

fall 2021

DOCK Youth are Leading the Way!

The DOCK just wrapped eight jam-packed weeks of summer camp where providing academic support is always the top priority (especially since kids have lost academic strides due to online learning and quarantines associated with COVID) but campers also had time for lots of summer fun! Each week featured a theme, such as Space, Safari, Under the Sea, Dinosaurs, United States of America, and STEM, with activities designed around that theme. With support from our friends at L3Harris, there were also field trips that corresponded with the themes to educational sites like Wonderworks and the Brevard Zoo. Teens visited the campus of University of South Florida and enjoyed the Museum of Science & Industry. Thanks to Community Foundation for Brevard, when youth weren't out discovering new places, they participated in regular healthy cooking classes, dance class and martial arts.

All programming was delivered by DOCK staff with the assistance of six Teen Leaders. When COVID made it difficult for our regular volunteers to continue, necessity bred innovation! With the help of a grant through the City of Melbourne, we were able to hire teens who attend the DOCK. In addition to creating jobs in a largely industrial area with few first-time job opportunities (and where youth do not have access to reliable transportation), there is also evidence to support that teens who manage jobs in high school experience advantageous outcomes! Youth First reports that teens who are Hispanic (8% of DOCK youth), Black (64%), or economically disadvantaged (100%), who balance school and a job are less likely to drop out of high school than those who do not work during their high school years. Additionally, having a summer job is linked to an increase in the chances of youth graduating from high school and reducing the risk for involvement in criminal activity and the juvenile justice system.

Moving into the 2021-22 school year, youth who attend the DOCK are excited about new beginnings. The year kicked off with an exciting race for the DOCK's Youth Council. The purpose of the Council is to give youth who attend the DOCK the opportunity to guide DOCK programming and share what activities they are enjoying, not enjoying, and areas of interest to pursue.

Cadence, age 8, has been attending the DOCK since she was 5. After a few years of looking up to older attendees and the DOCK Teen Leaders, she decided she was ready to step into a leadership role and made the decision to run for President of the DOCK's Youth Council.

According to DOCK Director, Trevor Howard, Cadence ran a strong campaign that included posters and a speech, against six other contenders for the role of President. The candidates included much older 5th and 6th graders. When asked specifically how she can help her peers as President of the Council, Cadence shared that she aims to help her friends better manage their stress. The young leader gave an excellent example of how we can all do this by explaining how she successfully completed a timed math sheet earlier in the day... "I knew my time was running out and I was so frustrated! I closed my eyes and took deep breaths. Then I moved on to other problems, and when I was ready, I went back to the difficult problems. And then I knew how to answer them." This advice sounds sage for any age level.

You may not be surprised to learn that Cadence won the election!

Mr. Howard was pleased but not surprised. He said, "Cadence is a strong leader because she's not afraid to address concerns. She is talented at vocalizing her opinions. Cadence possesses a charisma that draws people to her. Most importantly, she is always looking out for others."



"I'm a great leader because I help people believe in themselves!"





Tyliyah – age 5 through high school graduation

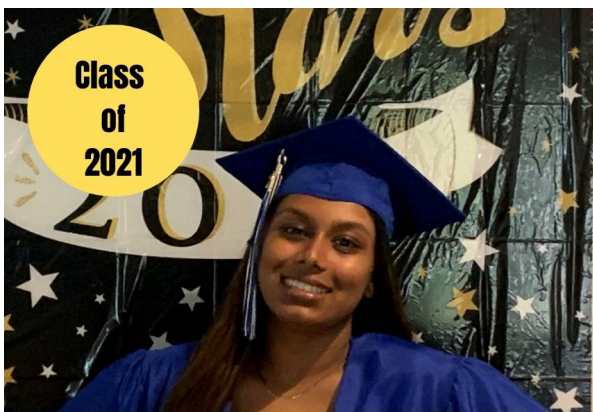
Tyliyah Bursey is Going Places!

After graduating from Eau Gallie High School in 2020, Tyliyah Bursey enrolled in Eastern Florida State with the goal of earning her A.A. She plans to continue her studies at the University of Central Florida in pursuit of a B.S. in social work, and eventually study law at Florida A&M. Tyliyah's long term goal is to work in children's advocacy, and she is currently volunteering at the Women's Center and receiving domestic violence advocacy training. Tyliyah is mature beyond her years, reliable, a good leader, and a hard worker. She could find employment anywhere while she is in school.

Tyliyah chose the DOCK.

When asked why, Tyliyah said, "The DOCK has always been my second home. I never missed a day when I was a kid, and I still don't want to miss anything." As a young adult, Tyliyah brings a perspective that has grown from her early years at the DOCK. She said, "I love these kids and I know where they are coming from. I also come from poverty, and I can relate to their struggles." Working afternoons as a DOCK Youth Program Tutor, Tyliyah is supporting her neighborhood and inspiring the next generation of leaders!

Congratulation to the Class of 2021!



Even though their senior year looked different from others, the Class of 2021 never lost sight of their goals! These young men and women are planning to continue their educations at Eastern Florida State College, join the local workforce, and embark on careers in the armed forces.

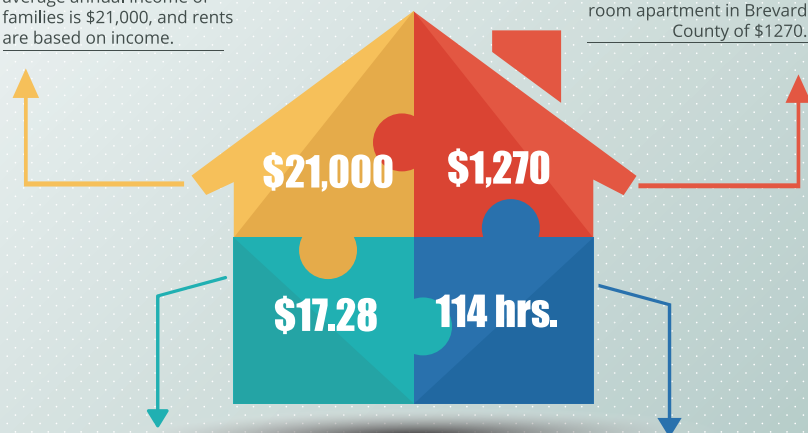
Clockwise from top left: Karishma Dhoray, Tyrek Maynard, Tyree Maynard, Emilianette Alvarado. Emilianette is the recipient of a Florida pre-paid scholarship funded by DOCK supporters!

WHY AFFORDABLE HOUSING MATTERS!

Greater Heights affords 18 families and elderly on fixed incomes a pleasant and stable home.

At Greater Heights, the average annual income of families is \$21,000, and rents are based on income.

The average fair market rent for a modest two-bedroom apartment in Brevard County of \$1270.



The hourly wage necessary to afford such an apartment is \$17.28.

For a single mom working a minimum wage job, that would require a 114-hour work week.



Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition



Meet Patricia Smoot, a resident of Greater Heights since 2018. Patricia is currently caring for her elderly mother and completing a degree in early education. She has been able to pursue her education because she has affordable housing. Use the QR code to hear Patricia tell her story.

Carla Brown, the Greater Heights Property Manager, is busy renovating a four-bedroom for a single mom and her three children. The apartment will include updated flooring, fresh cabinets, and new appliances. To hear Carla speak about the upgrades, one would think she is preparing it for one of her own family members or close friends. Her excitement is contagious! This is the energy Carla brings to all the residents in Greater Heights 18 units. In her last position, Carla managed over 500 units and

didn't have the opportunity to develop many close relationships as there was a rotating door of turnkeys and new residents. For Carla, working at Greater Heights is about more than collecting rents. She says, "I am just as concerned about the welfare and health of my residents as I am about their being able to pay rent."

It should be noted that the previously mentioned four-bedroom is being completely renovated because the previous tenant had lived there since Greater Heights opened – in 2009! The turnover in Greater Heights is low and the only downside to that is that Carla has fewer opportunities to house families in need of pleasant and affordable housing. She says, "I receive heart breaking calls from people who need housing right away. Recently, there was a single mom with three kids living in a car. She's been on the section 8 list for a year. My waiting list is about 18 months long. It's hard to tell people I can't house them now."

Carla is anxiously awaiting the building of Greater Heights II, which will include six new units on a lot across the street, and getting to tell more families, "Welcome home."



Introducing LaShaundra McGhee – Operations Director

Neighbor Up Brevard has added an Operations Director to its staff. The position is new and has been filled by LaShaundra McGhee, an experienced and accomplished leader in the non-profit sector since 1997. Her most recent position was the Campus Support and Outreach Director for Elevation Church's Melbourne campus, where she oversaw all outreach activities, built relationships throughout the community, and increased visibility and engagement. LaShaundra's prior roles include serving as Director of Quality Assurance at the Early Learning Coalition of Brevard and as Director of Home and Community-Based Services for Aging Matters in Brevard. LaShaundra holds a BS in Health Care Management from Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University, a degree she earned while also serving in the US Army National Guard.

Of her new role, LaShaundra says, "I am grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside a team of individuals committed to community revitalization. I look forward to using my gifts and talents to help address real concerns and improve the lives of individuals and families residing in neighborhoods that have been historically overlooked and underserved." Lynn Brockwell-Carey, Executive Director shares this impression from the interview process, "It was apparent that LaShaundra is passionate about Neighbor Up's mission. She spoke of wanting to join a team that is faith-based, boldly stepping into communities, walking alongside and empowering community leaders, impacting the next generation, and thinking strategically about the future."

As Neighbor Up Brevard celebrates their 20th anniversary, this new leadership role comes at an inflexion point for the organization. It was made possible, in part, by Bank of America's Neighborhood Champions award. This grant honors organizations poised to take their work to the next level while delivering meaningful results in their community. With LaShaundra filling this role, the Board of Directors and staff just finalized a strategic plan that makes room for the organization to focus on growth opportunities and new partnerships.

LYNN's LETTER



Neighbor Up Brevard launched in April 2001 with a mission, “to plan, facilitate, and implement solutions for the revitalization of impoverished communities”. We have been inspired and sustained by God’s promise that when we care about justice and act with kindness, we will “raise the

foundations of future generations”, we will be “repairers of the breach” and “restorers of streets to dwell in” (Isaiah 58:12).

This 20th year of community development ministry has been a time for celebration as well as reflection, self-audit, and strategic planning for the future. What has been our measure of success? Certainly replacing blighted structures has contributed to restoration in the Booker T. Washington neighborhood and the Powell-Driskell Heights areas. Yet over the years we have discovered that bricks and mortar projects are just the first step toward achieving long-term health and stability in communities. New or restored buildings have become the space where transformation happens...where people are empowered and leaders are developed. That is our measure of success! It might look like a DOCK graduate who chooses to remain invested in her neighborhood as a mentor for the next generation. Or like a Greater Heights resident who is taking advantage of affordable housing so that she can earn a college degree. Under the Evans Center roof, an example of success is found in the young man who received on-the-job training and now leads the kitchen team. What a joy it is to watch others flourish and to know that at Neighbor Up they are being equipped to lead, bless, strengthen, and sustain their families and community!

Your support changes lives and neighborhoods!

Gratefully,

Lynn

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Local Organizations Partner to From the Heart

December 4th is the opening date for the 6th annual Gifts From the Heart Christmas Shop. This year we have ten (10!) local nonprofit organizations partnering to create a unique, affordable, and dignity affirming toy shopping experience for the parents of children in their respective programs. Partners include Neighbor Up Brevard, Club Esteem, Love INC, Community of Hope, Family Promise of Brevard, New Life Mission, Eckerd Connects, Habitat for Humanity of Brevard, and — new for 2021 — Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida – Cocoa Branch, and Women’s Center of Brevard. You can find more information about the program and how you can help at: giftsfromtheheartshop.org.



	
BREAKFAST	
SERVED WITH HOT COFFEE	
SMALL BREAKFAST eggs, bacon or sausage, grits or homefries	5.00
LARGE BREAKFAST eggs, bacon, sausage, homefries, biscuit	8.00
FRENCH TOAST golden brown french toast, sprinkled with powdered sugar, served with eggs, bacon, & homefries	7.00
BISCUITS AND GRAVY biscuits and sausage gravy, eggs, homefries	7.00
LUNCH/DINNER	
SERVED WITH 2 SIDES + ROLL	
SOUTHERN FRIED CHICKEN bone-in chicken fried to perfection	7.50
HOMESTYLE CHICKEN TENDERS large made-to-order crispy tenders	7.50
FRIED CHICKEN GIZZARDS gizzards fried until golden brown	7.50
HOMESTYLE MEATLOAF homemade classic made from scratch	7.50
BAKED CHICKEN tender chicken breasts seasoned with fresh herbs	7.50
SMOKED BARBEQUE RIBS hickory-smoked, fall off the bone ribs	15.00
SMOKED TURKEY LEGS slow-smoked jumbo turkey legs, rich with smoky flavor	15.00
SHEPARD'S PIE seasoned beef layered with mixed veggies, mashed potatoes, topped with gravy (roll only)	7.50
VEGETARIAN	
SIDES	
COLLARD GREENS	YELLOW RICE
MASHED POTATOES	WHITE RICE
MIXED VEGGIES	CORN
MAC & CHEESE	GREEN BEANS
HAWAIIAN SWEET ROLLS	
CATERING MENU	
MEATLESS SHEPARD'S PIE seasoned portobello mushrooms layered with mixed veggies, mashed potatoes, topped with gravy (roll only)	7.50
VEGGIE WRAP fresh garden veggies wrapped in a flour tortilla	6.00
CHEF SALAD fresh lettuce, cucumber, tomato, carrot, topped with cheese, eggs, turkey, ham, and bacon (vegetarian option available)	6.00
BOXED LUNCH pre-packed lunch kits served with chips + warm cookie • turkey or ham wrap • veggie wrap • salad • sub sandwich	6.00
DESSERT	
RED VELVET CAKE light, fluffy, and rich with flavor. Topped with a generous crown of cream cheese frosting	35.00
CARROT CAKE soft, decadent, and bursting with spice. Topped with cream cheese frosting	35.00
SWEET POTATO PIE roasted sweet potatoes with brown sugar and spice, baked in a flaky crust	17.00
COOKIE PLATTER two-dozen large freshly baked cookies: chocolate chip, double chocolate, oatmeal raisin, peanut butter	30.00
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WANTED

DOCK staff is requesting the following items:
ACT Prep Black Book: The Most Effective ACT Strategies Ever
Non-Contact Medical Screening Forehead Thermometer
Suggestion Box with Lock
Karaoke Microphones
2 Wall Mount Fans for the Computer Lab

If you are interested in helping out and have questions, please
contact dockteens@neighborupbrevard.org.

Donations sustain the mission of Neighbor Up Brevard

To plan, facilitate and implement solutions for the revitalization of impoverished communities.

Neighbor Up Brevard has been blessed with generous grants from the following sources since the last issue of the Catalyst. Thank you for your support!

Bank of America Foundation

Collins Aerospace

Community Foundation for Brevard – competitive grant cycle

Community Foundation for Brevard – The Roach Foundation

Community Foundation for Brevard – The Dillen Charitable Fund

Margaret Heins Foundation

City of Melbourne – COVID

PNC Foundation

Seacoast Bank

United Way of Brevard



Summer campers enjoy the Brevard Zoo



Teens tour the University of South Florida campus



Evans Center was a Read and Feed site this summer. 187 youth received warm meals prepared by the Evans Community Market chefs. They also received books to take home. On this special day, the children enjoyed a Story Walk with community leaders.



Orion180 is investing in the DOCK's Healthy Minds & Healthy Bodies program, which provides nutritious snacks and summer lunches, access to activities that promote healthy lifestyles, and mental health initiatives.

Special thanks to our Community Partners—donors who make a monthly pledge to Neighbor Up Brevard and provide necessary operating funds for the organization:

Mary & Rick Blucker

Tom & Linda Brandon

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Ryan Brown

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Trinity Wellsprings Church

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GIVE WITH CONFIDENCE!



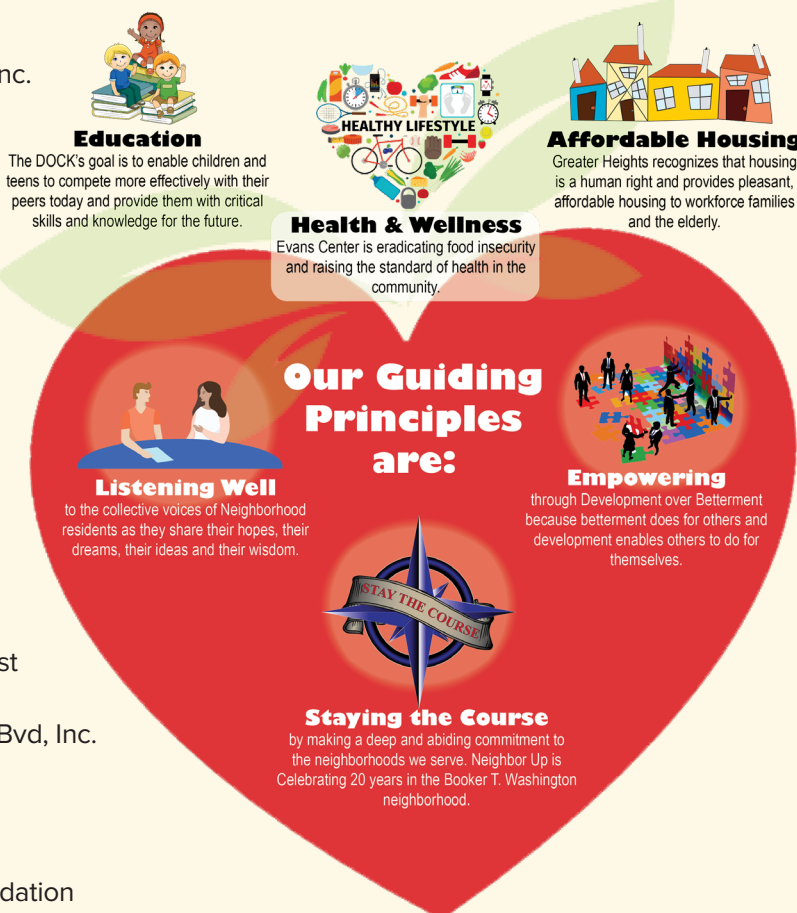
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*donations received between 3.18.21 and 9.1.21



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FRIENDS FEST



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