



# YOUTH LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION SCHOOL YEAR PREVIEW

*Program Highlights \* Student Spotlights \* Letter from Executive Director*





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# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

As our twentieth anniversary winds to a close, we are energized by a clear vision for the Youth Leadership Foundation into 2020. From 2014-2016, we asked over 300 parents and students how to improve our programs. The answer was simple yet powerful: Parents and students want more time with YLF mentors. They expressed a need for guidance during the high school years and the desire for weekday programs, so that their students see our mentors more often. YLF responded with the implementation of weekday programs, in SY 2016-2017 planning growth from 300 students served annually to 500 in the process. In tandem, we are making strides toward our vision for 2020 to become the best high school mentoring program in our Nation's Capital. We are pleased to share our progress toward this vision in our annual School Year Preview report.



As you know, this past summer we piloted our Spirit of Service Challenge for high school students, with powerful community and supporter response. We are delivering on the promise of our inaugural summer in the 2017-2018 school year and beyond. Our middle and school students are flourishing in the strength of these programs:

- Attorney General Karl Racine personally invited the winners of our HS Business Plan Competition to his office to make his presentation to his staff
- Earlier in November — thanks to the generosity of a YLF donor — two of our students had the opportunity to visit Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY
- One of our eighth-grade students published a book
- The Principal of Georgetown Visitation visited our PALS Saturday HS Program on November 18 to discuss opportunities for our young ladies to attend academically, excellent private schools in the area

The result of our work with high school students will be a great number of young women and men from the District who are ready to shape and gracefully lead their city forward.

We, likewise, are pressing in on a weekday model that has shown success. In SY 2016-2017, YLF enrolled a record-breaking 168 students in school year programs. This fall, we have enrolled 135 students this fall towards our school-year goal of 175; we anticipate an additional 50 enrollments this spring with the addition of a public school partnership at Brookland Middle School. The impact of our weekday programs is clear: YLF students outperform peers across 7 measures predictive of future leadership.

We hope you will accept our invitation to witness these exciting developments firsthand at our programs this school year. We are grateful to partner with you to serve future leaders in our Nation's Capital.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert DeSimone".

Robert DeSimone

Executive Director

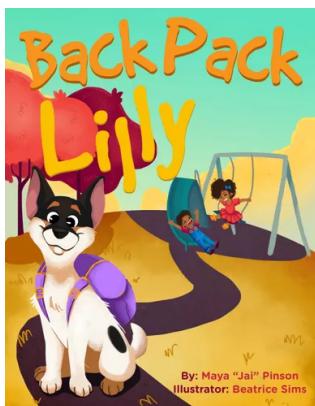
# STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



## Meet Maya PALS STUDENT

PALS student Maya Pinson has recently become the author of a new children's book. Maya is an eighth grade student at KIPP D.C. Northwest Academy hosted the launch of her new book entitled "Back Pack Lilly" on Saturday, December 2nd.

Maya has created her first of many books "Back Pack Lilly" the book features a dog that instills good study habits in children by reminding them how important it is to take time out to study and complete their work. Maya wrote this book based on her own values of hard work.



Maya has been a participant of the Youth Leadership Foundation's Program for Academic and Leadership Skills [PALS] for girls for 5 years. Of PALS, Maya commented, "I wanted to join PALS because I wanted to exemplify leadership everywhere I go. By joining the program it will sharpen my leadership skills," and, "PALS has taught me to not be a follower and how to set and show a good example." Maya is an exceptional PALS student: she participates in multiple sports and after school activities, while maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

## Meet Chisom TAP STUDENT

Chisom Agwamba has participated in TAP throughout his high school career. This past summer, Chisom joined the first cohort of 28 students participating in the HS Business Plan Competition. A panel of C-level judges, representing leaders in business and law, commended Chisom on his charisma and heartfelt approach to solving the problem of the high school graduation rate in the District.

Through the advocacy of YLF staff, and the support of individual donors, Chisom was selected to travel to Clarkson University, an independent, nationally recognized technological university in the top 10 universities nationwide for increasing our students' lifetime earnings potential. We are pleased to announce that Chisom has received acceptance for admission in the incoming freshman class for 2018-2019.



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## Principal of Georgetown Visitation meets with PALS students to discuss opportunities to attend academically, excellent private schools in the area

This semester YLF hosted a Saturday leadership series to help prepare our 7th and 8th graders for high school admissions. During the second Saturday of this "high school" series, students heard from a panel of representatives from area high schools to discuss opportunities to attend academically excellent private schools in the area. PALS students were visited by the Principal of Georgetown Visitation and Director of Upper School Admissions, Carolina Agostini. The girls enjoyed a lively conversation about being who you are and being well.



## Attorney General Karl Racine personally invited the winners of our HS Business Plan Competition to his office to present their plan to his staff



Casey Thompson (far left) with Niani Benjamin (second from left) Attorney General Karl A. Racine (middle) Victoria Ohanele (second from right) and Paris Brown (far right) at the JAMS

On Tuesday, October 17, 2017, students of the Youth Leadership Foundation were honored at the JAMS mediation firm rooftop reception in Washington DC. Sophomores, Victoria Ohanele, Paris Brown, Casey Thompson, and Niani Benjamin had the opportunity to meet and talk with a few law figures in the District and present a synopsis of their winning business plan. Attorney General Karl Racine of the District of Columbia congratulated the students on their work and extended an invitation for the winners to come and present their plan for a "New Approach" to education. Their "New Approach" consists of an individualized educational atmosphere that draws on a number of child-centered and group-learning teaching methods. As they described, "We value creative teaching methods in schools. We want to help high school students become interested in learning and create a better understanding."

## We have enrolled 135 students this fall towards our school-year goal of 175.

The Youth Leadership Foundation has sustained strong partnerships at Washington Middle School for Girls, St. Anthony School, St. Augustine School, and Highland Park. Alongside mentors, students have been exploring topics about freedom and responsibility in an energetic after school setting. We are thrilled to announce our newest partnership at Brookland Middle School to commence this coming January.

# WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

## BE A MENTOR.

The life-changing work we do is possible because of staff and volunteers that are living out the values they impart to students: to build character and live a life of excellence. Our mentors believe that a student grows as a person when (1) parents are supported to parent; (2) students experience true friendship and belonging in community; and (3) students learn to be generous according to their circumstances and give back to others. Our core beliefs are embodied in the lives our programs touch. To learn more about becoming a mentor as an individual or to organize a workplace volunteering program visit [www.helpingkids.org/get-involved](http://www.helpingkids.org/get-involved).

## SAVE THE DATE.

Youth Leadership Foundation (YLF) is proud to announce that TW Perry will receive the organization's 12th Annual Spirit of Service Award on January 25, 2018 at Columbia Country Club. Leon Harris, NBC4 News Anchor, will serve as the Master of Ceremonies.

The Spirit of Service Award recognizes leaders in the Washington Metropolitan area for their devotion to the character education and mentoring of youth. Recipients exemplify the character, values and leadership consistent with the mission of YLF. To learn more and to purchase tickets visit us online: <https://www.helpingkids.org/2018-spirit-of-service>.

## VISIT OUR SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAMS.

Our signature programs — the **Program for Academic & Leadership Skills (PALS)** for young women and the **Tenley Achievement Program (TAP)** for young men — train young professionals and college-aged men and women to build character and mentor 3rd–8th graders throughout the school year. To schedule a tour, contact Jennifer Fernandez at [jfernandez@helpingkids.org](mailto:jfernandez@helpingkids.org), or by phone (202)365-3511.



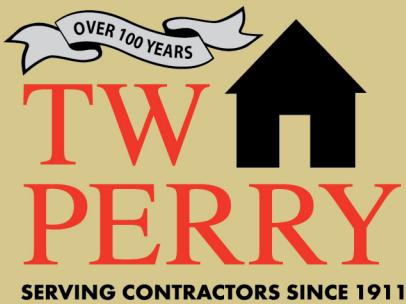
C E L E B R A T I N G



# 2018 SPIRIT OF SERVICE AWARD DINNER

## HONORING TW PERRY

JANUARY 25, 2018 • 6 PM • COLUMBIA COUNTRY CLUB



Youth Leadership Foundation's **Spirit of Service Award** recognizes leaders in the Washington metropolitan area for their devotion to the character development and education of youth. In 2018, we are looking forward to honoring **TW Perry** for the company's principled entrepreneurship, virtue in business and commitment to local families. An innovative contribution to society, exemplary management practices, and support of youth distinguishes TW Perry as a model for others.

### TW PERRY - COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

*TW Perry believes in supporting the well-being of the communities in which it operates. This is demonstrated through financial, in-kind contributions and through TW Perry employee volunteer work to select charitable and nonprofit organizations that demonstrate a positive impact on the communities in which TW Perry operates.*

*TW Perry is the first company to be recognized by YLF for the Spirit of Service honor. It represents a commitment from its leadership to continue to invest in education and a promise to build upon its support of YLF in the years to come. Through financial support of YLF programs, providing internship opportunities for students and hosting business workshops for students, the company remains ever-true to its mission of creating a shared prosperity for all.*



Youth Leadership Foundation  
1015 15th Street NW Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20005

EIN: 52-2016259

United Way # 8875

CFC # 32181

**www.helpingkids.org**  
**202.365.3602**

The Youth Leadership Foundation's (YLF) builds character among the youth in our Nation's capital through its signature programs: the Program for Academic and Leadership Skills for young women and the Tenley Achievement Program for young men.

Visit us online at [www.helpingkids.org](http://www.helpingkids.org) to learn more.



1015 15th Street NW, Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20005  
[www.helpingkids.org](http://www.helpingkids.org)  
(202) 365-3511



[youtube.com/ylfHelpingKids](https://youtube.com/ylfHelpingKids)



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