The start to this school year has been nothing close to normal but nothing short of amazing. As we continue to follow district guidelines and schedules for phasing into in-person instruction, our teachers and staff are working tirelessly to ensure our students are engaged and learning, whether in-person or virtually. Our attendance rates have been outstanding, and our Dreamers continue to show up every day eager to learn and ready to engage with their teachers and classmates. From hosting school supply drives to welcoming our seniors with a special event and hosting virtual movie nights, our teachers and staff are truly superheroes!

We are also preparing for our annual Tennis Ball gala, which benefits our programs in Newport News. The event will be a virtual "mask-eurade," and while I will miss seeing all of our Achievable Dream friends and supporters in person, I am excited for what this virtual Tennis Ball will bring. You have the ability to make history with us! The mask-eurade theme puts a fun twist on our new normal! The virtual aspect allows you to enjoy the Tennis Ball from the
Celebration Sponsor $10,000

**HOSPITALITY**
- Tennis Ball "Watch Party"—opportunity to host exclusive Watch Party for 30 people in your home or office with food, beverage and decor provided by AAD up to $5,000. Bring all the elegance of a black-tie gala to your home or office Watch Party!
- 30 full virtual event admission tickets
- 20 raffle tickets
- Free delivery of purchased auction items to your home

**PROMOTION**
- Full-page ad in digital Tennis Ball program PDF
- Logo in Winter 2021 Achievements print newsletter
- Logo on AchievableDream.org and TennisBall.org
- Logo placement in digital and print ads in the Virginian-Pilot and the Daily Press
- Logo placement in event e-blasts

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Gold Sponsor $2,500

**HOSPITALITY**
- "Tennis Ball in a Box" for 10
- 10 full virtual event admission tickets
- 10 raffle tickets

**PROMOTION**
- Half-page ad in digital Tennis Ball program PDF
- Logo in Winter 2021 Achievements print newsletter
- Logo on AchievableDream.org and TennisBall.org
- Logo placement in digital and print ads in the Virginian-Pilot and the Daily Press
- Logo placement in event e-blasts

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Platinum Sponsor $5,000

**HOSPITALITY**
- "Tennis Ball in a Box" for 16
- 16 full virtual event admission tickets
- 10 raffle tickets
- Free delivery of purchased auction items to your home

**PROMOTION**
- Full-page ad in digital Tennis Ball program PDF
- Logo in Winter 2021 Achievements print newsletter
- Logo on AchievableDream.org and TennisBall.org
- Logo placement in digital and print ads in the Virginian-Pilot and the Daily Press
- Logo placement in event e-blasts

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Silver Sponsor $500

**HOSPITALITY**
- "Tennis Ball in a Box" for 2
- 2 full virtual event admission tickets
- 2 raffle tickets

**PROMOTION**
- Quarter-page ad in digital Tennis Ball program PDF
- Listing in Winter 2021 Achievements print newsletter
- Listing on AchievableDream.org and TennisBall.org
- Listing in digital and print ads in the Virginian-Pilot and the Daily Press
- Listing in event e-blasts

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**SINGLE TICKET $50**
- Admission for one to the virtual Tennis Ball gala.
- Access to the online auction and program video.

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**RAFFLE**
We are excited to announce the raffle prize for the 2020 Virtual Tennis Ball. This year, you have the chance to win **$10,000 cash**! Tickets are only $50! Only 700 tickets will be sold. You must be an event attendee to purchase tickets. Raffle tickets and admission tickets or sponsorships can be purchased at TennisBall.org.

To purchase tickets or sponsorships, visit TennisBall.org
Meet Jada Lewis
AAD Class of 2018 and 2020 Tennis Ball Keynote Speaker

Q. What were some of your most memorable experiences at An Achievable Dream?
A. My journey at An Achievable Dream was great. I love the teachers and staff because they really cared about us being successful. I don’t believe for one second that I would be the same accomplished person I am today if I went to a different school. My most memorable experience at AAD was becoming class president. It was an honor to lead my graduating class and be able to put together fundraisers and activities for us to have an amazing experience in our last year at AAD.

Q. What are some of the ways AAD has impacted your life?
A. AAD has impacted my life by being there for me more than I would have ever expected. When I was in school I never went without the help I needed to excel in my classes and, even after graduating, the support is still there. They constantly check on me throughout the semester to see how it is going and if I need anything.

Q. What was one of the most important things you learned during your time at AAD?
A. One of the most important things I learned at AAD was that you would have to work hard for anything you want to do or be in life. They pushed me to be my best self and to never settle for average. To this day, I have the same mentality to put my best foot forward in anything I face.

Q. Tell us about your life now! What are you most proud of? What do you hope to accomplish in the future?
A. I am currently a third-year student at Virginia Commonwealth University and I am working full-time at Casey Auto Group. I am proud of all my accomplishments since graduating, but my favorite accomplishment was being inducted into the National Honor Society of Collegiate Scholars. In the future, I will become an entrepreneur and build businesses focused around some of my passions, including baking and financial awareness for youth.

Q. How has AAD been instrumental in empowering you to achieve?
A. AAD has been a major support system, along with my family. They are always there for encouragement and guidance in difficult situations. I never hesitate to come to the staff at AAD if I ever need help.

“One of the most important things I learned at AAD was that you would have to work hard for anything you want to do or be in life. They pushed me to be my best self and to never settle for average.”

Tennis Ball Online Auction
The 2020 Tennis Ball auction will be entirely online, including exciting items like vehicles, experiences, great gifts and more! This year, you have extra time to shop: the auction will be open for online bidding on November 2, 2020. Only event attendees will have access to bid in the online auction! You can purchase your ticket or sponsorship today at TennisBall.org.
Dreamers for Change Task Force

Since our founding, racial equity has always been at the forefront of our work. An Achievable Dream is committed to bringing equity to education by providing opportunities for success in school and life. It is an organizational goal to develop culturally competent responses in our organizational attitudes, practices, policies, and structures at all levels. It is necessary for AAD staff, governing boards, partners, and volunteers to appreciate the relevance of cultural competency and diversity within the work we do. Therefore, we have developed an action plan and task force to ensure our growth and success in this area. An Achievable Dream has invited various staff, board members, and community leaders to join us in our efforts to improve our community by becoming a member of the Dreamers for Change Task Force.

Moving Forward in the Pandemic

As we look ahead to how we move forward in the midst of a pandemic, An Achievable Dream’s team is staying cognizant of one very important fact: our students’ well-being comes first. Their physical, mental and emotional well-being are our top priority as an organization and in each of our schools.

We remain optimistic and focused on moving forward while ensuring that our students have everything they need to be healthy and well in the present. During “normal” times, AAD puts immense focus on the importance of educating and nurturing the “whole child.” The onset of a pandemic and the many resulting changes have made this emphasis on the whole child more important than ever.

At An Achievable Dream, we continue to be cautious yet optimistic as we move forward. We will continue to prioritize the safety and well-being of our students and team. Our teachers and leaders will continue to innovate in virtual and blended learning, and in the midst of obstacles, we will continue to find opportunities.

Observing Juneteenth as an Organization-Wide Holiday

On June 10, 2020, Dr. Lee Vreeland announced that An Achievable Dream would recognize Juneteenth as an annual organization-wide holiday. For so long, our country has celebrated July 4 as our Independence Day without acknowledging Juneteenth as the emancipation of the last remaining enslaved African Americans in our country.

An Achievable Dream has been working against racial injustice and inequities since we were founded. It is who we are. It is what we do. It will always be who we are and what we do.

Celebrating Juneteenth as an organization-wide holiday is simply one step in the continuation of our work. It is a way we can grow. But it doesn’t start there and it doesn’t stop there.

Fighting against inequality is a huge part of our history, and it will continue to be an even bigger part of our future.

Message from the CEO, continued from page 1

comfort of your couch, or at a gathering with close friends. Everything we all love about the Tennis Ball, such as celebrating the graduating class, the auction, the keynote speaker and announcing the class sponsor for the graduating class, will still be part of this event. We hope to “see” you there on November 14!

With all of the challenges of this past year, I want to take this time to say thank you. No matter what comes our way, we know we can adapt and overcome with your support. Your support of An Achievable Dream touches the lives of so many, and we could not do this without YOU. I hope you remain safe and healthy, and I cannot wait to “see” you all at the 28th Annual Tennis Ball!

Sincerely,
Lee Vreeland, Ed.D., President & CEO, An Achievable Dream
Dreamers Giving Back: Launching the AAD College Mentorship Program

During recent team discussions with senior students on how to best support their transition to college, students identified the need for an on-site mentor as they begin their college experience. From this discussion, the mentor program was created to help support our Dreamers during their new beginning! Our team selected colleges and universities that several Dreamers attend to pilot this program, and all students attending these colleges or universities were paired with a mentor. Mentors are upperclassman Dreamer alumni at the same university, and were selected by AAD staff based on their campus experience, academic success, and their willingness to help others.

These mentors serve as a school-specific point of contact. They are also working to build strong relationships and serve as a social and academic support for students. We asked a pair of mentor/mentees from Old Dominion University and Virginia Tech to speak about the importance of the mentorship program:

Q: As a mentor, what does it mean to you to help these younger students coming into college?
A: It means a lot to me. To have an opportunity to give stability and guidance to these students means a lot. (Hugh Lewis, AAD class of 2019, ODU Sophomore)

A: Having a mentor has helped in the improvement of my nervousness and overall anxiety about facing this semester. Ciearra has been an amazing resource when it comes to many of the questions I have about getting adjusted to campus life again. She has encouraged me to step out and try to meet new people but to never minimize who I am to fit in with others. (Tamara Allen, AAD class of 2019, VT sophomore)

Q: From what you have learned in college, what is a piece of advice you would give to a Dreamer getting ready to apply to college?
A: One very important piece of advice I would like to give a Dreamer that is getting ready to apply for college is to take your time throughout the process. This is something that will follow you the rest of your life, and also make sure you explore your options. Don’t settle for the first or second school to accept you. (Hugh Lewis, AAD class of 2019, ODU Sophomore)

A: I’d like to advise Dreamers preparing to apply for college to use every resource available to choose the best college that will set them up for success. I’d also like to challenge them to go beyond their norms and set out to make a difference. (Ciearra Boddie, AAD class of 2015, VT Class of 2019)

Q: As an incoming college student, how did having a mentor help you get oriented this semester?
A: He helps me finish assignments on time or before they are due. He helps me stay on track and also makes sure I get around campus safely. (Adeyjua Goodwin, AAD class of 2019, 2nd semester ODU freshman)

A: Having a mentor has helped in the improvement of my nervousness and overall anxiety about facing this semester. Ciearra has been an amazing resource when it comes to many of the questions I have about getting adjusted to campus life again. She has encouraged me to step out and try to meet new people but to never minimize who I am to fit in with others. (Tamara Allen, AAD class of 2019, VT sophomore)

Q: What does it mean to you, knowing you have someone to go to for advice and help?
A: It means a lot to me to know I have someone on my side, making sure that I succeed and am on the right path. (Hugh Lewis, AAD class of 2019, ODU Sophomore)

A: It means a lot to know I have someone whose purpose is to be in my corner and aid me in being the best I can be. Also, knowing she is attending the same university is comforting. (Tamara Allen, AAD class of 2019, VT sophomore)

Thank you to all of our college mentors who are part of the launch of this mentorship program for supporting your fellow Dreamers on their journey!
PROFILES IN LEADERSHIP:
An Interview with Dr. Amy Cashwell,
Superintendent of Henrico County Public Schools

We are excited to continue a new series, Profiles in Leadership, highlighting some of the remarkable leaders right here in our home communities.

The pandemic has brought incredible challenges for educators, administrators, and school leaders as they have had to completely pivot and adjust, working to provide a quality education for all students in the face of school closures and the new virtual learning environment.

We had the opportunity to virtually interview Dr. Amy Cashwell, superintendent of Henrico County Public Schools, and asked her about the challenges and opportunities that have stemmed from this global pandemic.

Q: What have been some of the biggest challenges for you during this time, and what has been your perspective as you approached those challenges?

A: The biggest challenge has been ensuring that despite the circumstances created by the pandemic, we continue to serve our core purpose and mission to provide a quality educational experience, and the support needed, for each and every student to be successful. In order to continue our essential work, with this core purpose at the forefront, we’ve had to rethink, reimagine and redesign almost every aspect of our operations. While this has been daunting, keeping focused on our goal to serve our students hasn’t changed as a result of the pandemic; we’ve been able to remain steadfast in our efforts (though they have been exhaustive) and to adapt and be nimble during what has been a fluid and ever-changing situation.

Q: We know that in challenges, we find opportunity. What are some of the opportunities you and your team have seen and embraced? What positive elements have come from that?

A: The manner in which we were able to work as a team to overcome so many challenges, such as food distribution and a shift to remote learning in very short order, reminded us that when we remain focused on a shared collective goal and bring innovative thinking to the table, together we can accomplish fantastic things. We’ve also discovered that there is value in some of the practices and procedures we’ve developed to be responsive to the current situation, that will likely continue to hold value into the future and change the way we serve our students and families for the better. For example, our family and community engagement team took their family learning series “virtual” and found that attendance at their sessions was vastly higher than many of the in-person events. I’d bet that virtual sessions will remain a viable and effective strategy going forward in our effort to reach all families. And, then, I hate to mention it, but “snow days” or inclement weather days may never be seen in quite the same way. Virtual learning from home when snow or ice keeps students away from our classrooms for prolonged periods may assist us in ensuring valuable instructional time is not lost.

Q: In what ways are you most proud of your team as they navigate an already challenging field of education during a global pandemic?

A: I truly couldn’t be prouder of the Henrico County Public Schools team. They are simply the best. Their dedication to serving our students and community hasn’t wavered. From the hundreds of thousands of meals lovingly prepared and served; to the thousands of devices and hot spots distributed in record time; to the amazing innovative ways our teachers are delivering quality virtual instruction, I remain humbled to be a part of such a dynamic team. In addition, the many efforts of our administrators and central support teams, both on the front lines and behind the scenes, have been heroic. And, I’d be remiss if I didn’t mention how proud I am of our students and their families for the role they have played in meeting the challenges of virtual learning.

Q: How have community partnerships been beneficial during this time?

A: Our community partners have been essential in helping us bridge
To our Boards of Directors,

thank you for your time, your support, your commitment, and for sharing the Dream.

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Interview, continued from page 6

a number of gaps that were created during this pandemic. They are providing nutrition (beyond our school meal program) to families in need, providing financial support for us to get Internet service to those in need, and assisting in providing quality supervised childcare programs to students during the virtual learning school day. We simply couldn’t accomplish our goal of providing students the support they need to be successful without them. Our reach is expanded, and our efforts are more robust, thanks to our generous and highly engaged community partners.

Q: What are you most looking forward to?
A: I’m most looking forward to a time when we can have more of our students in-person. There is no way to measure how much we miss seeing them on a regular basis at our schools.

We are very excited to announce the launch of Achieve SAME Pro! Achieve SAME Pro is an education model serving as a catalyst for change in schools and school districts. It enhances school culture, empowers educators, and equips students for success. Achieve SAME Pro empowers educators to create a culture of hope and high achievement for students and families through an assessment and customized plan; K-12 social, character, and academic curriculum; and ongoing training.

Achieve SAME Pro harnesses the successful curriculum and culture of our nationally recognized An Achievable Dream Academies into a powerful tool accessible to educators and school administrators everywhere. Every student deserves a chance to succeed. At An Achievable Dream, Inc., we have partnered with public school districts for nearly 30 years to operate schools in a unique public-private model. Designed to serve students who face a variety of social-risk factors and who come from low-socioeconomic backgrounds, this program provides additional resources and opportunities for students with an emphasis on bringing equity to education.

To learn more, visit AchieveSAMEPro.com.
Meet Keziah Scott, Class of 2020

If you ask Keziah Scott’s friends and family to describe her, you’ll likely hear some of the following words: Funny. Self-confident. Encouraging. Joyful. Helpful. Social. “I’m always looking to cheer and build other people up. And oh—I’m a morning person. If it’s 7:30 in the morning, I am the brightest thing in the room!”

Keziah graduated in June 2020 from An Achievable Dream Middle and High School. “Sometimes I can’t believe I graduated. I don’t feel any different. But I wake up in the morning and see my cap and gown hanging on my door and realize...I really did it.” Although graduation looked different for the Class of 2020, Keziah describes it as a great ending, regardless of what’s happening with COVID–19. “At the end of the day, even though we had to go on stage individually, I still saw my friends and got to celebrate with them. It was a great happy ending.”

In the fall, Keziah headed to Virginia State University where she is studying music and visual arts, with a future goal of becoming a music producer and eventually owning her own record company. Her plan is long-range. Her main goal after getting her bachelor’s degree is to go back to school for a business degree and begin building her client base in the recording industry. “I tell my friends, this journey is going to take a while and it doesn’t come free, so I’m going to work hard and slowly build the equipment and everything I need to succeed.”

Keziah’s love for music and writing is the backdrop for her career goals, and she grew up with a musical family. Her father’s best friend has an in-home recording studio where she’s spent time recording music tracks.

Her journey with An Achievable Dream began in the first grade. “Everything motivated me, from the morning program to my teachers and the whole environment. I wasn’t super talkative. I kept to myself a lot. AAD brought me out of my comfort zone and helped me realize that I couldn’t keep to myself all the time because then how would I realize all the opportunities out there for me?” She gained confidence, making friends who are now more like brothers and sisters.

She speaks fondly of two staff members whose impact will always stay with her. “Ms. Gofney was my trigonometry teacher. She helped me bring out my true potential. I didn’t really consider myself a math person, but I’m actually good at it. Ms. Gofney helped me take it seriously. She helped motivate me and made me realize that it mattered. And Coach Overbey. She has been with me since day one. If I needed help, she was there. If my family needed help, she was there. She has been a great mentor, there every step of the way, always worrying about me, always keeping track of me. And she continues to worry about me and keep track of me!”

Although Keziah’s high school journey had plenty of obstacles—including helping support her family when her father was injured and out of work for a year—she continued to work hard and received the Clif Hannah Memorial Scholarship her senior year. “This scholarship means a lot to me because it shows the faith that people have in me and it will allow me to attend college.”

“If I had to describe my time at An Achievable Dream in just a few words, I would say...phenomenal journey.”

And an important thing you should know about her? “I’m going to be great one day.”

Janeen graduated from the University of Virginia in the spring with a Bachelor’s degree in African and African American Studies. During her time at UVA, Janeen was able to travel to Africa to study abroad. While in Africa, Janeen traveled through different parts of Ghana, learning about the cultures and conditions that emerged following colonization. She was able to tour historical sites such as Assin Manso in Kumasi, both the Cape Coast and Elmina Castles in the Cape Coast Colony, and the W.E.B. DuBois center in Accra.

Experiencing these sites were essential to Janeen’s cultivated understanding of The Year of Return and what it means within the African diaspora. After graduation, Janeen began working as a college advisor for the Virginia College Advising Corps. “My advice to the Class of 2020 is to remember that how you start is how you finish,” Janeen said. “That is not to discourage anyone from going out and being social; but always remember that every step makes up the journey. Set the tone to finish strong so that you’re not fighting to get over the finish line once fourth year comes around.”
Senior year is an incredibly exciting time for any high schooler. At An Achievable Dream Middle and High School, we knew this year’s start of school celebration was going to need to be a little different but just as special as every other year. To that end, teachers and staff hosted a drive-through party to distribute senior survival kits, swag, and lots of love and cheers! We love our seniors and cannot wait to watch them accomplish remarkable things this year!

Without our teachers and staff, the Dream would not be possible. Our teachers have been working tirelessly around the clock to create new and inventive ways to teach virtually. So to celebrate them, we provided a drive-through luncheon! Thank you, teachers and staff, for all you do every day and your dedication to our Dreamers.
Every student needs school supplies to set them up for success! Students have been able to come to the school for a socially distant school supply pick up. We cannot wait to see all of the amazing things our Dreamers create with their school supplies!

There is nothing better than adding new Dreamers to our Achievable Dream family. This year we welcomed our new students with a drive-through celebration where our new Dreamers were able to meet teachers and staff, and also receive their uniforms! We are so excited to welcome these new students into our family and cannot wait to watch them shine!

Having perfect attendance is something to celebrate! Our Dreamers who had perfect attendance throughout summer intersession were rewarded and celebrated with a drive-through goodie-bag pick up.
Employees from Virginia Natural Gas joined us at Seatack Elementary AAD Academy to help keep the Community Garden in top shape. Our students do a great job of maintaining the garden during the school year, and we are so appreciative that Virginia Natural Gas came to help us continue to grow our beautiful garden.

Virginia Beach students are phasing back into in-person learning—with all safety precautions in place—for grades K-6. We are so excited to see our little Dreamers for in-person instruction!

Our Dreamers and teachers in Henrico County are staying creative and innovative in a virtual learning environment!

Our Dreamers and teachers in Newport News, Henrico, and Virginia Beach have done a fantastic job virtually throughout the beginning of this school year! We are so proud of all of the Dreamers’ and teachers’ hard work, and we cannot wait to see what the rest of the school year has in store!
3 Ways to Support AAD Students During COVID-19

As we navigate this season of uncertainty, we know we will need each other more than ever. Our students and their families are strongly affected by the COVID-19 epidemic and accompanying precautions, and the needs vary widely from food, supplies, and academic support. An Achievable Dream will need the support of our friends and partners during this time as we work hard to ensure that our students are still equipped to succeed, no matter what happens.

Here are 3 ways you can help AAD students and their families:

1. Give to Annual Fund

Help keep AAD operating by supporting our annual fund. This will be a difficult season as many regular fundraising activities have been interrupted or halted altogether. We don’t know what recovery will look like yet, but we do know that nothing can stand in the way of providing our students with the education, resources and opportunities they deserve!

2. Give to Food for Families fund

We are providing—and will continue to provide as long as necessary—food, school supplies and hygiene items to our families. The cost of a two-week supply bag is $100. Please consider giving to support this effort! Just $100 can supply food and supplies for a family for two weeks.

3. Give to support college students

Help us support our college students as they navigate this stressful and unexpected change! We are providing food for our college students who are now at home after campus closures, as well as technology support and other supplies needed to complete their coursework.

Visit AchievableDream.org to help support our Dreamers through the challenges of COVID-19!