



**Achievable Dream
ACADEMIES**

Celebrating 25 Years of Dreams

Achievements

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www.achievabledream.org

Sponsors of the Class of 2018

An Achievable Dream announced the Levin and Friedberg families as the sponsors of the Class of 2018 during the 25th Annual Tennis Ball gala on Saturday, November 18. As class sponsors, the Levin and Friedberg families will provide annual merit scholarships for each member of the class for each year they attend college and maintain a certain grade point average. The graduates of the Class of 2018, who were honored in a special ceremony at the 25th Annual Tennis Ball, will be known as the Levin-Friedberg Family Scholars.

Sponsorship of An Achievable Dream graduates is a concept dating from 1992, when AAD founder, the late Walter Segaloff, a local businessman, rallied the business community behind the program. Each year since 2001, businesses and individuals have stepped forward to ensure that each graduate has the funds necessary to attend college. To date, 90% of An Achievable Dream graduates have continued to two or four-year colleges or trade schools, while 10% have joined the military or entered the workforce.

Guests at the 25th Annual Tennis Ball honored the Class of 2018 during the evening's program. Guests also celebrated An Achievable Dream's 25 years of providing its Social, Academic and Moral



The Levin and Friedberg families, sponsors of the Class of 2018.



Members of the Levin and Friedberg families shake hands with students of the Class of 2018.



A graduate presents flowers to Betty Levin, left, and Claire Friedberg.

Education (SAME®) curriculum and the organization's remarkable success rates. The program honored Segaloff, who passed away in 2013. Segaloff's vision for An Achievable Dream has helped level the playing field for hundreds of students

since the program's inception. Segaloff's belief that, "given the right tools and opportunity, all students can succeed," continues to guide An Achievable Dream as they look to the next 25 years.

Continued on page 4

Thank You

**TO THE MAJOR SPONSORS OF THE 25TH ANNUAL TENNIS BALL
FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT.**



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25TH ANNUAL AN ACHIEVABLE DREAM *Tennis Ball*



PHOTOS BY ALEXANDER'S PHOTOGRAPHY AND LISA SADLER

The 25th Annual Achievable Dream Tennis Ball was held on Saturday, November 18 at the Hampton Roads Convention Center. More than 900 guests 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.

THANK YOU

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for your generous donation of vehicles for our live auction!

THANK YOU to **Casey Auto Group** for donating a **2018 Subaru WRX** as the raffle car for the 25th Annual Tennis Ball.



Celebration Sponsors



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THANK YOU to the members of the 25th Anniversary Committee: Mari Ann Banks, Denise Chamblee, Michael Daniels, Libby David, Gordon Gentry, Kevin Harrison, Marsha Hudgins, Paul Muse and Committee Chairman **Alan Diamonstein**.

THANK YOU to 25th Anniversary Tennis Ball



Committee Co-Chair **John Frantz**, and the Rotary Executive Committee: Adam Duncan, Catherine E. Miller, Jeff Stodghill, Patrick Tompkins and the other members of the **Rotary Club of the Virginia Peninsula** for their continued support.



THANK YOU to the donors who provided so many wonderful silent and live auction items. Year after year, their generous and unfailing support allows us to continue to provide an excellent education and numerous enrichment opportunities for the students of An Achievable Dream.



THANK YOU to the many volunteers who gave their time, and to the staff of the Hampton Roads Convention Center and Embassy Suites, for making the 25th Annual Tennis Ball a success. We could not do it without them!

Previous class sponsors are: 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 and the Biagas Family (2011); Aubrey and Peggy Layne (2013); Mike and Nancy Petters (2014); Charles and Mari Ann Banks and Ferguson Enterprises (2016); and Ferguson Enterprises and the Fass Family (2017). 🌱

**Alan Diamonstein, Attorney/Senior Partner,
Patten, Wornom, Hatten & Diamonstein**

A Toast to Walter Segaloff



For 25 years, An Achievable Dream has shown the world what can be accomplished when you care. Let your imagination soar. Look around you tonight. I know you can see and feel the pride in what Walter's dream created. You can feel the sensation of success.

Walter's belief came from the Talmud: that it is not incumbent upon us to complete the work, but neither are we at liberty to neglect it. He began the work 25 years ago. You are continuing that work, which will not be complete until all of our community's children live happy, safe and productive lives.

Let's keep hope alive and continue the work that Walter started. Please join with me. Here's to our friend Walter, who envisioned the collective Dream.



Excerpt from Kami'lah Brown's Tennis Ball Remarks

During the 25th Annual Tennis Ball, alumna Kami'lah Brown spoke about her experience with An Achievable Dream. After graduating from An Achievable Dream in 2009, Kami'lah Brown earned a Bachelor's degree from Howard University, a Master's degree from Meharry Medical College, and is a second-year doctorate of dental surgery candidate 2020 of Meharry Medical College.

"The Dream" for me is not an extension of my family. The Dream IS my family. An Achievable Dream has been an incredible component to my survival.

I am somebody. An Achievable Dream loves me. I can go to college if I work hard. These are some of my most memorable slogans recited each day at An Achievable Dream.

I was raised in downtown Newport News, in poverty. My single mother worked as an in-home daycare provider to support two older brothers, my younger foster brother and me. For most of my life, my mother was ill, suffering from a sarcoidosis. Much of my childhood consisted of being a caretaker for her.

In 1998, my mother made a decision that would change and refine my life forever. She enrolled me in An Achievable Dream Academy, a program conceived with the belief that in a system designed against us, when given an equal level of education, we could all succeed. And Mr. Segaloff was correct: a girl like me, with inevitable potential but limited resources and access to advanced education, simply needed a chance, an unconfined way to grow my personal visions.

Demographic statistics show that students like me who face similar

disparities typically have a different outlook on life, viewing education as secondary. My mother had faith that by enrolling me in this academy, a passion for education would be instilled in my life.

In 2004, my stepfather died in a freak accident at work. My mother's health steadily declined. At the age of 17, I lost my mother and, six months after, her mother, my grandmother, died.

So now, living alone with my foster brother, I had some critical decisions to make. It seemed my true sense of being was questioned. But that didn't last long! I was reminded of the slogan, ***"I am somebody,"*** and decided that the determinant of my destiny was simple: **KEEP GOING!**

AAD helped me develop my inner grit. They assisted us in rejecting predictions of failure by aiding us in developing character, morals, ethics and integrity. They made promises to us and remained consistent, even after graduation.

AAD also protected us. While attending this academy, I never really felt underserved or underrepresented, although I was. Facing the reality of social injustice outside those walls could have been traumatizing had they not equipped us. With etiquette and *Speaking Green®* classes,

we learned how to represent ourselves proudly and professionally, no matter what society said about us. I was ready!

Since then, I've lost my father, a grandmother, two uncles and a dear cousin, all while trying to pursue a career in the field of dentistry. Through it all, An Achievable Dream never left my side.

I'm often asked, "How did you make it?" Nelson Mandela once said, "It always seems impossible until it's done!" My ancestors remind me of my strength and inner peace to understand that I am not defined by my experiences but by my heart and the way I help others. My unwavering fortitude was built through challenge and love from others.

I stand before you, Kami'lah Brown, graduate of An Achievable Dream Academy, alumna of Howard University, Masters graduate of Meharry Medical College and second-year doctorate of dental surgery candidate/2020 of Meharry Medical College.

Yes, life seems to get tougher. But when I think about my resilience running short, I look in the mirror and remind myself, ***"I am somebody."***

That is An Achievable Dream.

Thank you, An Achievable Dream, for believing in me! 🌱

Mary Hughes

Owner, Hampton Roads Harley-Davidson

Last year, I started writing this column about supporters who inspire me, and it gives me a chance to ask questions of them that I would not typically ask when we meet. It also provides a creative "outlet" for me to write about them and express my appreciation for their support of our wonderful students.

—Kathy Edwards, CEO and President, An Achievable Dream



Members of the Class of 2012 present Class Sponsor Mary Hughes with a signed portrait of her with the entire class. Mary Hughes also sponsored the Class of 2002

Over many years when Mary Hughes, owner and president of Hampton Roads Harley-Davidson, has told An Achievable Dream's founder Walter Segaloff and me that she would support the organization, it has rolled off her tongue naturally with a simple, logical tone. In addition to donating Harley-Davidson motorcycles to the Tennis Ball live auction every year, she contributes to the annual fund and has sponsored the college scholarships for the Classes of 2002 and 2012. Mary has simply, without fanfare, stated that she would like to "sponsor a class" or give a certain (generous) amount to the annual fund. She says it in a way that you sense that to give money to support people less fortunate is "like breathing" to her. My words, not hers. Even when she tries to talk about why she supports An Achievable Dream and countless other organizations, one can tell it's difficult for her to put into words. She makes it seem that it's the expectation she has of herself. My words, not hers.

Mary is more talkative when the subject is not about her. Her eyes light up when she talks about the Cox Scholars (Class of 2002) and the Hughes Scholars (Class of 2012). Her advice to them is "find a job you love. You spend way too much time at work not to love what you do."

Mary is speaking from experience, because she and her late husband Chuck

Cox, both motorcycle enthusiasts, followed their dream and thought "it would be fun," and opened their own dealership in 1978. After Chuck passed away of cancer in 1996, Mary continued operating the business as one of the first woman-owned Harley-Davidson dealerships in the country. (She may be the first, but she is so humble that she has not even asked about the superlative of being the absolute first.)

She married Jerry Hughes, a mutual motorcycle enthusiast, in 1999. I have also enjoyed getting to know Jerry throughout the years. He has the same unassuming, down-to-earth spirit of helping others as Mary does.

Chairman of An Achievable Dream Middle and High School Board of Directors, Mary also lights up when she talks about visiting An Achievable Dream Academy and describes greeting the students with handshakes in the morning and watching them yell their affirmations in the daily morning program. She also talks about the times she has been to the AAD Middle and High School. "Students are walking around the school, and they don't act like typical teenagers. They smile and they greet you."

Mary also diverts credit from herself and talks about the obstacles that students have to face and overcome. "Our students are already one step ahead by taking advantage of the

opportunity that AAD affords them. They sign a contract to remain drug-free and crime-free. Beyond that, they have to endure the pressure to go along with social norms and temptations, and they are resisting those. That can be tough. I am so proud of them," she says.

Mary's words of wisdom to her two sponsored classes and all of our graduates? "Be honest with yourselves and everyone in your lives. Be proud of yourselves and only do things that make you proud."

I am proud to know Mary and to acknowledge our deep appreciation for her involvement and commitment to An Achievable Dream. 🌟



An Achievable Dream board member Charles Barker and a Dreamer dressed for success at Seatack An Achievable Dream Academy.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Members of **WHO (Women Helping Others)** donated and distributed books at Seatack An Achievable Dream Academy.



At left, from left to right: **Terri McKenzie, Barbara Creech, Bev Sessoms and Cindy Rodriguez.**



Wendy Drucker distributes books donated by the Drucker Family to students at An Achievable Dream Academy.

Thank you to **Bubba Hutchinson of Brake King, and George Garofolis of Schooners Bar and Grill** for putting together a toy drive to provide holiday gifts for more than 50 Dreamers! Present to distribute the toys were **Bubba Hutchinson, Amanda Carpenter and Brittany Stellute.**



Nick Noland, Physician Liaison and Business Development Manager for **Wagner Macula & Retina Center**, delivers freshly dry-cleaned coats to AAD's corporate offices.



Thank you to **A.J. Marchigiani and Marine Specialty Painting** for providing 95 Thanksgiving turkeys for our families!



A special thank you to **Wagner Macula & Retina Center** family for holding a coat drive and donating many brand-new and gently-used coats for our students and their families! Their generous donations are greatly appreciated!



Students unload hams at An Achievable Dream Middle and High School.



An Achievable Dream staff members pick up hams from **Smithfield Foods**.

Smithfield. Good food. Responsibly®

Thank you to **Smithfield Foods** for donating holiday hams to the families of 90 Dreamers!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

An Achievable Dream is participating in the fifth annual **Give Local 757**, a 24-hour Hampton Roads fundraising event where "everyone can be a philanthropist." Mark your calendars to donate online anytime from midnight on May 8 through midnight on May 9. The minimum donation is just \$10! Your support is vital to keeping our students' dreams achievable. Stay tuned for more information. To learn more, go to GiveLocal757.com.

give Local 757 MAY 8

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

THANK YOU for supporting our students.

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 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.

An Achievable Dream Happenings



Ready, Set, Code!

Seventh Grade Students Participate in Global Hour of Code Event

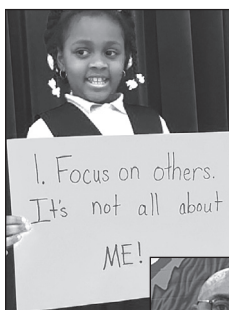
In December, 7th grade students at An Achievable Dream Middle and High School participated in an Hour of Code event. The students practiced their computer-coding skills using the Google logo. The Hour of Code is a global movement reaching tens of millions of students in 180+ countries.



In November, first graders from An Achievable Dream Academy joined students from **St. Andrew's Episcopal School** and **Hampton Roads Academy for One City, One Love**, an event created to unify Newport News' youth. Students spent a great morning on the tennis courts at **James River Country Club**, participating in team-building games and learning about building a strong sense of self, respect for others, respect for mentors and authority figures, grit, self-control and empathy. Thank you to **William Prilliman** and the **Prilliman Family** for coordinating and sponsoring this event!



Students and staff at Seatack An Achievable Dream Academy celebrate the holidays during First Colonial High School Day festivities, which included a visit from Santa!



Students and attendees enjoy the annual Etiquette Dinner at Seatack An Achievable Dream Academy.

The dinner highlighted the social and etiquette skills students learn during extended social rotation programs.



Virginia Beach Dreamers Progress to Middle School

Now grades K–5, An Achievable Dream at Seatack is set to expand to include 6th grade at Lynnhaven Middle School in Fall 2018.

"The time and effort that the *Dreamers* have put forth thus far should be commended. I am excited that Lynnhaven Middle School was selected as the middle school expansion for An Achievable Dream. I can't wait to see what lies ahead for our *Dreamers* in the next chapter of their educational journey."

—Kellie Mason, Principal,
Lynnhaven Middle School

"I am excited about the opportunity for our *Dreamers* as they prepare for the next phase of their educational journey. The 6th grade expansion will allow our students to continue their road to success. The middle school years can be very challenging, but we have developed an expansion site where they will continue to soar!"

—Vincent Darby, Principal,
Seatack An Achievable Dream Academy

*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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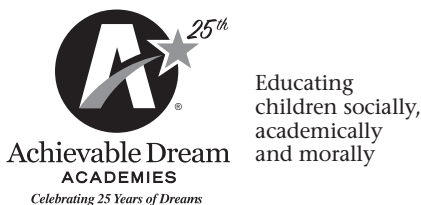
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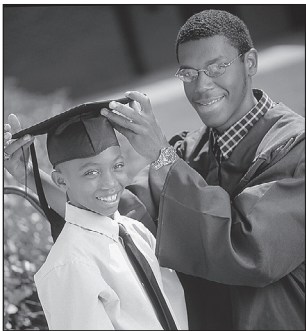
Mark your calendar!

**26th Annual Achievable
Dream Tennis Ball**
Saturday, November 17, 2018
Hampton Roads Convention Center



Be sure to connect with us online at
www.facebook.com/AnAchievableDream.

Announcing the Dream Club!



We are growing our Dream Community and YOU can help! Join the Dream Club and help us spread the word about this powerful local movement.

Step 1: Visit www.AchievableDream.org/Dream-Club and pledge monthly, recurring support at an amount that is meaningful for you.

Step 2: Tell a friend! Already supporting An Achievable Dream? Help us spread the word by telling a friend about the Dream Club!

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.

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

Did you know?

The Achievable Dream Class of 2017 is receiving a total of \$2,018,300 in scholarship funds.



Members of An Achievable Dream Class of 2017

Why do you support An Achievable Dream?

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

—Bob Aston, President & CEO, TowneBank

WORDS to Live By

"Whatever the mind of man can conceive and believe, it can achieve."

—Napoleon Hill

Stay Connected with An Achievable Dream. Sign up to receive our monthly email newsletter, the *Power of the Dream*, and receive the latest information on our *Dreamers*. Go to www.AchievableDream.org or send an email to information@AchievableDream.org.