

spring 2020

## Zamari Walton Tells His DOCK Story



A quick google search of Zamari Walton will tell you that he is a sophomore at Georgia Tech, cornerback on the football team, his height: 6'3", weight: 180 pounds, and several stats from

his 2019 season. From this, one can safely assume Zamari is talented

*"I don't know where I'd be without the DOCK."*

— Zamari Walton

(Georgia Tech IS a division I football program, after all), smart (the school's acceptance rate is a competitive 18.8%) and works hard. This is all true. But what the stats don't tell us is a much more interesting story.

Zamari grew up in the Booker T. Washington neighborhood, one of Melbourne's poorest areas. When he was born, the streets of this community were notorious for criminal activity, drug use, and a high dropout rate among teens. While crime in the Booker T. Washington neighborhood has dropped dramatically (67% since Greater Heights Apartments was built in 2009) it can still be a tough place. Additionally, the socioeconomic factors experienced by Zamari, and many youth in the neighborhood—such as high rates of households led by single moms earning low wages—are likely to have negative impacts on a child's academic career.

A report by Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce titled, "Born to Win, Schooled to Lose" aggregated the data from five studies and surveys to examine how a family's socioeconomic status impacts an individual's life trajectory—first as a student and later as a working young adult. The report states, "The research here is clear: Money makes a difference. Kids from wealthier families who score lower on kindergarten tests have a 71% chance of reaching above-median socioeconomic status, according to the report. Meanwhile, poorer kids with higher scores have just a 31% chance of hitting this same socioeconomic mark."

The report underscores the power of strong social networks, well-funded neighborhoods, social and economic capital and academically challenging schools. Tragically, youth from low socioeconomic backgrounds often experience the opposite scenarios—a lack of access to enrichment activities, underfunded schools, crumbling neighborhood infrastructure and limited interactions with role models who have postsecondary education experience. As Zamari's mom, Anetta Wellmaker, says of his success, "It's amazing for a kid to make it out."

This is where the DOCK comes in. One of the strategies for bridging success gaps as identified in the report is after-school and mentoring programs, which historically have shown to help improve school performance. Additional strategies include improving and expanding assistance to high school students to equip them with the information they need to transition from high school to postsecondary education and/or training. In addition to the role Neighbor Up plays in neighborhood revitalization, the

*Zamari Walton continued inside*



Zamari and Jarrad Baker on a 2011 DOCK field trip. Jarrad is a 2019 grad attending UCF.



## Zamari Walton *continued*

*One of the strategies for bridging success gaps is after-school and mentoring programs, which historically have shown to help improve school performance.*

DOCK provides after-school programs as well as assistance to high school students to equip them for future success. Our staff take a team approach, forming a strong base of support for the students by relating to their parents and to their school administrators and teachers.

Zamari began attending the DOCK as a seven-year old, and has two adoring little sisters, Asharia (age 16) and Nahjiya (age 8), who attend the DOCK currently. Zamari has many fond memories of the DOCK, where he attended every day after school and for eight weeks of summer camp until his high school athletic schedule became very demanding. It is at the DOCK, that the importance of academics was instilled. Zamari says, "I knew I had to keep my grades up so I could get into a good school, get an education, and make something of myself after college." (He is currently pursuing a degree in business administration.) The DOCK also played a role in Zamari's character development. He says, "The DOCK taught me to be a better man; to do the right thing when no one is watching."

Zamari credits the DOCK for "teaching me to surround myself with the right people; people with the same mindset. He says, "I don't know where I'd be without the DOCK." When in town last summer, Zamari stopped by and spoke to the kids about valuable lessons he had learned at the DOCK: "get an education, do the right things, strive for greatness, study, work hard."

Many of the families served by the DOCK have lived in this same neighborhood for multiple generations. Neighbor Up Brevard is present to help provide a roadmap for a promising future. Focusing on children's programs not only improves the academic success for future generations, but also helps working parents living in poverty to receive free after-school services for their children and supervision during summer break. This benefit contributes to greater financial stability for the families served.

DOCK Director, Trevor Howard, says, "We want their future to be characterized by self-determination, freedom from want, service, and endless possibility. By providing the support that teens need to be successful in school along with experiences designed to inspire them to set goals for their lives, we are putting more kids from this once-troubled neighborhood on the path to career success."

**Note from the writer:** When DOCK Director, Trevor Howard, and I spoke with Zamari to prepare this story, the phone conversation ended with Mr. Howard saying, "I love you, man. Let me know if you need anything." To which Zamari responded, "I love you too. Thanks for everything." Thank you to the loyal supporters who make these relationships possible.

<sup>1</sup> Boyd, Murphy and Bielak. "Billion Dollar Bets to Reduce Concentrated Poverty." The Bridgespan Group, September 2016. P 3.

## GREATER HEIGHTS *Turns 10!*

Greater Heights has been providing affordable housing for ten years in the Booker T. Washington neighborhood, and residents celebrated with a cake at a recent resident meeting.

The evening was a reminder of the investment that all of us — residents, law enforcement, local government, and donors — have made in the redevelopment of the BTW community. One resident shared what it was like to have been a child growing up in "the bottoms." (Before the block was restored, the blighted, crime-riddled block was known as "the bottoms.") She complimented the efforts of Neighbor Up to restore the property, and is grateful to have such a beautiful, friendly place to raise her teen daughters! Another resident encouraged others to get involved at the DOCK.

She is studying at EFSC to be a teacher and she volunteers in the DOCK children's program.



Introduced at the resident meeting were new staff, the "dynamic duo" of Rosa Tillman and Matthan Tavernier. Rosa and Matthan oversee our property management, with Rosa handling administrative/compliance matters and Matthan handling facility maintenance.

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## Save the Date for the 2020 Friend's Fest!



We had so much fun at our fall fundraising event in the Booker T. Washington neighborhood, that we're going to do it again.

Mark your calendars for  
**Saturday, November 14, 2020.**



# WHAT we DO

**THE DOCK** the Dorcas Outreach Center for Kids is a safe haven for children and teens of the Booker T. Washington neighborhood. Youth receive academic and spiritual mentoring and enjoy enrichment programs.

**GREATER HEIGHTS** an 18-unit apartment complex for low income working families and the elderly, also in Melbourne's Booker T. Washington Community.

**EVANS CENTER** a multi-use project in the Powell/Driskell Heights area, serving residents with a fresh food market, Brevard Health Alliance clinic, and workshops on topics such as health & wellness and youth job training.



## Food is Medicine! Evans Center Offers Food Prescription Program

In keeping with its mission to raise the standard of healthy living in the Powell/Driskell Heights community, Evans Center is providing a food prescription program through funding from our partners: Community Foundation for Brevard and Space Coast Health Foundation. In collaboration with Brevard Health Alliance, Evans Center has piloted a program designed to provide incentives for participants to obtain nutrition education and the tools necessary to make healthier food choices. It's a program designed for low-income patients at a high risk for diet-related disease. "Forty million Americans struggle to put healthy food on the table. Unfortunately, the cheapest food choices cause diet-related disease. As a result, the US spends over \$1 trillion a year on diet-related illness. But when healthy food is available, everything changes." (Wholesome Wave)

### How the program works:

The attending physician enrolls patients based on a survey assessment. At enrollment, the patient is given a FVRx and \$10 coupon for redemption at Evans Community Market. Intervention programs such as nutrition education, diabetes prevention, cooking classes, exercise programs and other wellness education workshops are offered to further support healthy lifestyle choices.

Produce prescriptions offer a simple, yet effective way to incentivize healthier eating. While we are in the early stages of this program, we are expecting significant impact in improved patient health, knowledge of healthy food options and increased fresh produce sales in the Market.

Funding for programming such as this is crucial for the community to continue to see good results. If you would like to learn more about our Food Prescription Program (FVRx) or any of the programs at Evans Center, contact LeAngela Aitken, Center Director at 321-216-6909 or [director@evanscenter.org](mailto:director@evanscenter.org)

## FLORIDA TODAY 2019 Organization of the Year Nominee



*Neighbor Up Brevard and Evans Center staff*

Thank you FLORIDA TODAY for recognizing Neighbor Up Brevard's efforts in the Booker T. Washington neighborhood of Melbourne and Powell/Driskell Heights neighborhood of Palm Bay! We were proud to be a 2019 finalist for "Organization of the Year" at the prestigious Volunteer Recognition Awards. Established in 1992, FLORIDA TODAY annually recognizes the important role volunteers, businesses and non-profit organizations play in our community, particularly during times of economic challenge. Finalists and winners epitomize the spirit of volunteerism and have helped in many ways to contribute to the success of our community.

Neighbor Up Brevard (previously known as Brevard Neighborhood Development Coalition) won the award in 2009.

## Georgianna United Methodist Church Celebrates 15th "Simple Christmas" with Gift to Greater Heights



*Volunteers from Georgianna regularly pitch in on DOCK beautification workdays.*

Georgianna's "Simple Christmas" is an effort to return to the purpose of this Holy day and celebrate the birth of Jesus. They do this by inviting their congregation to reduce what they spend on obligatory gifts and share the difference with a vetted mission or local ministry that would benefit from an impact gift. Knowing that Brevard County is struggling with a severe shortage of affordable housing that is driving more and more working families into homelessness, Georgianna partnered with Neighbor Up Brevard to assist in expanding our affordable housing community in the Booker T. Washington neighborhood. Their generous gift of over \$41,000 will have immediate and lasting effects in the community!

## WANTED

- ☐ **Pool Table** – Help refurbishing Teen Center pool table or donation of one
- ☐ **Air Hockey Table**
- ☐ **Two wall mounted fans** to cool Teen Center computer lab
- ☐ **Subscriptions** to magazines like ESPN, Sports Digest along with autobiographical books or series popular among teens would be appreciated!
- ☐ **Flat screen, smart TV that is about 55"**, for Elementary Center for lessons and entertainment
- ☐ **Two reliable printers** for our kids to print homework assignments!
- ☐ **Four Double Dutch jump ropes** – extra-long jump ropes for more than one person
- ☐ **Software upgrade for Microsoft Office Suite** (including Word, Excel and PowerPoint) for computers in both labs

The DOCK buildings represent a home away from home for nearly 150 youth each year. If you, or someone you know, may be able to help preserve and enhance this space by providing any of the following "Wanted" items, please contact: Tammy Robinson, DOCK Teen Program Manager [dockteens@neighborupbrevard.org](mailto:dockteens@neighborupbrevard.org) 321-253-4214, ext. 208

## A message from the Executive Director:



*"Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)*

As I read this Catalyst two words come to mind. They are faith and imagination. At Neighbor Up Brevard we have faith in God, who cares deeply about the injustice of poverty and who wants us to care too. Over and over these past 19 years the Lord has responded to our prayers by sending partners, resources, and inspiration! We've been inspired to imagine "food desert" neighborhoods turned into food oases; children given the opportunity to fulfill their dreams; and families moving from homelessness to hopefulness.

So many of you have joined us in imagining change. Whether you are a resident, volunteer, or donor... if you have been engaged with Neighbor Up for many years or are new to our family... I hope you enjoy reading this issue. It truly is a celebration of what can happen when people of faith come together to imagine "God's kingdom come, Thy will be done."

Gratefully,  
*Lynn*

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# Make a gift to Neighbor Up Brevard

## BY THE NUMBERS

### DOCK

**143** unduplicated children ages 5–18 visited the DOCK after school and for summer camp in 2019.

The DOCK serves an average of **60** youth per day.

All youth come from low to moderate families (as defined by HUD), earning less than the survival budget for a 4-person household in **\$51,312** Brevard County (as determined by United Way in the ALICE report).

**87%** of DOCK families are headed by single women.

### GREATER HEIGHTS

The average rent at Greater Heights is **\$587**.

The average annual income of a Greater Heights household is **\$26,152**.

### EVANS CENTER

The Evans Center serves **2,500** residents of the Powell/Driskell Heights Subdivisions.

The Evans Center has provided **11** new jobs in the neighborhood.

The Brevard Health Alliance Clinic is currently distributing **60** food prescriptions per month, which are filled exclusively at the Evans Community Market.

**25** seniors joined the weekly Seniors & Friends Fun Spot, a social and educational program.

*"You shall be called the restorers of streets to dwell in." – Isaiah 58:12*

# Brevard—Make an INSTANT & LOCAL IMPACT

## THANKS TO YOU

The DOCK graduated 15 seniors in 2019. They are enrolled at Eastern Florida State, University of Central Florida, Florida A&M, serving in the army, and employed in the local workforce.

No child with regular attendance at the DOCK has dropped out of school or been arrested.

The average GPA among active DOCK youth is 2.6 (the high school graduation requirement is 2.0) with 44% of participants achieving a 3.0 or higher. Additionally, 99% of children who regularly attend the DOCK were advanced to the next grade level for the 2019–20 school year.

Crime in the Booker T. Washington neighborhood has dropped by 67% since the DOCK and Greater Heights were built. Calls to the Melbourne Police Department are down 35% in the BTW neighborhood and 90% on the block.

Neighbor Up staff were able to provide services at the DOCK and Greater Heights, staffing to Gifts from the Heart, and support to Evans Center with the equivalent of 6.87 full time employees.

## WHAT YOU PROVIDED

The DOCK was open as a safe haven for **810** hours after school and **360** hours over the summer.

The DOCK volunteers provided **2,201+** hours of academic assistance.

Greater Heights apartments provided affordable, attractive rental housing to over **50** residents.

DOCK youth received **88+** hours of character education.

An average of **35** volunteers per week delivered over **4,400** hours of service.

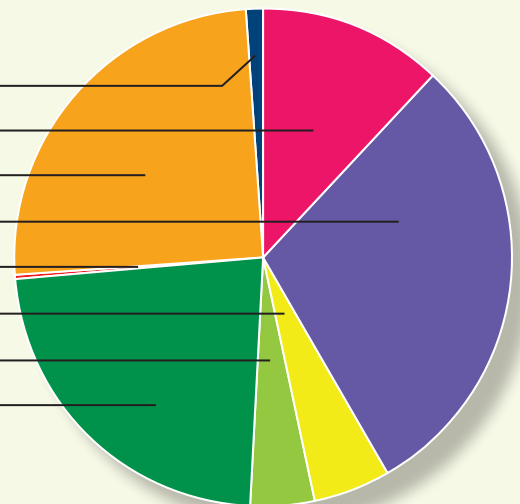
Healthy food—over **2,400** lunches and **1,400** snacks

## GIVING BY THE NUMBERS

Total donations — \$494,396.56

### 2019 Revenue sources

Rental Income — 1%  
United Way grant — 12%  
Corporations — 25%  
Individuals — 30%  
Program Fees — .3%  
Government — 5%  
Churches — 4%  
Foundations/Grants — 23%





# 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!

City of Melbourne  
The Dillen Charitable Fund via  
Community Foundation for Brevard  
Heaven's Rays via Community

Foundation for Brevard  
The Margaret Binz Foundation  
The Margaret McCartney & R Parks  
Williams Charitable Foundation

PNC Bank Foundation  
Space Coast Health Foundation  
Wawa Foundation



Volunteers from Church in the Wild and Christian Care Ministries paint a Greater Heights apartment



Teens enjoy a Magic game thanks to L3Harris



Nick Olomu, a senior at Holy Trinity, saved his money to deliver two carloads of toys to Gifts from the Heart



DOCK Garden Club motto: "Team Work Makes the Green Work!"



Thanks to a generous donor, DOCK teens attended a fun and enriching leadership conference at Epcot.



DOCK youth learn valuable lifesaving skills.

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

Tom & Linda Brandon  
Ryan Brown  
Hartley & Brenda Caldwell  
Michael Carey & Lynn Brockwell-Carey  
Denise & Tyrone Carter  
Covenant Presbyterian  
LeRoy & Arlene Darby  
Ashlee & Ernest Davidson  
Pennie & Joe Di Prima  
Arturo & Susan Echarte  
Melissa & Michael Euziere

Diann & Steve Farbowitz  
Lisa & Dave Farrall  
Mary Gaviria  
Rolanda & Jeff Gallop  
Georgianna United Methodist Church  
Rita Giuffrida  
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Tiffany & Steve Sergis  
Rebekah Tanner  
Trinity Wellsprings Church  
Amy & Brian Turner

**GIVE WITH CONFIDENCE!**



Neighbor Up Brevard is proud of our Guidestar gold seal.

# YES! I would like to "Neighbor Up"!

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

Email\_\_\_\_\_ Phone\_\_\_\_\_

One-time Donation to Neighbor Up Brevard \$\_\_\_\_\_

Designate my gift to:

\_\_\_\_\_ General fund      \_\_\_\_\_ DOCK      \_\_\_\_\_ Greater Heights      \_\_\_\_\_ Evans Center

I would like to join the Community Partners by pledging \$\_\_\_\_\_ on a monthly basis. Please invoice me.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to attend Anchor Breakfast and have enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ tickets (\$50).

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to sponsor Anchor Breakfast and have enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_.  
(visit [www.neighborupbrevard.org/anchor](http://www.neighborupbrevard.org/anchor) for details)

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like more information about planned giving.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like more information about volunteer opportunities.

## Recent Donors Contributing \$500 or more\*:

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Matt & Christie Williams  
The Rev. Joy Willard-Williford  
& Mark Williford  
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# IT'S GAME TIME!

## 14TH ANNUAL ANCHOR BREAKFAST



Friday, April 3 — Hilton Rialto Place

7:30 to 8 am: pre-game (registration & coffee)

8 am: coin toss and whistle (program and breakfast)

9:30 am: game over!

Your donation  
supports:



Dorcas Outreach Center for Kids



GREATER HEIGHTS



EVANS CENTER

[WWW.NEIGHBORUPBREVARD.ORG/ANCHOR](http://WWW.NEIGHBORUPBREVARD.ORG/ANCHOR)

Please join us for an all-star celebration featuring DOCK youth along with the supporters, volunteers, friends and staff that are revitalizing Brevard's neighborhoods in need.