Support the students of An Achievable Dream while creating special memories with family, friends and colleagues. Bid on unique auction items, enjoy a delicious gourmet dinner and meet the Class of 2016 and its class sponsors during an inspiring program. Individual tickets and corporate sponsorships are now on sale. Visit AchievableDream.org/Events for information or call (757) 599-9472.

Proceeds from the Tennis Ball support the SAME® (social, academic and moral education) curriculum, offering children in kindergarten through twelfth grade a quality value-based education, enrichment activities in and outside the classroom and assistance with continuing education.

23rd ANNUAL
AN ACHIEVABLE DREAM Tennis Ball

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2015 | 5:30 P.M.
HAMPTON ROADS CONVENTION CENTER | BLACK TIE OPTIONAL

An Achievable Dream Teachers Go the Extra Mile

An Achievable Dream Founder Walter Segaloff often said that our teachers are the “secret sauce” that sets our schools apart from others. AAD teachers often go “above and beyond” their job requirements, helping our students overcome the special challenges they face and providing the support and encouragement they need to succeed in school, in college and in life. An Achievable Dream teachers work longer school days than traditional public school teachers, serve as advisors to clubs and provide additional instruction during Saturday School and Summer Intersession. Throughout the year, teachers can be seen filling the bleachers at sporting events from tennis matches to football games and volunteer to accompany field trips and to chaperone dances.

continued on page 6
A special thank you to **Taylored Printing** for sponsoring the 2015 Tennis Ball invitation, and to **Mellen Street Graphics, Inc. and Multi-Print, Inc.**, for sponsoring the event program.

Visit [www.AchievableDream.org](http://www.AchievableDream.org) to preview auction items, for information on Corporate Sponsorships and to purchase tickets.

Tickets may also be purchased by calling 757-599-9472.

Check back often; new auction items are added weekly.

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**CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

Share a fun night out with your clients, employees, friends or family by sponsoring a table at the Tennis Ball. A variety of sponsorship packages are available and all include chances to win a 2015 MINI Cooper Convertible, donated by Checkered Flag. For more information and to reserve a table, call Debbie Harvey at (757) 599-9472 or visit www.AchievableDream.org.

**DIAMOND SPONSOR: $3,500**

- Reserved table for 10 people with preferred seating; round-trip limousine transportation; 10 raffle tickets; free delivery of purchased auction items; full-page ad in the Tennis Ball program booklet; listing on event screens, the event program booklet, winter edition of *Achievements* and AAD website.

**PLATINUM SPONSOR: $2,500**

- Tennis Ball tickets for six people; three raffle tickets; half-page ad in the Tennis Ball program booklet; listing on event screens, the event program booklet, winter edition of *Achievements* and AAD website.

**GOLD SPONSOR: $1,500**

- Tennis Ball tickets for four people; two raffle tickets; quarter-page ad in the Tennis Ball program booklet; listing on event screens, the event program booklet, winter edition of *Achievements* and AAD website.

**SILVER SPONSOR: $1,000**

- Tennis Ball tickets for two people; one raffle ticket; eighth-page ad in the Tennis Ball program booklet; listing on event screens, the event program booklet, winter edition of *Achievements* and AAD website.

**BRONZE SPONSOR: $500**

- Tennis Ball tickets for two people; one raffle ticket; eighth-page ad in the Tennis Ball program booklet; listing on event screens, the event program booklet, winter edition of *Achievements* and AAD website.

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Your ticket to the Tennis Ball includes a chance to win a 2015 MINI Cooper Convertible, donated by Checkered Flag. Only 800 raffle tickets will be sold! Additional raffle tickets may be purchased in advance for $100 each at [www.AchievableDream.org](http://www.AchievableDream.org) and will also be available during the Tennis Ball. You must be present to win.

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**BIDPAL**

Bid on silent auction items using the newest technology—on your cell phone or with a BidPal hand-held device (similar to an iPhone). The BidPal application will allow you to bid from anywhere at any time during the silent auction, receive outbid alerts and automatically re-bid, watch favorite items and view items with no bids. At the end of the auction, you’ll know exactly what you have won. BidPal experts will be available should you need assistance.

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Meet the Class of 2016 during an inspiring program.
Visit www.AchievableDream.org to preview auction items. Check back often; new items are added weekly.
To our Boards of Directors, thank you for your time, your support, your commitment and for “Sharing the Dream.”

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Sponsor Dedications at Seatack Elementary,
An Achievable Dream Academy

Classroom sponsors and their guests joined members of An Achievable Dream’s Virginia Beach Board of Directors and staff at Seatack Elementary, An Achievable Dream Academy on September 16 to dedicate panels named for specific character traits. Ann Segaloff presented the school with an original painting of her husband Walter Segaloff, founder of An Achievable Dream. The painting, prominently displayed in the main hallway, shows a smiling Segaloff shaking hands with students and is based on a photograph by Eric Lusher.

Thank you to the following sponsors:
• Tidewater Children’s Foundation, sponsor of the Caring Classroom
• The Beazley Foundation, sponsor of the Responsibility Hallway
• Hampton Roads Community Foundation, sponsor of the Motivation Entryway

For information on sponsoring a classroom at Seatack Elementary, An Achievable Dream Academy or An Achievable Dream Middle and High School, please contact Jan Johnson at 757-599-9472 or jjohnson@AchievableDream.org.

Boots, Beer and MamaDear Raises Funds for Virginia Beach

More than 200 guests enjoyed an evening of music during Boots, Beer and MamaDear, a concert benefiting An Achievable Dream Virginia Beach on Friday, September 11. The event, hosted by Changing Seasons and the Princess Anne Country Club, included southern-inspired cuisine and an intimate concert by MamaDear, a young and hip country band from Nashville that was recently named “Best Up-and-Comer” band by Rolling Stone magazine.

Beverly and Will Sessoms, mayor of Virginia Beach, pose with Kelly Tillotson, lead singer of MamaDear.
John Biagas

Honorary Chair of the 23rd Annual Tennis Ball, Board Member and Sponsor of An Achievable Dream's Class of 2011

“We all have a vested interest. I’m a firm believer that private industry has to partner with, and help, public institutions.... to show them ways they can be successful from a business perspective with money, time and effort.” —John Biagas

John F. Biagas serves as president and CEO of Bay Electric Co., Inc, a firm based in Newport News that specializes in general contracting as well as design/build and electrical construction, security/technology solutions and solar power systems. The company has satellite offices in Atlanta, Georgia and Charleston, South Carolina. Biagas purchased Bay Electric Co., Inc. in 1997, moving to Newport News from Maryland where he worked with three of his older brothers at AVA Electric, their electric and general contracting business.

The extended Biagas family established a $1 million endowment in sponsorship of An Achievable Dream’s Class of 2011 and to guarantee the scholarships of future classes if there is not another sponsor. In doing so, Biagas and his siblings honored their parents, who raised 14 children. Originally from Southwest Louisiana, Alvin and Veda Biagas owned a grocery store and later, an electrical contracting business, Biagas & Sons Electric, Inc., where all of the sons worked. They made education a priority, and instilled a dedicated work ethic and commitment to community in each of their children.

John Biagas is a very strong advocate of small, women and minority owned businesses, demonstrating his support by providing subcontracting opportunities to fully qualified small businesses in all categories. Additionally, Bay Electric Co., Inc. offers mentorship programs and sponsors events and conferences that open opportunities to Small, Small Disadvantaged, Women-Owned, HUBZone, Service Disabled Veteran Owned, and Veteran Owned business concerns.

1. What prompted your involvement with An Achievable Dream?
I received a visit from Kathy Edwards, and was impressed by An Achievable Dream’s mission to provide a unique learning environment, which incorporates a social, academic and moral education.

2. What aspects of An Achievable Dream do you feel have the most benefit for students?
I believe that the ability to teach relevant life skills and lessons, in addition to a fundamental curriculum, is most beneficial for the students. Also, preparing them for the future via college or other vehicle, such as service in the military, is very important to their success as adults.

3. What motivated you to set up an endowment for future scholarships?
I believe that we should give back what God has blessed us with. I am the youngest of 14 children, and my parents instilled a sharing spirit in all of their children.

4. What advice would you give to the Dreamers?
They should take advantage of living in the greatest country in the world. They should never let anything in life hold them down, and when faced with a difficult situation, they need to get right back up and try again.

5. Describe An Achievable Dream’s achievement of which you’re most proud.
I am very proud of An Achievable Dream’s graduation rates, and how the myth of “disadvantaged kids not being able to learn” is dispelled by An Achievable Dream students.

6. Do you have a favorite quote that you live by and share with the Dreamers?
Treat people the way you would want to be treated. You are only as good as the last project or task you have completed.

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.
Recognizing that many of our students have responsibilities in addition to their school work, including working to provide for their families, many teachers provide transportation to/from part-time jobs and often take students shopping for appropriate clothing. They assist outside the classroom with homework, test preparation, résumés, college applications and scholarship requests, and most importantly, serve as positive role models and a caring support network.

Enthusiasm for our Dreamers doesn’t stop with the end of the school year or high school graduation. During the summer, when school is not in session, teachers assist with camps, providing instruction, lunches and sometimes transportation. Teams of teachers from An Achievable Dream Middle and High School serve as mentors for Dreamers in their first few years of college, checking in with the students, sending care packages and being a reassuring voice on the other end of the phone line. They occasionally help students move to college and provide rides home during winter or spring break.

After several years of sponsoring the En Pointe Dancers as a school club, teachers Liza Smith and Janniece Haughton opened Dreams in Motion, a dance studio in downtown Newport News, to provide additional instruction and continuing dance classes for older students who have moved on to the middle and high school. Both teachers and two additional dance instructors volunteer their time, instructing dance classes nearly every evening and on Saturdays. The dancers have competed (and won!) nationally and three recently attended summer intensive programs at the Joffrey Ballet in New York City.

Because of their experience as students at An Achievable Dream, three graduates, Barbara Banks, Chris Jeter and Jessica Penn, have returned and are giving back to their community by teaching at An Achievable Dream Academy in Newport News. Banks teaches the Speaking Green™ classes and also serves as an advisor to seniors, helping them write résumés and apply for scholarships. Jeter is the head tennis coach and also mentors middle school students. Penn teaches kindergarten, providing even the youngest of Dreamers a positive first step in education.

“I can think of so many teachers who taught me valuable lessons and experiences that I will never forget,” said Barbara Banks, Class of 2009, The Hardee Scholars. “They pushed us to be great. They held us to the highest standards and brought us together as a family. It meant always knowing that someone cared about you and would never lead you in the wrong direction. Ultimately, it meant teaching us to believe in ourselves and to believe in “The Dream.”

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Full Circle Why Tennis?

By Christopher L. Jeter, Class of 2010, The Hardee Scholars

Head Tennis Coach, An Achievable Dream

Sports change lives. As our official sport in Newport News, tennis heavily contributes to An Achievable Dream’s mission. Learning this game of high integrity is more than just a lesson in how to hit the ball, but rather a lesson in how to navigate life. As we influence and shape our students, we have confidence that they will become critically thinking, mentally tough and self-sufficient adults. Through the game of tennis, among other factors, this will happen. On the tennis court, you have to be a critically thinking, mentally tough and self-sufficient player. When you are on the court, coaches cannot interfere; each decision is made at the player’s discretion. Every success or mistake is attributed to the player’s ability to “make the right decision,” which is printed on the back of each Dreamer’s uniform. Furthermore, at the end of all matches, you must shake your opponent’s hand, regardless of the outcome, teaching students how to be polite and respectful, regardless of circumstances.

If you have read any of the previous “Full Circle” columns, you may have read that I always compare my life to a canvas. Each accomplishment and great achievement helps to fill my canvas. I’ve failed to mention that the canvas has a very special title: The Canvas Painted By Tennis. It is dedicated to the sport that allowed me to cross many social and cultural barriers. Tennis taught me about myself, building my levels of confidence and humility. It allowed me to have the pleasure to meet many great tennis players, including Serena and Venus Williams, James Blake, André Agassi, and Andy Roddick. Tennis provided my first opportunity to fly on a plane and travel to Mobile, Alabama, to play in a national tennis tournament. Above all, it gave me the opportunity to receive a scholarship to play at Winston-Salem State University, all the while thinking critically, being mentally tough and self-sufficient.
An Achievable Dream Happenings

Dreams Come True in New York City

With the generous support of the Newport News City Council and donors through the Give Local 757 campaign, (a 24-hour fundraising event held in May), three An Achievable Dream students traveled to New York City to attend the Joffrey Ballet’s Summer Intensive Dance Program. The students were chosen following a region-wide audition and were among the few selected from a large group of dancers.

During this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, the students attended classes with master teachers in ballet, jazz, hip hop, musical theater and modern dance, and danced alongside members of the Joffrey Ballet in recitals. The experience gave the girls a greater understanding of the many career opportunities available through dance as well as experiences living and working with a professional dance company. All are interested in continuing with dance classes and are looking ahead to performing arts programs in college. The youngest dancer, LaKiyah, attended in June when Misty Copeland became the first African American principal dancer at the American Ballet Theater. LaKiyah was so inspired that she told her teachers that she is going to be the first African American ballerina from Newport News to do what Misty accomplished.

In June, Wendy Drucker, president of Drucker & Falk, attended An Achievable Dream Academy’s Morning Program and donated books to every student at the Academy for summer reading.

Prior to the start of the new school year, TowneBank Executive Vice President Douglas Burgoyne, shown here with Kathy Edwards, president, Achievable Dream, delivered school supplies for the Dreamers in Newport News. The school supplies were generously donated by TowneBank employees.

In early September, Amelia Ross Hammond (right), chairperson for the An Achievable Dream, Virginia Beach Community Advisory Board and a member of the Virginia Beach City Council, coordinated with the Office Depot Foundation and the National Federation of Women Legislators to provide 300 “sack packs” filled with school supplies to students at Seatack Elementary, An Achievable Dream Academy.

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Achievements

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(757) 599-9472
information@AchievableDream.org

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Educating children socially, academically and morally

Visit www.AchievableDream.org to make a donation or to receive the Power of the Dream monthly email.

Like us on Facebook!
www.Facebook.com/AnAchievableDream

Did you know?
Fun Fact about An Achievable Dream

All An Achievable Dream students are required to participate in clubs and leadership activities that give them a vital connection to other students, teachers and their community. During the 2014-2015 school year, students participated in a total of 73 clubs including (among others) archery, ballet, chess, drum line, garden, tennis, math, science, sign language, golf, dance, safety patrol and jazz.

Why do you support An Achievable Dream?

TowneBank's involvement with An Achievable Dream and all of its events is driven by our desire to help change the lives of the young people associated with it. It is impossible to walk the halls and classrooms of An Achievable Dream and not see the pride, joy and sense of accomplishment that radiates from both the students and faculty.”

—G. Robert Aston, Jr., Chairman and CEO of TowneBank

Words to Live By

“The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.”

—Vince Lombardi