President’s Message

Dear Friends,

It’s July and we have just completed another school year in Newport News and our first school year in Virginia Beach at Seatack Elementary School. In addition, July marks the completion of my first eighteen months as president and CEO of An Achievable Dream.

I wish to thank you, our community partners, sponsors, donors, board members and the incredible “Dream Team” with whom I work every day. All of the support for our organization and for me has been incredible, and I am so very appreciative.

I am composing this letter on July 1—our founder Walter Segaloff’s birthday. When he was living, he never wanted to celebrate his birthday. Now, as we serve the students of An Achievable Dream, we celebrate Walter’s life, work and dream every day.

Thank you for keeping his “Dream” alive with your support and love for our students.

Warmest regards and appreciation,

Mark Your Calendar!

An Achievable Dream Tennis Ball
November 21, 2015 • Hampton Roads Convention Center

A n Achievable Dream’s Class of 2015 received their diplomas to the rousing cheers of family and friends during their graduation ceremony at CNU’s Ferguson Center for the Arts on Thursday, June 4.

Commencement speaker C. Larry Pope, president and CEO of Smithfield Foods, outlined ten tips for success, advising students to take advantage of every opportunity, to share credit with others and to be dependable, reasonable, positive and on time. “Tomorrow morning when you wake up, the world will be waiting for you. The world is eager to hear from you, to see what you have to offer,” said Pope. “All of us here tonight are anxious to watch you and to help you take that next step toward success.” Smithfield Foods is the sponsor of the Class of 2015. Their generous donation provides annual merit scholarships for the members of the class each year that they attend college. Along with the Class of 2006, which Smithfield Foods also sponsored, the Class of 2015 will be known as The Smithfield Foods Scholars.

All members of the class, most of whom have been together since early elementary school, are going on to college, a trade school or the military. Valedictorian Adrianna Diggs will be attending Rutgers University. The Class of 2015 has been awarded nearly $1.8 million in scholarships and grants, and students were accepted to 141 colleges and universities. The impact of early interaction with soldiers from Fort Eustis at An Achievable Dream Academy can be seen as six students are entering the military, and another is planning to attend Virginia Military Institute in Lexington.

“As said by Walter Segaloff, founder of An Achievable Dream, ‘Nothing was ever achieved without enthusiasm.’ Truly, we would not be where we are today if it wasn’t for hard work and enthusiasm. We are not stopped by stereotypes, hardships, trials or tribulations. Nothing will stop us when our faith in ourselves is indestructible.”

—Isaiah Lucas, President, Class of 2015

Continued on page 2
CLASS OF 2015, continued from page 1

“I urge us all to remain connected and remember some of the things “The Dream” instilled in us. Ten years ago, we probably didn’t realize the impact that saying the banners had on us. Some of us will be the first in our family to go to college because we told ourselves, ‘I can go to college if I work hard.’ Truthfully, we can do anything if we work hard enough.”

—Adriana Diggs, Class of 2015 Valedictorian

CLASS OF 2015 COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

Chowan University
Elizabeth State University
Norfolk State University
Old Dominion University
Richard Bland College
Rutgers University
Thomas Nelson Community College
Tidewater Community College
Virginia Military Institute
Virginia State University
Virginia Tech
Virginia Union University

In addition to two and four-year colleges and universities, members of the Class of 2015 will attend trade schools, and six plan to join the military this summer.

CLASS OF 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

• 85% of the class graduated with an advanced studies diploma.
• 35% of the class graduated with a 3.0 or higher grade point average.
• Members of the class completed eight dual enrollment courses and 70 advanced placement courses.

• Jonathan Holloway, Justice Fauntleroy, Parisha Mitchell and Ke’an Square were Newport News Public Schools STAR Award recipients.
• Justice Fauntleroy signed with Chowan University, the first Dreamer athlete to attend college on a football scholarship.

“The final and most important piece of advice that I want all of you to take back is to ask as many questions as possible, ask the smart questions, ask the stupid questions and make sure that you are able to get all the information for whatever subject you are concerned about. Ask as many questions as possible because you do not want to be the person who is left in the dark.”

—Jonathan Holloway, Class of 2015 Salutatorian

Congratulations to the Dreamers of the Class of 2015!
An Achievable Dream students thrive with the strong support of the Hampton Roads community. The AAD corporate office must raise approximately $2,500 per student each year, which covers the costs of the SAME (social, academic, moral education) curriculum, enrichment activities in and outside the classroom and preparation for continued education. Thank YOU for making all of this—and so much more—possible for our Dreamers! Your generous support goes a long way to provide Dreamers with the following tools that they need to succeed:

Extended Day, Saturday School, Summer Intersession and After-School Tutoring: To ensure the success of our students, An Achievable Dream extends learning time with an 8-hour day rather than the typical 6½-hour school day. Also offered are 26 Saturday schools for remediation, a 4-week summer intersession in July and after-school tutoring as needed.

Field Trips: For students who would otherwise receive little or no exposure to cultural institutions, field trips present opportunities to explore. Field trips may include visits to museums, zoos, aquariums, science centers, fine arts performances and the beach.

Teacher Development: Great teachers help create great students. It is critical for veteran teachers to have on-going and regular opportunities to learn from each other, stay up-to-date on new research and trends, emerging technology, new curriculum resources and more.

Bookstore: An Achievable Dream stocks a bookstore for students to spend their earned merit points on school supplies such as notebooks, pencils, erasers and more. During Christmas, Valentine’s Day and Mother’s Day, the bookstore is stocked with gifts students can purchase for their family members.

Clubs: Each student is required to participate in an extracurricular club of his or her choosing. Club meetings are held twice weekly and include a variety of subjects such as gardening, dance, cooking, athletics, performing arts and more.

Uniforms: All students in grades K-8 are required to wear uniforms to school. Uniforms are an important part of the AAD program because it allows our students to focus on learning rather than the latest fashion trends.

Students on a field trip to the Virginia Aquarium.

Give Local 757 Campaign Helps Dreams Come True

During Give Local 757, a 24-hour fundraising event held May 5-6, An Achievable Dream raised more than $6,000 from 77 donors; ranking #12 out of 160+ participating nonprofits. Held in conjunction with Give Local America and sponsored by the Peninsula, Suffolk and Southeast Virginia Community Foundations, the event encouraged online donations through the GiveLocal757.org website to registered nonprofits serving the Hampton Roads region. Donations were also made at the AAD office. The minimum donation was just $10, which attracted new and younger donors.

The funds will be used to support three members of An Achievable Dream’s award-winning En Pointe Dancers as they travel to New York City this summer to study with the Joffrey Ballet. The girls were chosen following a region-wide audition and were among the few accepted from a large group of dancers. During this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, they will attend classes taught by world-renowned choreographers and master teachers and will dance alongside members of the Joffrey Ballet in recitals. Additional funds will be used to support the entire award-winning dance troupe as they participate in regional and national competitions this summer and to supplement the cost of costumes, shoes and equipment.

A huge THANK YOU to all of our donors to this campaign.

Support AAD When You Shop

Harris Teeter and Kroger offer fundraising programs that support An Achievable Dream. At Harris Teeter, register your VIC card with the Together in Education program. At Kroger, register your Kroger Plus card with Community Rewards. Stop at the customer service desks or register your cards online.

Harris Teeter: www.harristeeter.com/community/together_in_education
Kroger: www.kroger.com/communityrewards

Three members of the En Pointe Dancers, pictured here with their teachers, will travel to New York City this summer to study with the Joffrey Ballet.
An Evening of Dreams

PHOTOS BY HELEN’S PLACE PHOTOGRAPHY
On Saturday, May 30, nearly 300 guests attended the first annual *An Evening of Dreams*, a cocktail party benefiting An Achievable Dream Virginia Beach, held at The Sandler Center for the Performing Arts. The evening was filled with great music, delicious food and cocktails, games and a few surprises. WTKR Anchors Barbara Ciara and Blaine Stewart were the emcees. The highlight of the event was the introduction of the Achievable Dream High School Class of 2015, accompanied by two members of An Achievable Dream Virginia Beach Class of 2025!

**Thank you** to the following *An Evening of Dreams* sponsors for their generous support.

### Premier Sponsors

[Image]

- **CHARLES BARKER LEXUS**
- **The Patricia and Douglas Perry Foundation**

### Dream Maker Sponsors

- Beazley Foundation
- Dominion Enterprises
- Ferguson Cares
- Craig and Sue Grube
- Hampton Roads Community Foundation
- Luter Foundation
- PRA Group
- Sentara Healthcare
- Tidewater Children’s Foundation

### Entertainment Sponsor

- Langley Federal Credit Union

### Reach for the Stars Sponsors

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- NOAH Enterprises, Inc.
- Norris & St. Clair, P.C.
- Congressman and Mrs. Scott Rigell
- Mayor Will and Beverly Sessoms
- Troutman Sanders, LLC

**THANK YOU** to *Checkered Flag* for providing a 2014 MINI Cooper S Paceman for the raffle.

**THANK YOU** to *Charles Barker Lexus* for donating the 2015 Champions for Charity package for the live auction.

**THANK YOU** to WTKR News Anchors *Barbara Ciara* and *Blaine Stewart*, emcees for *An Evening of Dreams*.

**THANK YOU** to the following businesses that generously provided items for our surprise giveaways:

- Aldo’s Ristorante
- Atlantic Bay Mortgage
- Heron Ridge Golf Club
- iFly Indoor Skydiving
- Long Jewelers
- Please & Thank You
- Taste Tidewater Tours
- The Sandler Center for the Performing Arts
- Total Wine
- Virginia Musical Theater
In May, Maj. Gen. Charles Frank Bolden, Jr., (USMC-Ret.) the 12th administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), spoke to 8th grade students about the space program and his experiences in the Marines and as a NASA astronaut.

Miss Virginia, Courtney Garrett, spoke to students at An Achievable Dream Academy and Middle and High School in February. She is pictured here with members of the Girls 3.0 Club.

Karen Barefoot, coach of ODU’s Lady Monarch Basketball Team, gave an inspirational talk in February to AAD 7th grade students.

Dr. McKinley Price, mayor of Newport News, met with members of the Young Men of Distinction (6th and 7th graders) in April, speaking about the importance of making the right decisions, in and out of school, and how bad decisions now can affect the future.

Staff members from Virginia Natural Gas visited Seatack Elementary, An Achievable Dream Academy in May to read to students in their classroom.

The annual Hokie Day in March brought Virginia Tech professors and students to An Achievable Dream Middle and High School for a variety of hands-on activities. Older students also learned about life on campus and scholarship opportunities.

Left: AAD students were invited to attend the 40th Anniversary Celebration for Busch Gardens Williamsburg in May, where they met Joel Manby, CEO of SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment.

Right: Students at Seatack Elementary, An Achievable Dream Academy hosted an appreciation breakfast in June to thank the sailors from NAS Oceana and Dam Neck who greeted them each morning and helped in their classrooms and with field trips.

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As I write this, the temperature is rising outside; students everywhere are preparing for summer break—and for An Achievable Dream students, Summer Intersession—and I am closing out my first year as a teacher with An Achievable Dream. It has been a great year, and, most importantly, this year has shown me that I am where I belong. Although my position calls for me to be a tennis coach for our students, I feel that I take on a greater responsibility than that on the tennis court. As a coach, mentor and, in some cases, confidant, there has been much that has moved me as it relates to our Dreamers.

Throughout this year, I’ve had the opportunity to represent An Achievable Dream in various capacities; however, the most gratifying experience was presenting to our middle school students in their morning program. This gave me the opportunity to tell my story to the younger generation of Dreamers, and provide them with tidbits of information that will help them be successful. What made this experience so satisfying was the response of the students.

During my presentation, entitled Making a Way, I encouraged the students to use their circumstance and life situations as motivation to propel them to great heights. The students were intrigued, shared stories and asked great questions. Those who shared stories did so in private, where it was powerful to hear how our students are persevering despite the deaths of family and friends, uncomfortable living situations, peer pressure and other difficult conditions.

These experiences reinforced that our Dreamers are powerful students, in need of support and sometimes direction. Realizing this, and understanding my passion and commitment to empower the next generation of students, solidified my thoughts that I am where I should be. Every day brings new challenges and experiences in dealing with our Dreamers. I will not shy away from those challenges, or divert from the plan of making sure all of our students’ dreams are achievable. This year was nothing short of inspirational, and I look forward to what next year will bring.

Year One = Inspirational ☯
Achievements

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Mark Your Calendar!

23rd Annual An Achievable Dream TENNIS BALL
Saturday, November 21, 2015
Hampton Roads Convention Center
Become a Corporate Sponsor! Purchase tickets now!
Visit AchievableDream.org or call 757-599-9472.

Did you know?
Fun Fact about An Achievable Dream
Students at An Achievable Dream Middle and High School are enrolled in the What It Takes program, which emphasizes workplace readiness skills: interviewing, working as a team and critical thinking. Seven corporate partners provide speakers and opportunities for students to job shadow and work as volunteers or interns. The corporate partners are the City of Newport News, Ferguson Enterprises, Newport News Shipbuilding, Riverside Health System, Smithfield Foods, TowneBank and W.M. Jordan Company.

Why do you support An Achievable Dream?

“This is by far the best community service outreach program that I have ever seen in the Navy. It is affecting our youth who are our leaders of tomorrow. There’s nothing better than helping kids. Our sailors are getting a lot of experience. They are maturing and are appreciating what it takes to raise a child.”

—NAS Oceana Command Master Chief Eric Clark

Words to Live By

“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.”

—Martin Luther King, Jr.