



Achievable Dream
ACADEMIES

Achievements

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www.achievabledream.org

Class of 2016 Sponsors

Ferguson Enterprises and Charles and Mari Ann Banks were announced as sponsors of An Achievable Dream's Class of 2016 during the 23rd Annual Tennis Ball on Saturday, November 21. As class sponsors, they will provide annual merit scholarships for each member of the class every year that they attend college and maintain a required grade point average. Ferguson Enterprises also sponsored the Class of 2008 and is a corporate partner in the *What It Takes* program, which emphasizes workplace readiness skills. "On behalf of the Ferguson Family," said John Wilcox, Ferguson's Senior Vice President of Support Services, "we're honored to share this sponsorship with Mari Ann and Charlie. They continue to demonstrate to all of us the importance of giving back to our community."

Longtime supporters of An Achievable Dream, Charles Banks served



John Wilcox and a member of the Class of 2016.

as president of Ferguson Enterprises from 1989 to 2001, and then as Group Chief Executive of Wolseley Corporation, Ferguson's parent company. Mari Ann Banks serves on the An Achievable Dream, Inc. Board of Directors and has been a community leader in both Virginia and Great Britain, where Wolseley Corporation is based.

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John Wilcox, Senior Vice President of Support Services, Ferguson Enterprises, with Mari Ann and Charles Banks.



Charles and Mari Ann Banks greet Nashauma Joshua-Bond, Class of 2016.

Founder's Hope Wall Dedication



The Founder's Hope Wall, honoring Walter Segaloff, founder of An Achievable Dream, is located in the main lobby of An Achievable Dream Middle and High School.

Former students, staff and friends remembered Walter Segaloff during the dedication of the Founder's Hope Wall and the Walter S. Segaloff Campus on December 9 at An Achievable Dream Middle and High School. The wall, designed by Mellen Street Creative, reflects our founder's spirit and passion for An Achievable Dream and includes quotes and personal messages from friends and donors.

Continued on page 5

Thank you to the Major Sponsors of the 23rd Annual Tennis Ball for their generous support.

 **TOWNE BANK**
The Best Bankers. Hometown Banking.
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Dinner Sponsor

 **RIVERSIDE**
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23rd ANNUAL
AN ACHIEVABLE DREAM

Tennis Ball

The 23rd Annual Achievable Dream Tennis Ball was held on Saturday, November 21, at the Hampton Roads Convention Center. More than 800 attendees enjoyed an extensive silent auction, gourmet dinner and spirited live auction, featuring unique items, luxury vacations and new cars. Proceeds from the event support the students of An Achievable Dream, Summer Intersession, field trips and special activities related to the SAME (social, academic and moral education) curriculum.



PHOTOS BY HELEN'S PLACE PHOTOGRAPHY

THANK YOU

to the 23rd Annual Tennis Ball Corporate Sponsors
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THANK YOU to **John Biagas**, President and CEO of Bay Electric Company, Inc. for serving as honorary chairman of the 2015 Tennis Ball and for his commitment to the students of An Achievable Dream.



THANK YOU to Auction Co-Chair **Diana Gulotta**, President **Patricia Resto** and all the members of the **Rotary Club of the Virginia Peninsula** for their continued support.



THANK YOU to the many volunteers who gave their time and to the staff of the Hampton Roads Convention Center for making the 23rd Annual Tennis Ball a success. We could not have done it without them.



THANK YOU to the donors who provided so many wonderful silent and live auction items. Year after year, their generous and unflinching support has allowed us to provide an excellent education and numerous enrichment opportunities for the students of An Achievable Dream. **For a complete list of item donors, visit achievabledream.org/events.**



Remarks by Kishla Conner, Class of 2011

2015 Tennis Ball Keynote Speaker

Kishla Conner graduated from An Achievable Dream in 2011 and from Old Dominion University in May 2015 with a BS degree in Human Services, Women's Studies and Psychology. She currently serves as a Therapeutic Mentor at Compass Youth and Family Services in Norfolk and as an Educational Programming and Service Coordinator at Tidewater Community College in Portsmouth.



I am often asked to share my story. As humans, we become desensitized to what we see or what we are taught to see, and it becomes the “norm.” However, my siblings and I had the privilege of attending An Achievable Dream and college and developed our own norm.

I would like to begin by telling everyone here tonight that growing up in Newport News, Virginia has been quite an experience. Dealing with frequent shootings, the risk of homelessness, a family history of substance abuse, deaths of family members and friends... were just the tip of the iceberg. It was very difficult to go through school and to see a light at the end of the tunnel.

Four of us went through An Achievable Dream's program with my oldest sister graduating in 2007, and the rest of us following in 2008, 2011 and 2012.

In the summer of 2011, I had just graduated from high school and was preparing to join my two sisters at Old Dominion University in the fall. My brother, Hyquan, was going to be a senior in high school. Due to situations that were beyond our control, my sisters were unable to complete college. Rakya was thrown into a situation that caused her to put her personal goals on hold. She left ODU without a second thought, gained custody of my brother and provided a home for us. Hyquan graduated from An Achievable Dream High School in 2012 as the valedictorian of his class. He is currently at Virginia Tech and is expected to graduate in May 2017. Tashina, the oldest, took two years off, but had the opportunity to graduate with me in May 2015 from Old Dominion University.

Throughout my college experience and continuing today, I have taken on numerous leadership roles and have been a constant advocate for change. My value of relationships led me to create many opportunities for myself. Being involved in raising awareness for removing the stigma of mental health issues, educating college students and faculty about the importance of consent and the prevention of sexual assault and domestic violence allowed me to travel. I have had the opportunity to participate in a round-table discussion with Arne Duncan, Secretary of the United States Department of Education, and to introduce Vice President Joe Biden at the 2015 Make Progress National Summit in Washington D.C. I currently am living my story as a mentor for young adolescents who are facing similar struggles as my siblings and I have.

My story is not just my story; my story is for the children who I reach and communicate with on a daily basis and for my sisters and brother who made a way for themselves. You see, people saw potential in us. We saw potential in ourselves and each other. Some people can't see through or embrace their struggle. Fortunately, my siblings and I saw it as motivation to get out.

I hope to help the next generation of young people achieve as my siblings and I have, more than we initially dreamed we could. I attribute the beginning of my own success to the support and encouragement I received as a young adult through An Achievable Dream's program.

I will leave you all with some words of encouragement to share with others you encounter in life, something that allowed me to see the bigger picture: “How you start is not always going to be how you are going to finish.”

I thank you all, the teachers and staff at An Achievable Dream and ODU, and a special thanks to my family and God for support, wisdom and guidance. 🌟

SPONSORS, continued from page 1

Announcement of the class sponsor is a highlight of the Tennis Ball and follows an introduction of the current senior class as they enter the ballroom, dressed in caps and gowns and to the music of “Pomp and Circumstance.” Addressing the students, Charles Banks said, “In this world of turmoil that we're living in today, you are a great shining example of what can be done if young people put their minds to it, lift their heads high and go forward.” The graduates of the Class of 2016 will be known as The Banks Family/Ferguson Enterprises Scholars.

Class sponsorship of An Achievable Dream graduates is a concept dating from 1992 with the founding of the school by Walter Segaloff. Frustrated by the lack of an educated workforce and realizing that not every child in Newport News could achieve the “American Dream,” Segaloff collaborated with local business, academic and government leaders to establish An Achievable Dream as a summer tennis and educational enrichment program. Determined to do more, he forged a partnership with Newport News Public Schools, and the Achievable Dream Academy opened in 1994.

The first scholarships were given to the Class of 2001, and businesses and individuals have stepped forward each year to keep our founder's dream alive. To date, 95% of An Achievable Dream graduates have continued to two- or four-year colleges or a trade school, while 5% have joined the military.

Previous class sponsors:

The Frank and Marie Blechman Foundation (2001); Mary Hughes, owner, Hampton Roads Harley-Davidson (2002, 2012); Michelle Jacobs, former president of the Lee Group (2003); Chesapeake Bay Seafood House Restaurants, in honor of Alan and Beverly Diamonstein (2004); Caleb and Virginia West and Dollar Tree Stores (2005); Smithfield Foods (2006, 2015); W.M. Jordan Company (2007); Ferguson Enterprises (2008); NC and Linda Hardee (2009, 2010); Bay Electric Company, Inc. and the Biagas Family (2011); Aubrey and Peggy Layne (2013); and Mike and Nancy Petters (2014). The Hardee and Biagas families have provided endowed scholarships for future students should an individual class sponsor not be identified. 🌟



Ann Segaloff, Pervis Blake (Director of Operations, Newport News) and Ashby Kilgore (Superintendent, Newport News Public Schools) unveil new signage for the Walter S. Segaloff Campus.

Its location in the main lobby provides daily inspiration for students, teachers and visitors to the campus.

Speakers during the dedication included Kathy Edwards, An Achievable Dream’s president and CEO, and Michael Banks, a member of the Class of 2001. Reminiscing on the first days of An Achievable Dream and his memories of the program, Michael Banks said, “Mr. Segaloff’s big dream inspired big dreams of my own and of so many of you here. We too can have big hearts...motivating big hands to do big things...and have big dreams.”

Following the dedication of the Founder’s Hope Wall, Newport News Public Schools and An Achievable Dream officials dedicated the Walter S. Segaloff Campus and unveiled a new sign outside An Achievable Dream Middle and High School. “We’ve been a partner for a long time; we want to remain a partner forever because Walter’s dream is now the dreams of 1,500 young people every day,” said Ashby Kilgore, superintendent of Newport News Public Schools. “Newport News Public Schools is very, very proud to be here today to honor Walter, so that he may watch over this campus, the other campus and all of the young people.”

The design of the Founder’s Hope Wall allows for more donors to add their names, quotes or memories of Walter Segaloff. For information, contact Kim Luckes at kluckes@achievabledream.org or 757-599-9472. 🌟

Full Circle

By Christopher L. Jeter,
Class of 2010, The Hardee Scholars,
Head Tennis Coach,
An Achievable Dream Academy



I wrote the following poem for the dedication of the Walter S. Segaloff Campus at An Achievable Dream Middle and High School. While writing it, I thought back to what this program has meant to me and my experiences through the years. I am very grateful for Walter Segaloff and all that he accomplished. An Achievable Dream has provided a great escape for all of the students who have had the opportunity to experience it. However, many of the students do not realize the magnitude and greatness of the program while attending the school. For a student to really grasp the program’s uniqueness, one has to experience life outside the program. *Dreamers* then realize that the “knowledge with a special touch” they’ve received provided great support and helped define who they have become. I thank Mr. Walter Segaloff for ensuring that his vision came true in 1992 and also the many who continue to make sure that our students’ dreams are achievable! 🌟

Thank You A Poem for Walter Segaloff

As I never had the chance to say thank you, now is a great opportunity. What you built has been great for this Newport News community. Providing hope for us who hadn’t known how to dream, by providing us a school where support is supreme. Never realizing the magnitude while in my uniform, but, soon after I understood and gained so much gratitude. There is nothing like this program, which taught me so much, providing me and my peers knowledge with a special touch. To the legend whose dream was to make others’ dreams a reality, and turning the fantasies of students into actuality. Thank you for your vision and ensuring it became true, because I don’t know where I’d be if it wasn’t for you.

Thank you, Mr. Walter Segaloff.

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

THANK YOU for supporting our students.

Donations of school supplies

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 earned dollars. Donations to stock the school stores are always appreciated, from standard

items such as notebooks, pencils, erasers and crayons to fun items like activity books and stickers.

Teacher appreciation gifts

Our teachers work long hours and truly are the backbone of An Achievable Dream. Donations of gift certificates to restaurants or retail stores, items for the classroom or anything that would put a smile on a teacher’s face are welcome.

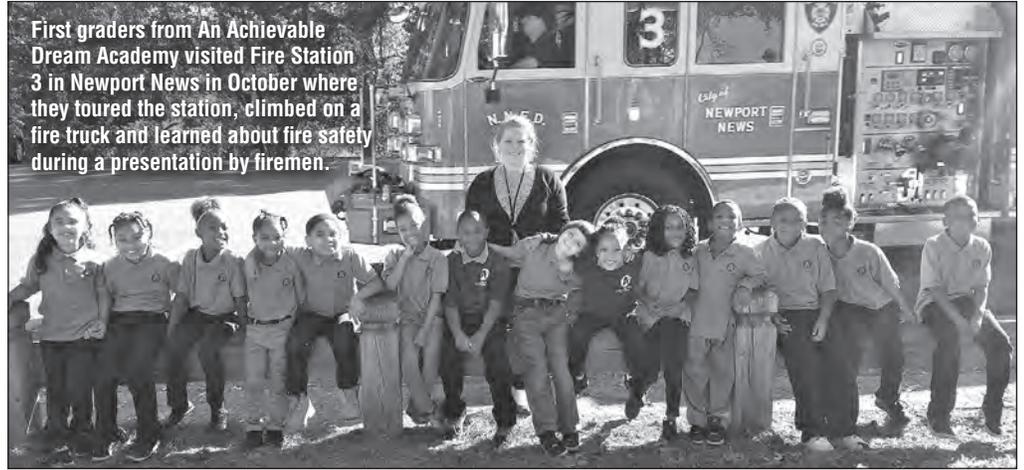
Donate online

Your tax-deductible donation makes it possible for our children to succeed in school, continue to college and become successful members of society. An Achievable Dream is changing lives through education. Your generous support will keep hope alive for thousands of students. **To donate online, go to AchievableDream.org/make-a-difference.**

An Achievable Dream Happenings



An Achievable Dream students met **Maurice Jones, Virginia Secretary of Commerce and Trade**, during a luncheon hosted by Old Dominion University's Economics Club Hampton Roads in September.



First graders from An Achievable Dream Academy visited Fire Station 3 in Newport News in October where they toured the station, climbed on a fire truck and learned about fire safety during a presentation by firemen.

- Last summer, four *Dreamers* from An Achievable Dream Middle and High School attended the **Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project**, a five-day, youth-led awareness conference held at Longwood University. During the event, more than 700 high school students from across the Commonwealth participated in workshops, team building and leadership classes. After the conference, the *Dreamers* founded **PEARL**, an organization aimed at empowering young women to use their gifts and talents to help others. They visited the YMCA and local community centers to conduct "Positive Girl Talk" sessions with middle school students and organized a PEARL club at An Achievable Dream Middle and High School.

- In October, students built a roller coaster during the citywide Engineer Design Challenge held as part of Newport News Public School's ongoing STEM (science, technology, engineering and math education) initiative.

- In early December, seventh graders at An Achievable Dream Middle and High School participated in a week-long program on anti-bullying during the morning program. Activities included a presentation by motivational speaker **Pastor Kyle Labadie**, discussion sessions and the creation of anti-bullying posters for the school.

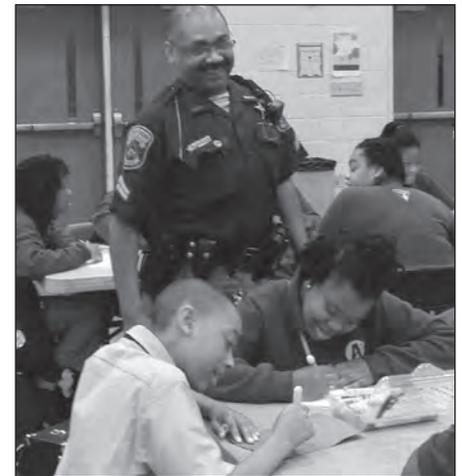


In October, ninth and tenth grade students at An Achievable Dream Middle and High School participated in a round table discussion based on **A Better Man**, a book featuring positive role models for the 21st century compiled by **Kelly Johnson**. The panel of speakers included **Tim Seibles**, ODU professor and poet; retired U.S. Army **Major General Ronald Johnson**, professor at Georgia Tech and **Leighton W. Smith Jr.**, retired four-star U.S. Navy Admiral and former Commander-in-Chief Allied Forces Southern Europe and Commander U.S. Naval Forces Europe.

Left to right: Mike Petters (President and CEO, Huntington Ingalls), Leighton W. Smith, Tim Seibles, Kelly Johnson and Ronald Johnson.



Richard Cotman, an 11th grade student at An Achievable Dream Middle and High School, served on a panel in October with Newport News Police Chief **Richard Myers** and other city officials during a city-wide forum to discuss the end to violence in the southeast community. More than 1,500 people attended the event held at Heritage High School.



Seventh grade students at An Achievable Dream Middle and High School participated in a Veteran's Day ceremony to honor members of the faculty and administrative staff who have served in the military. Students created cards under the watchful eye of Corporal Robertson, Newport News Sheriff's Department.



Thank you to **Noah Enterprises** for hosting its second annual golf tournament last July at Heron Ridge Golf Club. Special thanks also to **TowneBank** for sponsoring the golf tournament luncheon and to **Bay Concrete** for sponsoring the dinner. The event raised more than \$14,000 for programs at Seatack Elementary/An Achievable Dream Academy.



Members of **An Achievable Dream's Boards of Directors** met for a joint meeting at An Achievable Dream Middle and High School on December 9.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

National Honor Society (NHS) members from **First Colonial High School (FCHS)** hosted the annual Holiday Extravaganza at Seatack Elementary/An Achievable Dream Academy in mid-December. Eighty-five members of the NHS, as well as members of FCHS's basketball team, football team, cheerleading squad and art honor society, greeted students as they arrived and visited classrooms to make holiday crafts and sing songs. Each student received gloves or socks, two toys and a "goodie" bag filled with school supplies and snacks. To fund this annual event FCHS club members organized fundraisers throughout the year and created a Go Fund Me campaign that raised \$1,500.



Santa greeted students at Seatack Elementary/An Achievable Dream Academy during the annual Holiday Extravaganza organized by students from First Colonial High School. (Photo courtesy of Virginia Beach City Public Schools.)



Members of the Virginia Beach based **WHO (Women Helping Others)** donated books to each student at Seatack Elementary/An Achievable Dream Academy just before Winter Break in December. The students were excited to choose a book that they could take home. One student was overheard saying, "Yes! Now I own three books!"



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

Seatack Elementary/An Achievable Dream Academy hosted a **Holiday Etiquette Dinner and Program** for students to share with their families what they are learning in etiquette class and during the daily Morning Program. The event, attended by more than 300 people, featured an Italian dinner and multiple student demonstrations and performances.

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

An Achievable Dream, Inc.

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The Beach Ball

Saturday, April 23, 2016

**Cocktails, heavy hors d'oeuvres,
live music and dancing**

Cavalier Golf and Yacht Club, Virginia Beach
Become a Corporate Sponsor! Purchase tickets now!
Visit AchievableDream.org or call 757-599-9472.



WORDS to Live By

“Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world.”

—Nelson Mandela

Why do you support An Achievable Dream?

“Participation in An Achievable Dream is about so much more than helping the young people in this important program overcome their significant personal challenges. It also strengthens the fabric of the community in which we all live and work.”

—Mike Petters, President and CEO
of Huntington Ingalls Industries

Did you know?

Fun Fact about An Achievable Dream

Each day, soldiers from Fort Eustis, sailors from NAS Oceana and Dam Neck, and law enforcement volunteers from Newport News greet An Achievable Dream students with a handshake as they arrive for school. The soldiers and sailors serve as role models of discipline and responsibility, provide extra help in the classroom and occasionally accompany students on field trips.

**Mark your
calendar**

Give Local 757, May 3-4, 2016 Go to GiveLocal757.com.
A 24-hour online fundraising event to benefit An Achievable Dream.

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LOCAL
757!
MAY 3**