middle Eastern club, and the Black Student Association. She has been the Vice President for her class for the past four years. She is also a member of Black Is Gold Chicago and an Ambassador for Dream Hustle Code. The Rainbow Coalition awarded Teen Allegra the PUSH Excel STEM Award for teaching children in under-represented communities computer science and code at Google headquarters. Last school year, she worked on a business plan with Young Entrepreneurs Academy and won \$1,000 in start-up funds.



Over the summer of 2020, she worked on the Girls Like ME Project. The School of New York Times Summer Academy Journalism extended Allegra's opportunity to be a part of their program. She also received the Diverse Voices Scholarship and a scholarship for the Poynter Institute's High School Journalism Program. Teen Allegra has been a member of Top Teens of America through the Will County Black Diamond Chapter (Area III) for the past four years. She is currently the Area III 2nd Vice President and won the Lady Karen Dilligard Emerging Leader Award in 2019. Allegra's favorite quote from her grandmother is "remember to always be kind and show others grace, you never know what people are going through." Teen Allegra is a proud member of Top Teens and would not have achieved all of these accomplishments without the TLOD, Inc. community's support.

WEST SUBURBAN CHICAGO | TEEN ASHLEY SMITH



Hello I am Teen Ashley Smith, a sophomore at Oswego East High school and I currently serve as Teen President and Teen Senior Citizens Committee Chair for the West Suburban Chicago Chapter (Area III). I have also been actively involved in Girl Scouts for 10 years. I have received a gold award which is the highest award you can receive. To receive my gold award, I completed an in-depth educational presentation on breast cancer including detection, common treatments and interventions to decrease risk. Due to the success of that event, I was invited to present my presentation again at an Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated annual community service Breast Cancer Awareness event.

I am also a co-founder of an organization called Kids In The Gap (KIG) that my twin sister and I created out of a desire to help fill the needs of other kids like myself. KIG is a non-profit community service group with a mission to stand in the gap for kids that have a need. As a group, we filled over 300 school backpacks with school supplies and sent them to Houston, Texas to reach kids that were going back to school after hurricane Harvey. For that we received a Mayoral Commendation Award. I am also an active member of my school's Student Council. My favorite quote is "You may shoot me down, you may cut me with your eyes, you may kill me with your hatefulness, but still, like air, I'll rise." Maya Angelou.

Area 4

BRYAN-LIBERTY COUNTIES | TEEN VENIECE BLOUNT

Sol C. Johnson High School student Teen Veniece Blount has been selected to become a member of "The National Society of High Scholars" (NSHSS) esteemed organization. The Society recognizes top scholars who have demonstrated Outstanding leadership, scholarship and community commitment. This announcement was made by Founder and Chairman Claes Nobel, senior member of the family that established the Noble Prizes.

Teen Veniece has shared her knowledge with other teens to improve their educational experience. She tutors younger students in her spare time. As a member of Top Teens of America, Inc. Bryan-Liberty Counties Chapter (Area IV), Teen Veniece holds the office of Treasurer and the March of Dimes Project Chair. Teen Veniece is currently in the 11th grade and a member of the volleyball and track team.

Teen Veniece is enrolled at Point University for her stellar academic record.



FLORENCE | TEEN KIMYRA FRIESON

Teen Kimyra Frieson is a member of Florence Chapter (Area IV) of Top Teens of America where she currently serves as Chapter President. She has also served as recording secretary. Teen Kimyra is a champion for the chapter and supports all its endeavors. She has a good relationship with her mentor and other ladies.

She is a junior at Wilson High School in Florence, South Carolina. She is a proud member of the schools Tiger Production. Teen Kimyra is also a member of Friendship Presbyterian Church where she serves on the Youth Choir Ministry. A member of AKA's Ivy League Academy since third grade and currently apart of the AKA #CAP Program (a signature youth enrichment program).



Her favorite scripture is Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me."

Area 4

MIAMI | TEEN BIANCA CASHER



Teen Bianca Casher is the daughter of Lady Dr. Ebony Dunn. Currently, she serves as the Miami Chapter (Area IV) Secretary and the Chair for Status of Women. She was nominated for “2020 Top Teen of the Year.” Some of her volunteer services include after school tutoring for elementary school students for reading and writing, SAT/ College Prep, Achieve Miami, “Men of Tomorrow” program, Back to School Book Bag Drives, serving “Breakfast with Santa” event for children with Sickle Cell at the Jackson Diagnostic Treatment Center, delivering care packages to the senior citizen centers, Baynanza Beach Cleanups, ASAP Sickle Project, donations to the Chapman Homeless Shelter, Virginia Key Beach Cleanup and more. Most importantly, she has served and worked

tirelessly with Commissioner. Audrey Edmonson to help donate over \$20,000 recently to our Top Teens Miami Chapter and \$30,000 in total over the last two (2) years.

She is an 11th grader at the School for Advanced Studies where she will receive her high school diploma and an Associate in Arts Degree. She has maintained an unweighted GPA of 3.53 and a weighted GPA of 4.34. She is a member of the girls’ varsity volleyball team, varsity softball team, and Sub-Debutante Program with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Miami Chapter. She was awarded a 4-year prepaid scholarship in a state-wide essay contest given by Governor Rick Scott and First Lady Anne Scott. Her favorite self-created quote is: “There are so many expectations, but only one reality.”

MIAMI | TEEN JOSEPH THOMAS



Teen Joseph Bell Thomas, III, the oldest of three children and the proud son of Lady Crystal C. Pittman and grandson of Lady Gwendolyn Pittman and the Late Lord Clarence Pittman, Jr. Joseph is a junior and superior honor roll student at “THE” Miami Northwestern Senior High School. He is a member of the PAVAC – Drama Magnet program and the Vice President of the 5000 Role Models of Excellence. Joseph is a member of the National Thespian Society.

He is a member of the North Dade Branch of NAACP Youth Council where he serves as the Political Chair and as a Teen Liaison for the NAACP Adult Education Committee. He attends Monday monthly council meetings. He creates and participates in initiatives, campaigns while volunteering and developing leadership skills. He has been on zoom webinars, and Teen Talks engaging, educating, and informing teens and adults about the importance of voting and facilitating leadership workshops.

Teen Joseph is an active member of Teens Advocating for Together by way of NAACP Youth Council which is an organization of black students and Jewish students who proactively support community justice for all. He has serviced the community by getting petitions signed and community discussions regarding police brutality as well as bullying.

Teen Joseph currently serves as the Area IV TTA President in which he oversees seven states with approximately 650 teenagers engaged in public service to youth and adults.

Area 4

NORTH ATLANTA | TEEN NAZYIA MACON



Teen NaZyia Macon serves as Historian and Social Media Chair in the North Atlanta Chapter (Area IV) of Top Teens of America. She earned the Girl Scout Silver Award which represents the highest achievement Cadette Girl Scouts can achieve for making an impact on their community. Teen NaZyia has been an active Girl Scout member since age 5 and currently participates in the Girl Scout leadership pathway troop Gamma Gamma Sigma – Gwinnett. NaZyia completed her Silver Award along with one project partner. The Dreams of Artistic Flight project focused on cancer patients at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. The project provided materials to use art as therapy to distract patients during their long stay in the hospital.

Art therapy is known to provide positive benefits such as calming thoughts, increased encouragement, and provide a creative outlet during a stressful time of dealing with a chronic illness. The Dreams of Artistic Flight Silver Award project was able to support a total of 30 Hospital Beds and children patients with cancer ages 0 – 21 years old at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. The Scouts set a goal and exceeded by providing more than 60 art kits and supplies. By earning the Girl Scout Silver Award, Teen NaZyia has become a community leader. Her accomplishments reflect leadership and citizenship skills that set her apart from her peers.

Area 6

LOS ANGELES | TEEN KSANI JILES

Teen Ksani Jiles will go very far in his life. He has a GPA of 4.0 and Universities are writing to him already for sports scholarship. As an active member of the Los Angeles Chapter (Area VI), he has learned a great deal from going to senior citizens homes and talking to them while giving out gifts. He is very quiet but his presence is bold. His mother and grandmother (who is a Top Lady) go out of their way to help make his future great. They are there for him as well as for the organization. Anything I ask of Ksani, he will step up to the plate without question.



STARLIGHT | TEEN BRYNN ALLEN



Teen Brynn Allen has been a member of Top Teens of America: Starlight Chapter (Area VI) for four years. She has exceeded her expectations in Top Teens starting as Secretary and is currently the First Vice President for the 2020-2021. Teen Brynn also serves as Area VI Historian for 2019-Present. Teen Brynn attends West Preparatory High School where she is heavily active in clubs and organizations such as: National Honor Society (3 years) where she is the Sergeant-At-Arms, Student Council (3 years) where she is the Senior Vice President, Batteries Included (2 years) where she is the Secretary, Multicultural club (2 years) where she is the Secretary.

Teen Brynn is devoted to her community and lives in the same community her great grandfather patrolled many years ago. Her great grandfather, Herman Moody, was the first black career police officer in Las Vegas, Nevada. He served for 31 years as a police officer and experienced many injustices. He received a proclamation on September 26, 2020 being named Herman Moody Day! She was honored to participate in and witness this celebration. Her grandfather's home where he was raised and currently lives is listed as historical marker #11 on the Pioneer Trail Route. Teen Brynn has her grandfather's legacy of community services that she has followed her entire life.

Teen Brynn's favorite bible verse is "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11.

Mentoring Matters

TEEN NYL AZAIAYA, NATIONAL MENTORING CHAIR

Dear Top Teens,

As your National TTA Mentoring Chair, I know a few things about what a great mentoring relationship means. Here are some tips and advice on establishing a good Mentor/Mentee relationship:



- 1. Find common ground.** When you meet your mentor/mentee take time to things that you both like. The more you have in common the better your chemistry.
- 2. DON'T WAIT!!** If your mentor/mentee is on your mind then take the time out and talk to them. Friendship takes consistency to keep it strong.
- 3. Invite each other.** If you have an event that the two of you can go to then do it. While you are in this organization then you have to make memories together.
- 4. Don't judge a book by its cover.** When you meet each other don't judge first, have an open mind because peoples personality isn't a visual trait.
- 5. Keep it interesting!** You can't keep doing the same thing because it will get worn down. If you keep it interesting then you will keep the same bond.

With the pandemic, this is a GREAT time to connect with your TLOD Mentor!

Teen Nyl

ME AND MY MENTOR

Now, I'd like to tell you a story about me and my TLOD mentor, Lady Michel...

Lady Michel was my first mentor and is the best one for me. Lady Michel was there to give me advice and was always there for me. She would come to my football games and other events. One time when I was in a leadership program for boys and was suppose to go to a Harlem Globe Trotters game and I told Lady Michel and then she took me and we had court-side seats. Lady Michel and I have an amazing bond that will last a lifetime. We have such a good connection that she has become a second mom or aunt to me. The five (5) tips I mentioned is why we have such a strong bond.





**SHOW OFF
TLOD MENTORS & TTA MENTEE'S**

**SEND IN
YOUR
APPLICATIONS!**

**ME & MY
MENTOR!**

The publication will be available
at Syn-Lod of 2021

- Send applications to: Tawalker09@gmail.com
- include a JPEG (Digital) 3x5 photo
- To be in Publication: Remit \$30 per submission
- Please mail check, money order, cashiers check, or

chapter check postmarked by: **April 19, 2021 to**

National Financial Secretary

Lady Cheryl Williams

Call or Text all questions to:

(214) 893-3209

MEET THE AUTHORS

THE VOICE

Fall/Winter Edition 2020

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1



TTA
Literacy Corner

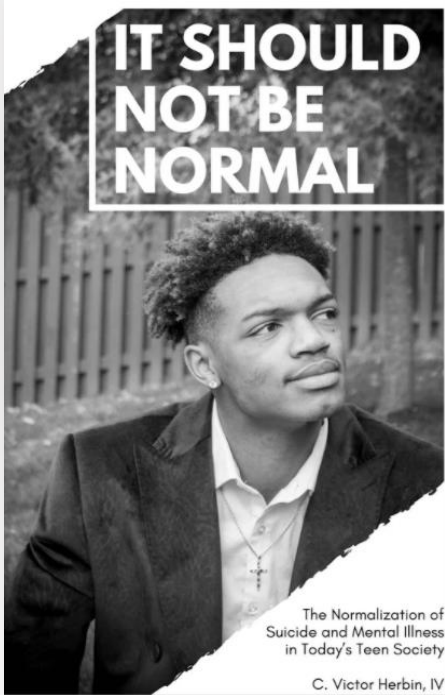
MEET THE AUTHORS

Area 2

DALE CITY - PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

featuring

TEEN C. VICTOR HERBIN IV



Teen C. Victor Herbin IV serves as the TTA Chaplain of the “Dynamic” Dale City – Prince William County Chapter in “Awesome & Amazing” Area II. He is a Senior at Colgan High School in Virginia and just published his first book.

Teen Victor followed in the footsteps of his mother, Lady Serelda Herbin, who is also a published author. His book is titled “It Should Not Be Normal: The Normalization of Suicide and Mental Illness in Today’s Teen Society.” According to the American Psychological Association (APA), while accidents are the number one cause of death for youth 15 to 24 years old, the number two cause is suicide.

Interestingly enough this teen’s book started out as an essay for his 11th grade writing assignment. Teen Victor’s family recommended he take his essay to the next level and publish it in a book. His short book is filled with powerful messages that support the overarching theme contained in the title -

“It Should Not Be Normal.”

Teen Victor demonstrated a willingness to share his story during the October 2020 TTA chapter meeting where teenagers interested in TTA were invited. After his heartfelt presentation, Teen Victor fielded questions from teens and ladies. The chapter’s Top Teens and Top Ladies were very proud of their TTA Chaplain’s courage to share and own his story.

Teen Victor’s favorite Bible verse is Psalm 49:5 (NIV), “Why should I fear when evil days come, when wicked deceived surround me”.

Area 3

SKYLINE METROPOLITAN CHICAGO

featuring

TEEN TAMERA TRIMUEL



Skyline Metropolitan Chicago (Area III) Teen Tamera Trimuel published her first book entitled “Dear Black Girl, You are IT”! Teen Tamera is a powerhouse determined to use her voice and talent to empower and change the lives of young girls who are searching for self-love. Tamera is a change agent and loves to inspire others to become the change they want to see.

At the age of nine, Tamera started her own business, Tamera’s Treasures. She created custom made tiara treasure boxes to remind girls to “Treasure the Girl in You.” Time is of the essence and this is why Tamera is using every opportunity to empower girls to live, laugh out loud, and to dance to the rhythm of their own beat!

“Dear Black Girl, You Are IT!” will inspire you to look beyond where you are now and help you to dream about your future Intelligent & Triumphant S.E.L.F (See You, Express You, Love You, Free You).

“Dear Black Girl, You are IT!” wages war against the stereotypes of young black girls. This book inspires young black girls to love themselves completely and to destroy the stigma that was put in place to defeat them.

Teen Tamera is the TTA Literacy Chairperson for the Skyline Metro Chicago Chapter. She is a Senior at Marian Catholic High, where she is the co-anchor for the Marian Catholic Network. She is also Senior Editor of the Yearbook staff. “Dear Black Girl, You are IT!” is available on Amazon and Barnes and Noble.



Teen Jaydon Senegal
Area I Representative
Beaumont Chapter

Making Healthy Choices



Eat three healthy meals a day (breakfast, lunch, and dinner). Dinner does not have to be the largest meal. The bulk of food consumption should consist of healthy foods, such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free or low-fat milk products. Incorporate lean meats, poultry, fish, beans, eggs, and nuts (with emphasis on beans and nuts) into a healthy diet.

Choose foods that are low in saturated fats, trans fats, cholesterol, salt (sodium), and added sugars; **look at the labels** because the first listed items on the labels comprise the highest concentrations of ingredients.

Control portion sizes; eat the smallest portion that can satisfy hunger and then stop eating.

Healthy snacks are OK in moderation and should consist of items like fruit, whole grains, or nuts to satisfy hunger and not cause excessive weight gain.

Avoid sodas and sugar-enhanced drinks because of the excessive calories in the sodas and sugar drinks; diet drinks may not be a good choice as they make some people hungrier and increase food consumption, and last but not least, avoid eating a large meal before sleeping to decrease gastroesophageal reflux and weight gain.


**KEEP
CALM
AND
Make Healthy
Choices**

It's **NOT** that I
CAN'T eat that.

I'm making the
healthier choice
not to.

**I will NOT feel
deprived when I
bypass junk food.
I will feel empowered
that I made the
healthy choice.**

ASK THE VOICE!



I am the TTA Chapter President. How can I become a better leader to my chapter?

As Chapter President you should be able to guide and lead the chapter alongside the advisor. This can be done with communication and participation. As Chapter President you should be able to guide and lead the chapter alongside your TTA Advisor. This can be done with communication and participation. Part of being a good leader is putting the needs of others first. Listen to what fellow chapter members have to say so that every voice is prioritized. Communication is key

when it comes to working in a group. Being a leader holds responsibility. Be active when it comes to participation. Attend as many events as possible unless there is an excusable reason not to. Attending meetings and other events might be easier now due to Zoom. As president you should be there to represent your chapter. Lastly, do not be afraid to reach out for help from a teen advisor. Just because you are president does not mean you have to be perfect, there will be confusion. Take these skills and use them to better your strategies to make your time as president count.

How has the pandemic affected your mental state?

The past nine months with the pandemic may have taken a toll on mental health. Constant news updates and social distancing can leave one feeling anxious. It has taken a toll with daily life whether it's school or work. With the pandemic there is always something to be concerned and alert about. According to the CDC "Public health actions, such as social distancing, can make people feel isolated and lonely and can increase stress and anxiety." People have begun to feel lonely due to restrictions. Loneliness can lead to mental issues such as depression. There are ways to avoid the negative mental impact of the pandemic. Just because events are canceled does not mean you cannot make memories. Try communicating with loved ones on platforms such as Zoom or FaceTime when feeling lonely. Take some time to focus and work on yourself as an individual. Use this experience as an advantage to rebuild mental state.

What are the qualifications needed to run for an Area or National Office?

Running for office is no easy feat, and it takes courage, knowledge about the office, experience, and a willingness to serve. With a heart for service and the spirit to lead, here are the qualifications to run for a 2021-2023 Area or National Office:

- Must be able to serve two (2) years. Therefore, you must be in the 8th, 9th or 10th grade;
- Must have been a Top Teen for at least one (1) year prior to applying for the desired position;
- Demonstrated leadership experience in TTA or with other organizations; and
- Working knowledge of TTA Governance.

The application deadline is December 31, 2020. Please see your Chapter TTA Advisor to complete and submit your application for an Area or National office.

NOTE: With the 2021 SynLod as a virtual conference, all Teens interested in running for office are highly encouraged to submit an application by the deadline.

Announcements

**THE
VOICE**

Fall/Winter Edition 2020



Announcements



TOP TEENS OF AMERICA

sponsored by Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.

National TTA Executive Board

invites all Top Teens to a special event



2020 HOLIDAY



Jingle JAM



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2020

5PM Pacific | 7PM Central | 8PM Eastern

To register for this event, click below.

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAkc-GuqzktE9J2ZSBzoGoALnCfoP3Fbqum>

LET'S TALK!

The TTA National Executive Board Presents

TEEN 2 TEEN

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION DISCUSSING IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE OF TOP TEENS

"Coming together with fresh ideas and an open mind"

CLICK BELOW TO REGISTER

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYrf-uvpzkuGtAc4-qqlmW1MqTle7glqQtY>

JOIN US
JANUARY 24TH
6PM CDT

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ATTEND LIVESTREAM
VIA ZOOM!



THE VOICE

2019-2021 NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE



Teen Bryson Baggett
Public Relations Chair



Teen Makai Snell
Historian



Teen Faith Chambers
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Corresponding Secretary



Teen Amber Campbell
Newsletter Chair
Second Vice President



Teen Zakiah Carpenter
Chaplain

Area Representatives



Teen Jaydon Senegal
Area I Representative



Teen Jamie Davis
Area II Representative



Teen Cassidy Casanova
Area III Representative



Teen Reagan Collins
Area IV Representative



Teen Naja Stokes
Area V Representative



Teen Quinn Gordon-Freel
Area VI Representative

Contributors



Lady Vickie Henry Hughes
Newsletter Advisor
National Asst TTA Director



Teen Nyl Azaiaya
Mentoring Chair



Teen Amari Venzor
President



Teen Quiana Morris
First Vice President



Lady Kendra Gillespie
Editorial Assistance
National TTA Director

TOP TEENS OF AMERICA
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

APPENDIX:
2020 Spring/Summer Articles



Sponsored by
TOP LADIES OF DISTINCTION, INC.

EL PASO | MARCH OF DIMES

Virtual Walk



MAY 2020 - It is indeed a blessing to be a blessing to others! The El Paso Chapter (Area I) participated in the El Paso March of Dimes March for Babies Step Up Virtual Walk on May 15, 2020. We had two Top Teens, eight Top Ladies, one Lady-in-Waiting, one Teen-in-Waiting, and one TTA Parent to participate in the Walk itself. For the online Fundraising Team we had 13 Top Ladies and four Teens.

This is our third year participating in the El Paso March of Dimes March for Babies Walk. The chapter was featured in the recap slideshow during the Annual MOD March for Babies Kick-Off Breakfast. This year we finished in third place in the Non-Family Team category and raised \$2,069 for this worthy cause. The Chapter also held a poster contest and Teen Savanna Enriquez, Chapter Historian, was the winner! She received a \$20 Olive Garden Gift Card and a TTA Face Mask.

The Chapter also completed Charity Miles, promoting health while earning donations from corporate entities that will also be donated to support the March of Dimes Research, Development, and Support Programs for mothers and babies.



WENDELL | COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

COVID-19 Community Giveaway



Pictured: Teen Tianna Godwin (left), Teen Heaven Tucker (middle), and Lady Bridggette Campbell.

MAY 2020 - On May 16, 2020 the Wendell Chapter of Top Ladies and Top Teens partnered with the Riley Hill Eagles Football League hosting a COVID-19 Community Giveaway. The Wendell Top Ladies and Top Teens assisted with stuffing bags of giveaway items and community members drove up to receive toilet paper, paper towels, hygiene products, snacks, and other household items.

These giveaway items were donated by the Wendell Top Ladies and Top Teens, along side the Riley Hill Eagles staff. Just being able to help serve and fulfill some of the needs of the community in the time of crisis was a rewarding experience for both organizations.

Teen Tianna Godwin, Teen Heaven Tucker, and Lady Bridggette Campbell (Chapter TTA Advisor) gather COVID-19 giveaway bags to place in vehicles as community members drive-through.

LADERA HEIGHTS | TEEN AMYLAH CHARLES

I am Persevering and Respectful

I am persevering and respectful
I wonder how it would feel to own land and frolic around the green pastures with
no fear of the master brutally lashing my skin
I hear the soft whimpers of those who are mentally and physically imprisoned,
and the joyful chirp of the birds who know nothing of imprisonment
I see the master gaze at us with glee as we work on the brink of death
I pretend like my horrid reality is all a dream.

I am persevering and respectful
I pretend to be strong although I'm deteriorating inside
I feel defeated as if there is no prosperous and immaculate future ahead
I touch the gaping wound on my back as I wince from the pain
I worry about the sorrow and grief the next day will bring
I cry at night for the tears I shed are not only of sadness but the red hot anger
that festers inside of me.

I am persevering and respectful
I say to myself I am persevering and respectful but each day I want to spit in the
masters face but I mustn't
I dream about dominance and freedom, for my dreams are my only escape
I try to see the bright side after all I am still surviving yet I'm not living
I hope someday these horrid people will see the error of their ways, may God
forgive them.

I am persevering and respectful.

by AMYLAH CHARLES
Area VI Second Vice President

TTA
Literacy Corner

Area 6

MOUNTAIN WEST | TEEN TAYLIANNA CHAMBERS LOPEZ

CONGRATULATIONS to **Teen Taylianna Chambers Lopez** (Mountain West Chapter – Denver/Aurora, CO) for being selected by NCNW Denver Section as one of their 2020 Living Portraits of African-American Women, which was held on Saturday, September 12, 2020 (Facebook Live and YouTube). The program honors African American Women and youth who have made outstanding contributions in their various disciplines.

ncnw
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN
DENVER SECTION
commitment unity self reliance

Living Portraits of African American Women
National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) - Denver Section is proud to announce our
2020 Living Portraits Virtual Celebrating
Please join us in celebrating our seven amazing 2020 Living Portraits.

Celebration will be streamed live on Facebook September 12, 2020 3pm MDT
A portion of the proceeds raised through this event will be donated to Whiz Kids Tutoring and the
Colorado Council of Black Nurses, Inc. COVID-19 Relief Fund

2020 Living Portraits Honorees

Norma Paige Community Service	Taylianna Chambers Lopez Youth Leadership	Deidra Walker Information Technology	
Jasminemarie Mack Youth Leadership	Renise Walker Government	Aaliyha Fuller Youth Leadership	Flora Young Education
Elvin Caldwell, Jr. President Thomas Bean Foundation - Sponsor	Valorie Yarbrough President	Pamela M. Miller Living Portraits Program Chair	Tori Mason Event Moderator CBS4 Denver News Reporter

www.ncnwdenver.org
www.facebook.com/DenverSectionNCNW
www.instagram.com/ncnwdenver
Donations can be made by Zelle, PayPal or check
Please visit our website or Facebook
for more information

The mission of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) is to lead, empower and advocate for women of African descent, their families and communities.

Teen Taylianna was selected based stellar performance in honors classes, providing leadership and committed service to community and civic organizations, demonstrating tenacity and perseverance in overcoming an unstable home life and limited school attendance during that period of her young life; while now serving as role model to her Top Teen peers and others. Her moto is: "Success is not measured by what you accomplish, but by the opposition you have encountered, and the courage with which you have maintained the struggle against overwhelming odds."

Check out her interview at YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTo06UsaNvgDOvQ_fEK0sJA.

Area 6

STARLIGHT TEEN SPOTLIGHTS

Teen Casiana Lucero

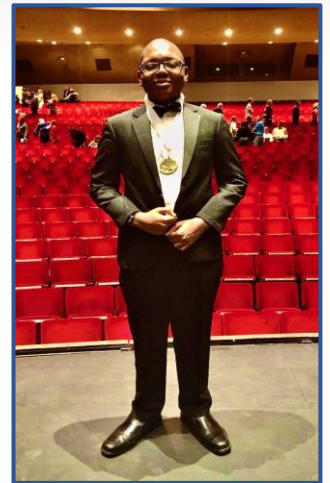
Teen Jayden Williams

Teen Sullivan Thomas



Teen Casiana Lucero has been a member of the Top Teens of America Starlight Chapter for four years. This last year she was the Recording Secretary for the chapter. She is a fantastic leader not only in the classroom but as a Top Teen and a Debutante (Beta Theta Debutante 2019). She was crowned Miss Debutante and Miss Congeniality. She is a graduate of Centennial High School in Las Vegas, NV. Teen Casiana will attend Pacific Lutheran College in Tacoma, WA, where she will major in Business Administration. Teen Casiana has been accepted into the Honors program and the Diversity program at Pacific Lutheran College.

Teen Jayden Williams is the current President of the Starlight Chapter. He has been a member for four years. Teen Jayden helped to put on a remarkable 39th Area VI Leadership Conference held in Las Vegas, NV. Teen Jayden is also a skilled singer/songwriter and producer. He is a member of the Esteemed Honor Choir, which handpicked students from all over Clark County School District. Teen Jayden is a graduate of Coronado High School in Henderson, NV. Teen Jayden will attend University Nevada, Reno, NV, majoring in Computer Science.



Teen Sullivan Thomas has been a member of Top Teens for four years. He is the 2nd Vice President of the Starlight Chapter and the Assistant Recording Secretary for Area VI. Teen Sullivan adores playing sports such as football and track. He admires learning about African American/Black history. He studied the Harlem Renaissance for extracurricular class. Teen Sullivan is a graduate of Coronado High School in Henderson, NV. Sullivan will attend the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

Top Teens of America
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

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