On June 7, An Achievable Dream’s Class of 2018 walked across the graduation stage, received their diplomas and prepared to take the next big step into the future.

Our Dreamers have worked incredibly hard to reach this point, and we are so proud of them. We are thrilled to announce that 100% of the Class of 2018 graduated with an advanced studies diploma!

Sharing in the honor and excitement of this year’s graduation were the Levin and Friedberg families, who, as sponsors of the Class of 2018, will provide annual merit scholarships for each member of the class for each year they attend college. During the graduation ceremony, Dreamers presented the Levin and Friedberg families with framed photos of the two families with the Class of 2018, signed by each graduating senior.

From the class sponsors:

“We chose to sponsor a class at An Achievable Dream because it gave our family the opportunity to make a significant and positive difference in young people’s lives. An educated person is more likely to reach his or her potential and have a happy, productive and full life.”

—Marvin and Claire Friedberg and Family

“We admire the perseverance and strength of character of these students to reach their goal to become 2018 graduates, and we want this class to realize the benefits that higher education can bring to them personally and to their community. We are fortunate to have Claire and Marvin Friedberg join with us in this sponsorship so that our 2018 Dreamers can fulfill their dreams.”

—Betty, Nancy, Beth, and David Levin

Congratulations, Dreamers! We can’t wait to watch you soar!

Continued on page 2
Virginia Beach and then to Henrico. I am so proud of her. She is ready to lead our entire organization. Dr. Amy Marchigiani, who has been with AAD for 16 years, has been named Vice President of Academics and will lead our schools with a Dream Team that we already have in place. This transition is seamless. Lee will step into the CEO role on September 1, 2018, and I will step into the next chapter of my life and the role of advisor for her if she needs me.

Leadership of any organization requires exemplary stewardship, which requires a promising and stable succession plan. Our boards of directors, donors, community and district partners should expect nothing less from us. The love and support of our organization and our students that all of you show, through your shared time and treasure, is nothing short of remarkable. All of you deserve comfort in knowing that our organization and our mission is strong, long-lasting, financially sound, and that our students and An Achievable Dream will go the distance and will succeed.

To our teachers, administrators and staff, your dedication and hard work to ensure our students’ success would make any Fortune 500 company envious! Thank you. I am so very proud of the work you do day after day after day...after day.

To our school district partners, thank you for sharing our belief in our children and families, and for the shared resources our partnership requires. I wish the public could witness the hard work and dedication you exhibit for the thousands and thousands of children in your care every, single day.

To our community partners, thank you for your daily presence in our schools. We do not take you for granted. You will probably never know the impact you make in our students’ lives. Just know in your hearts that you do.

To our students and alumni—our Dreamers—I love you and always will. Although I don’t know all of you, my work has been a labor of love for you.

To members of our Boards of Directors—it sounds corny, but I wish I could translate what is in my heart onto paper. I feel a special bond with each and every one of you. Your leadership, guidance and loyal support have been a source of strength and inspiration for me.

I could fill this entire issue of Achievements with personal thank yous to so many people who have supported AAD and me through the years. I cherish the life-long friendships I have made. (Plans for travel and playdates are in the works. You know who you are!) My farewell message would not be complete, however, if I did not single out a few people who have made a profound impact on me and my time as president of AAD.

Alan Diamonstein, thank you a million times. You have been my “coach” and friend through everything. A lot of love and respect is behind this simple thank you.

Lindsey Carney, attorney, friend and “therapist,” thank you for your wisdom, clarity and support.

Frances Luter, your passion for our children is contagious, and you have “spread” the passion so graciously. Thank you for your leadership and friendship throughout our first expansion.

Johnny Lawson, you believed in me, so I believed in myself. Thank you for all the motivational meetings from which I skipped back to my car.

Helen Myers, AAD CFO and unsung hero, I could not have done this without you. Happy Thanksgiving! (secret code)

Lee, you are going to be an awesome leader of the Dream. I’m always here for you. 🙏

With love and sincerest appreciation,

Kathy Edwards, President/CEO

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**Class of 2018 HIGHLIGHTS**

- 49% of the Class of 2018 graduated with a 3.0 or higher grade point average.
- 100% of the Class of 2018 graduated with an advanced studies diploma.
- The Class of 2018 received a total of $2,274,478 in scholarship funds.
- The 37 graduates submitted a total of 250 applications to colleges and universities and were accepted to 238 of those colleges and universities.
- The Class of 2018 completed 308 honors courses and 280 advanced placement courses.
- Kameren Bluiett received the Virginia Tech Clark Scholarship, the 100 Blackmen Scholarship and the 200+ Men Scholars Crawley Scholarship.
- Diamonique Boone, Nijia Chester, Totiana Coleman, Daja Goodrich, Toni Graves, Berriana Gray, Asia Johnson, Rashid Jones-Normal, Elijah Lydell, Hector Martinez, Jr. and Nephtali Sykes received the Peninsula An Achievable Dream Old Dominion University Endowment Scholarship.
- Lorell Collins received the Mary Baldwin University Founder’s Scholarship.
- Totiana Coleman, Daja Goodrich and Asia Johnson received the Old Dominion University Crown Scholarship.
- Hector Martinez, Jr. received the Old Dominion University Landmark Foundation Opportunity Scholarship.
- Quamara Grady received the American Musical Dramatic Academy VIP Scholarship. 🎤
An Achievable Dream and Law Enforcement Partners Win National Award for Innovative Partnership

“Students at An Achievable Dream benefit not only from learning and mastering their rigorous coursework, but also from being able to establish positive relationships with law enforcement. An Achievable Dream serves as an excellent model for communities nationwide seeking to bridge the gap between law enforcement and youth.”

—COPS Office Director Phil Keith

On June 6, the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) announced the Newport News Police Department, Newport News Sheriff’s Office and An Achievable Dream, Inc. as winners of the 2017 L. Anthony Sutin Civic Imagination Award for their partnership to help children succeed in education. Only one award is presented annually, with the winner chosen from 50 applicants nationwide.

“It is an honor to have been nominated for and to receive the 2017 L. Anthony Sutin Civic Imagination Award for their partnership to help children succeed in education. Only one award is presented annually, with the winner chosen from 50 applicants nationwide.

—Newport News Acting Chief of Police Michael Grinstead

“On behalf of the men and women of the Newport News Sheriff’s Office, we are profoundly humbled to receive this award,” said Newport News Sheriff Gabe Morgan. “This longstanding collaboration continues to inspire both the deputies and the amazing children who attend An Achievable Dream. The bond created between the Dreamers and the deputies is transformational and continues beyond their graduation.”

In a special ceremony at An Achievable Dream Middle and High School, AAD President and CEO Kathy Edwards and Lee Vreeland, AAD Vice President of Academics and COO, accepted this award, along with Newport News Sheriff Gabe Morgan and Acting Police Chief Michael Grinstead.

During the program, attended by Department of Justice officials, local law enforcement, AAD board members and community supporters, students presented a showcase of their regular morning program, including greeting law enforcement with handshakes, uniform inspections and reciting positive affirmations. AAD eighth-grader Tashara Jones spoke about the importance of law enforcement partnerships to students.

The L. Anthony Sutin Civic Imagination Award is named in memory of Tony Sutin, who served as a founder and deputy director of the COPS Office from its creation in 1994 to 1996. This annual award is bestowed upon a collaborative team of law enforcement and community members whose innovative civic interactions have transformed public safety in their community. The ideal nominee creates community collaborations that are innovative, creative and transformative; displays civic leadership through problem solving and collaborative partnerships; and promotes public safety through dedication to the community policing philosophy.

“Our students have had the great fortune of developing positive relationships with law enforcement officers who have served as mentors and confidants on a daily basis.”

—Dr. Lee Vreeland, Vice President of Academics/COO, An Achievable Dream
Linda and NC Hardee

By Kathy Edwards

Linda Hardee and her husband of 50 years, the late Norman “NC” Hardee, have been sponsors of the “Dream” for 25 years. As we come to the end of AAD’s 25th Anniversary Celebration year, we are thrilled to share our gratitude for the Hardees’ support of AAD and their love of our students.

In 1974, the Hardees started the Chesapeake Bay Seafood House restaurants with partners Bill Easby-Smith, Verne Bossie and Jerry Bunting. As the company grew with new partners Bob Easby-Smith and Paul Truskey, it acquired about thirty Chili’s restaurants. Their restaurants are located throughout Virginia, Maryland and West Virginia.

Linda enthusiastically tells the AAD/Dreamers story. Her connection with the restaurant business, the Hardees’ and Walter Segaloff’s friendship goes back decades before Walter started AAD. Linda remembers when Walter brought all of the students on a field trip up to the Rock Creek Tennis Club in 1992, the first summer of the program. NC furnished the box lunches for all the children. Walter asked NC if they could bring them to one of their restaurants for a meal on the way back to Newport News. NC pointed out to him that none of their restaurants were on the way, but he told Walter to stop anywhere and feed them, and “send me the bill.”

As AAD grew from a summer and afterschool tennis and tutoring program to a full school program, adding students and grades as they progressed, the Hardees generously supported it annually. Linda said, “We were fortunate that we could give back in some way to this amazing organization that is impacting so many lives.” She continued, “The Tennis Ball is always fun and we looked forward to coming every year.” Chesapeake Bay Seafood House has sponsored a Diamond level table every year for 25 years.

With partners Bill Easby-Smith, Bob Easby-Smith and Paul Truskey, NC and Linda sponsored the college merit scholarships for the Class of 2004 in honor of Alan and Beverly Diamonstein—the Alan and Beverly Diamonstein Scholars. AAD hosted a reception for them to meet all of the members of their class, and they surprised the students with gift certificates to Chili’s. It was perfect timing because the seniors’ prom was coming up, and most of them went to Chili’s for dinner before they went to the prom.

In 2008 when AAD renovated and opened An Achievable Dream Middle and High School, formerly Briarfield Elementary School, NC and Linda sponsored the dining hall and dedicated it in honor of her parents Joseph and Dallas Mahanes. It had special meaning to them because Linda grew up in the surrounding neighborhood and attended Briarfield Elementary. They wanted to sponsor the dining hall because of the connection with the restaurant business.

Linda said they grew very fond of the program and were so proud of the children and their accomplishments. “We could not imagine if AAD did not have a sponsor for the college scholarships for future classes after the students worked so hard to graduate,” she explained. NC and Linda gave a gift of $1 million to establish an endowed scholarship fund for future classes that did not have a class sponsor. Again, the timing was perfect and their fund sponsored the Classes of 2009 and 2010.

When we were planning the announcement at the 2008 Tennis Ball, NC and Linda planned to be in attendance but resisted coming onto the stage to be recognized. “We never wanted to be in the spotlight,” she said.

It was important to us at AAD and our seniors that we recognize them and show our appreciation. So, when we made the announcement of their endowed scholarship fund, two of our younger students, dressed in small graduation caps and gowns, went to NC and Linda’s table and took them by the hand to escort them to the stage. To the delight of all who were in attendance, NC and Linda graciously and very humbly accepted the standing ovation they so deserved.

Linda told us, “We were devastated when Walter passed away, and were so hopeful that the program would continue without him. NC was so proud of everyone there for continuing the work and for the expansion. NC and Walter were both visionaries. They cut through the minutia and cut right to the chase. I miss them both. We shared good times.”

Their favorite memory, she said, was the time they greeted the students, shook their hands as they entered school and went from classroom to classroom. “We just loved being with the children.”

In addition to NC and Linda’s perfect timing of their support for AAD through the years, and the timing of our 25th Anniversary celebration, it is important to me to tell the story of their support as the last Sponsor Spotlight that I write before I retire. Just as the Hardees were devastated when Walter passed away, we were devastated when NC passed away in June 2016. I cherish the memories of our times together, his warm smile and his humble spirit.

NC and Linda’s gracious support and passion for our Dreamers leaves a legacy that is timeless. 🌌
An Achievable Dream Happenings

An Achievable Dream Awarded $600,000 from the Hampton Roads Community Foundation

An Achievable Dream (AAD) has received a three-year, $600,000 Hampton Roads Community Foundation grant to help expand AAD into middle school in Virginia Beach.

This fall, the first class of AAD Virginia Beach students, who graduated from Seatack Elementary AAD Academy, now rising sixth-graders, will attend Lynnhaven Middle School where the AAD middle school program will be housed. Plans for a dedicated AAD middle and high school in Virginia Beach will continue to develop. AAD expanded to Virginia Beach in 2014 with kindergarten through second-grade students, adding a grade level per year. The program will continue to follow this expansion model until it serves students in grades K–12.

“The Hampton Roads Community Foundation has provided generous support to AAD at Seatack Elementary, and we are so grateful for their support and vote of confidence as our students progress to middle school,” states Kathy Edwards, AAD president and CEO. “Our partnership with HRCF not only provides financial resources, but valued professional development opportunities and advice.”

Currently in Virginia Beach, AAD operates a fully accredited K–5 program in partnership with Seatack Elementary School.

“We are proud of our partnership with An Achievable Dream and what we have achieved together in Virginia Beach,” says Dr. Aaron Spence, Virginia Beach City Public Schools superintendent. “Our city succeeds when our students succeed. AAD has made a big impact on the lives of students and families and I am thrilled to see the program grow into middle school and beyond.”

“The success of a program like An Achievable Dream is a true community effort,” states Dr. Lee Vreeland, AAD vice president of academics and COO. “For over 25 years, our strong partnerships have allowed us to serve students in Newport News with remarkable success, and since expanding to Virginia Beach we have seen the same outpouring of support from the community. We are thrilled to work with our partners to implement a full K–12 program in Virginia Beach.” Vreeland will assume the role of CEO of An Achievable Dream in September of this year.

You helped us raise nearly $16,000 through Give Local 757!

Thanks to your support and that of our friend and Virginia Beach board member, NBA referee Tony Brothers, our Dreamers are experiencing the academic, music and sports camps this summer!

Newport News Elementary Teacher of the Year!

Newport News Public Schools’ Elementary Teacher of the Year is none other than our own Briana Foster, pictured with acting Superintendent Brian Nichols. Congratulations, Ms. Foster!
More Happenings

A Visit from Pharrell Williams!
On June 15, the last day of school, we welcomed a special visitor to Seatack Elementary An Achievable Dream Academy. Our Dreamers were beyond “happy” that the one and only Pharrell Williams, a Virginia Beach native and proponent of innovative education, came to visit! Mr. Williams took time out of his day to meet some of our Dreamers and tour Seatack Elementary An Achievable Dream Academy. Best last day of school ever?! We think so!

More Special School Visitors

Virginia’s Secretary of Education, Atif Qarni, pictured with AAD student Jakey Elie, visited An Achievable Dream Academy and An Achievable Dream Middle and High School, meeting students and learning about the program. Secretary Qarni was accompanied by Deputy Secretary of Education, Holly Coy.

Congressman Scott Taylor toured Seatack Elementary An Achievable Dream Academy, shaking hands with the students and participating in the morning program.

Justin Fairfax, Lieutenant Governor of Virginia, visited An Achievable Dream Academy and An Achievable Dream Middle and High School. Lt. Governor Fairfax learned more about the program, was interviewed by a student for the school newspaper and observed a presentation by the ninth-grade ecology class on its submission for the Cubes in Space program, which is a global competition that allows students to design and propose experiments to launch into space or a near space environment on a NASA sounding rocket and zero-pressure scientific balloon.
The 2nd Annual Seafood Festival!

On April 21, owners of Chick’s Oyster Bar Mike Atkinson and Cory Beisel, along with other local restaurants and sponsors, hosted the Second Annual Seafood Festival to benefit An Achievable Dream Virginia Beach. Chick’s packed the house with an amazing celebration, raising nearly $100,000, all for a great cause: our Dreamers. We are so very thankful for our friends at Chick’s and all the amazing sponsors who made this event possible!

In preparation for SOLs, we implemented something fun and innovative: the first “SOL Lock-In” at An Achievable Dream Academy. Our Dreamer scholars spent all night at the school, enjoying dinner, SOL study rotations, “beYOUtiful” sessions for girls and basketball games for boys and finally, a movie! Thanks to our amazing teachers and staff who made this event a success!

The AAD senior class took a special trip to see the movie Black Panther, sponsored by long-time friend of AAD, former executive director and current board member, Richard Coleman. Mr. Coleman attended the movie with the students and spoke to them about the importance of their hard work and dedication as they finished their final semester of high school and prepared to graduate. Thank you, Mr. Coleman!

At Career Day, students learned all about different careers from many wonderful community partners who volunteered their time, including Newport News Fire Department, the Norfolk Tides, Newport News Police Department and Sheriff’s Office and many more!
Sponsors’ Day Fun
This year, we celebrated Sponsors’ Day in both Newport News and Virginia Beach. At AAD Middle and High School in Newport News, visiting guests enjoyed lunch with Academy students, courtesy of Kevin Harrison and Chick-fil-A Victory Boulevard, and a special program during which the senior class shared their plans for the future and signed a college commitment pledge.

We also hosted a very special Sponsors’ Day event at Seatack Elementary An Achievable Dream Academy in Virginia Beach. Each guest entered the “Walk of Dreams,” where they learned about students’ dreams for the future—from students dressed to represent their future careers! Guests then shared a snack with students while continuing to learn more about them and the special programs offered at AAD.
Members of our tennis club in Virginia Beach enjoyed a demonstration and drills with Ryan, a college sophomore from George Mason University, and Christian and Patrick, members of the Landstown High School Tennis Team. These young men came to motivate and encourage our young tennis players. They took our game to a new level and inspired the kids to play tennis in high school and college!

Fifth-grade students from Seatack Elementary An Achievable Dream Academy came to Westminster-Canterbury on Chesapeake Bay, a senior living community, to celebrate the end of the school year with the residents who helped mentor them throughout the school year.

Continued on page 10
Back in Session!

**Summer Intersession in Full Swing**

On Monday, July 9, all AAD schools began Summer Intersession, our innovative summer learning program. Here's a glimpse of Intersession at each of our schools!

**Seatack Elementary AAD Academy**

**AAD Middle and High School Newport News**

**AAD Middle School Program at Lynnhaven Middle School**

**AAD Academy Newport News**

**Twelve fifth-grade students learned to fly, collaborate and problem solve through a 12-week program at iFly in Virginia Beach. Students learned the science and practical elements of flight and movement in the air and then put the new skills to the test by flying in the air tube. They started flying with an adult flight instructor and progressed to choreographed tandem flights with two or three students flying at the same time.**

*Dreamers* had a BLAST at Field Day, sponsored this year by **Capital Group**, who sent a team of volunteers to spend the day leading games and Field Day festivities with students. Thank you, Capital Group!

*LEFT: AAD student Dany Ramirez

BELOW: AAD iFly team

LEE BELOTE/THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

Highland Springs Elementary AAD Academy

AAD Middle School Program at Lynnhaven Middle School

AAD Middle and High School Newport News*
HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Donations of school supplies for the school stores

Each day, our students in kindergarten through fifth grade earn merit points for attendance, good behavior and proper uniforms. Those merit points translate to dollars in their school checking account. Once a month, Dreamers visit the school store and are able to purchase needed school supplies with their dollars earned. Donations to stock the school stores are always appreciated, from standard items such as notebooks, pencils, erasers and crayons to fun items such as activity books and stickers.

Join the Dream Club and build lasting impact!

The Dream Club is an exciting new way to make a difference with An Achievable Dream. With five levels of support to choose from as low as $10 per month, the Dream Club is a powerful local movement of supporters dedicated to impacting the next generation of Dreamers! See back page for more information and how to join the Dream Club.

THANK YOU for supporting our students. With your generous gifts, they are well on their way to achieving their dreams.

Why I support An Achievable Dream

“An Achievable Dream gives children the opportunity to dream about their future. It’s about excelling rather than failing, and about being somebody with confidence, ethics and goals. None of us would turn down a child standing in front of us. AAD gives us the chance to do the right thing, to support the children who deserve more.”

—Rob Braig, Vice President, Wolseley Industrial Group

WORDS to Live By

“For our own success to be real, it must contribute to the success of others.”

—Eleanor Roosevelt

AAD Ranked in List of Best Schools in the Country

An Achievable Dream Middle & High School was included in U.S. News and World Report's list of best schools in the country! Out of the 103 schools in Virginia, 16 schools in Hampton Roads received silver medals, including An Achievable Dream Middle & High School.

To our Boards of Directors, thank you for your time, your support, your commitment and for sharing the Dream.

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Save the Date
for Tennis Ball 2018
26th Annual Achievable Dream Tennis Ball
Saturday, November 17, 2018
Hampton Roads Convention Center
Become a corporate sponsor! Visit achievabledream.org or call 757-599-9472.

Join the Dream Club
We invite you to be part of a powerful local movement. Impact lives, impact generations, and be part of the collective Dream. Pledge monthly recurring support at an amount that is meaningful for you to join the Dream Club.

Visit achievabledream.org to complete online.

☐ I would like to join the Dream Club through monthly, recurring donations.

☐ I would like to make a one-time gift of $_______ through ☐ credit card or ☐ check.

Name: _____________________________________________________________________________

Email: ______________________________________________________________________________

Phone: _____________________________________________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________________________________________

City: __________________________________________ State: ___________ Zip: _______________

I would like to join the Dream Club at the following recurring, monthly amount:

☐ $10/month ($120/year) ☐ $25/month ($300/year) ☐ $50/month ($600/year)

☐ $200/month ($2,400/year) ☐ $400/month ($4,800/year)

☐ Surprise Us! $_______/month ($_______/year)

Credit Card:

☑ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Credit Card Number: __________________________________________________________________

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CC Authorization Signature: __________________________________________ Date: _____________

An Achievable Dream is a 501(c)(3) organization and your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. Please call Julie Angilly, Vice President of Development and Communications, at (757) 599-9472 if you have questions. Thank you for your gift. Please make checks payable to AN ACHIEVABLE DREAM and mail to: 10858 Warwick Blvd, Suite #A, Newport News, VA 23601.