

Community Vision

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Drew Charter School Celebrates the Class of 2021

On May 22nd, Charles R. Drew Charter School graduated its fifth senior class during an in-person graduation on the athletic field. All 97 members of the Class of 2021 graduated, an amazing and resilient accomplishment after a very difficult year, much of which was virtual.

The Class of 2021 includes engineers, artists, athletes, social justice advocates, dancers, and musicians, all of whom have raised the bar for excellence at Drew Charter School. With acceptances to more than 100 colleges and universities, the Class of 2021 earned nearly 6 million dollars in college scholarships.

- **Jordan McCrary** received more than 1 million dollars in scholarship offers.
- **Dailyn Minter** received the Posse Scholarship to College of Wooster
- **Roderick Thomas** was selected as a 5 Strong Scholar and will attend Alabama State University
- **Journey Hightower** and **Sydney Berenson** received full-tuition scholarships to College of Wooster

2021 also marks the college graduation for many of the members of Drew Charter School's inaugural senior class, the Class of 2017.

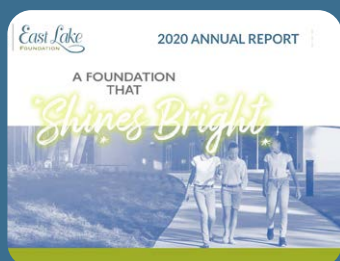
- **Alvin Winston** graduated from Yale University with a degree in History and has accepted a position with a consulting firm in Washington, DC, working with governments and nonprofits.
- **Gloria Kitchens**, Drew Charter School Valedictorian, graduated from Tufts University with a degree in



Mathematics and Computer Science. She has accepted a position in software engineering with Microsoft in Seattle, Washington.

- **Caleb Smith** is building an amazing film and video production company, IJU productions. Caleb's music videos have received more than a million views around the world.
- **Jaila Allen** graduated from Brandeis University with a degree in Health Science, Society, and Policy and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Jaila was a Posse Scholar and has recently accepted a teaching position in New York City.

The East Lake Foundation is so proud of these students in the Class of 2021 and Class of 2017 who have persevered and had tremendous success. Congratulations to all our Drew Eagles! ■



2020 Annual Report

The East Lake Foundation is proud to present the 2020 Annual Report. To view the report, please click [here](#). The East Lake Foundation's work would not be possible without your generous support and commitment to our work. Thank you. ■

Stay Covered Together Mural Encourages Mask Wearing and Vaccinations

In the Summer of 2020, Purpose Built Communities was selected as one of six organizations in cities across the country to receive a \$2 million grant through The Audacious Project and Harlem Children's Zone to support COVID-19 relief and recovery efforts in Atlanta. The Purpose Built Communities grant supports the work of



the three Purpose Built Communities Network Members in Atlanta: East Lake Foundation, Grove Park Foundation and Focused Community Strategies. The funds were intended to be utilized to offset the pandemic's impact and meet the short- and long-term needs of vulnerable residents, specifically Black people and other People of Color, and community wellness partners in the East Lake, Grove Park and Historic South Atlanta neighborhoods.

These critical funds supplemented ongoing COVID-19 relief and recovery efforts in each community and were



deployed equitably, quickly, and strategically across all three communities.

One main component of the grant was the establishment of the [#StayCoveredTogether](#) mask awareness campaign. Alongside our marketing partner, Matlock Advertising and Public Relations, these three Atlanta Purpose Built Communities distributed more than 20,000 masks and encouraged residents to wear masks and get vaccinated. Nearly 700 residents attended vaccination clinics hosted by Piedmont Healthcare across all three communities.

In April, mural artist George F. Baker, III was commissioned to paint a Stay Covered Together mural in a highly trafficked area on Moreland Avenue in Southeast Atlanta on the side of Hodgepodge Coffee House. The mural, representing masked and vaccinated residents in all three communities, was finalized in early May to great acclaim. ■

East Lake Foundation Receives COVID-19 Relief Grant from Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation

The East Lake Foundation has received a generous \$20,000 grant from the Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation to provide COVID-19 assistance for Villages of East Lake families who are struggling with the economic and health effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

These funds will be used for rent and utility assistance, and for fee assistance to ensure that children have access to essential education and wellness programs offered by the East Lake Foundation's community partners, such as early childhood education, after school, and golf and life skills programming.

"Many families in the East Lake neighborhood have been disproportionately affected by the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic," said Daniel J. Shoy, Jr., President and CEO of the East Lake Foundation. "The East Lake Foundation is honored that the Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation would invest in the East Lake community to help address the critical needs for our families and ensure they can stay in their homes and take care of their children during this very difficult time." ■



Party ON THE Green

Save the Date for Party on the Green and the East Lake Cup

Please mark your calendar for the East Lake Foundation's [Party on the Green](#). This year's event, hosted at East Lake Golf Club, will embrace our collective commitment to racial equity, inclusion, and social justice while celebrating three leaders' achievements and service to the East Lake community.

- **Hon. Shirley Franklin** – Former Mayor of Atlanta, Former Executive Chair of the Board for Purpose Built Communities
- **Renee Lewis Glover** - Founder and managing member of The Catalyst Group, LLC, Former CEO of the Atlanta Housing Authority
- **Shannon Heath-Longino** - First Vice President at Truist (formerly SunTrust), Vice Chair of the Drew Charter School Board, Former resident of East Lake Meadows and member of the historic East Lake Planning Committee



Party on the Green will be held in conjunction with the 7th Annual [East Lake Cup](#) hosted at East Lake Golf Club. These two community events will support the East Lake Foundation's COVID-19 recovery efforts and

Cradle-to-College Education Initiative to help families who are struggling as a result of the pandemic and help children reach their highest potential.

Over the last four years, these two signature events have contributed more than \$3 million to support the East Lake Foundation's programs and partners.

Joint sponsorship opportunities are available. **Please contact Jeannine Blanco at jblanco@eastlakefoundation.org or visit the Foundation's [website](#).** ■

Spectators Welcome for 2021 TOUR Championship in September

This year's TOUR Championship, the culminating event of the FedEx Cup Playoffs, will take place September 1st – September 5th at East Lake Golf Club. After a year being played without spectators due to the pandemic, the TOUR Championship is happy to welcome a limited number of spectators this year.

East Lake Golf Club has been the permanent home of the TOUR Championship since 2005. The tournament was first played at East Lake in 1998 and has been held at East Lake Golf Club 20 times since.

The East Lake Foundation is honored to be one of five primary beneficiaries of this great sporting event. In addition to the East Lake Foundation, the TOUR Championship supports [Focused Community Strategies \(FCS\)](#), [Grove Park Foundation](#), and [Purpose Built Schools Atlanta](#). All these organizations are associated with Purpose Built Communities working to strengthen communities of color in Atlanta through holistic community revitalization. The tournament also supports [First Tee of Metro Atlanta](#), a golf and life skills program for young people.

Despite the 2020 tournament limitations due to the



pandemic, our partners at the PGA TOUR, the Coca-Cola Company, Southern Company and others used innovative ideas to engage fans and raise funds. As a result, the 2020 TOUR Championship raised \$1.3 million to support the mission of the East Lake Foundation.

The East Lake Foundation is grateful for the support of the golf fans, PGA TOUR, PGA TOUR players, the Coca-Cola Company, Southern Company, other corporate sponsors, and the many volunteers who make this tournament possible each year.

To purchase tickets, please click [here](#). ■

Start:ME East Lake Graduates 7th Cohort

On April 28th, Start:ME East Lake graduated its 2021 cohort of 17 ventures. The 14-session accelerator program, in partnership with Goizueta Business School at Emory University, Access Capital for Entrepreneurs and the East Lake Foundation, provides business know-how, mentorship support, and early-stage capital to promising micro-entrepreneurs (those with 1-4 employees) to develop viable and sustainable businesses.

The program, offered virtually this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, hosted online meetings, presentations, and networking. Program managers worked with hundreds of Start:ME alums to help them weather the pandemic and pivot their offerings where possible to remain profitable. Start:ME also launched a crowdfund campaign to support microbusinesses. The campaign identified COVID-19-focused small business resources for any small business in Atlanta, including emergency funding opportunities and resources to build resilience.

Of the 17 ventures represented in the 2021 cohort, 71% of the ventures are led by people of color, 88% by women, and 71% from low-to-moderate income households.

The final Showcase event was held virtually. It featured a celebration of all graduating ventures, speeches from alumni, and grant investment award announcements. The following Start:ME East Lake entrepreneurs were selected to receive grants to help grow their businesses.



Start:ME Growth Grants of up to \$4,000

- Reggie Sanders of [Car Key Auto Sales](#) (East Lake)
- Scott Oglesbay of [The Bodyhood](#) (East Lake)

Start:ME Start Grants of up to \$1,500

- Meleah Gray Brown of [SEW DOPE](#) (East Lake)
- Noor Iqbal and Jess Boyd of the [Atlanta Forest School](#) (East Lake)

Peer-of-the-Year Grants of \$500

- Bri Boyd of [Beaute by Bri](#) (East Lake)

Community Impact Grants of \$500

- Christen Orr of [LoveDog](#) (East Lake)

Since the Start:ME East Lake program began, 110 business with a combined annual revenue exceeding \$5 million have been served, more than 350 jobs were created or retained, and 30+ businesses have received capital grants. **For more information on the Start:ME program, visit www.startmeatl.org.** ■

East Lake Foundation Welcomes Bank of America Student Leaders

The East Lake Foundation is proud to host five Bank of America Student Leaders this summer. The Bank of America Student Leaders Program recognizes and rewards high school juniors and graduating seniors for their passion and commitment to community service by placing them in paid internships across the United States. The Foundation, partnering with Bank of America for the 9th year, is thrilled to host these talented students this summer. They will spend their time working virtually with several East Lake Initiative partners.

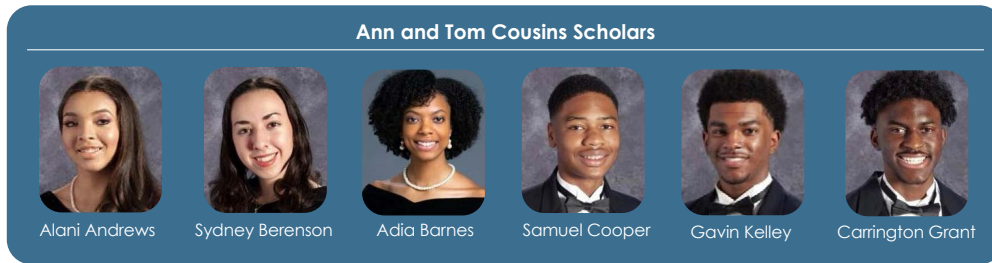
- **Oumy Gueye** – Oumy will attend Emory University in the Fall and plans to study pre-med with the desire to become a doctor.
- **Minji Kang** – Minji will attend Georgia Institute of Technology in the Fall and plans to study Biology with an interest in plastic surgery and cosmetology.
- **Divine Madubike** – Divine will attend Mercer University in the Fall studying International Affairs with a minor in Economics with an interest in becoming an attorney.



- **Esther Ceballos Ortiz** – Esther is a rising senior at Westlake High School and is interested in pursuing public health.
- **Jamal Sayid** – Jamal will attend Rice University in the Fall and plans to study Political Science and Business with the desire to become an attorney. ■

East Lake Foundation Names Scholars from the Class of 2021

Drew Charter School hosted the annual Senior Awards ceremony virtually on May 17th. With a fun 90s theme, the event formally showcased the academic achievements of the Class of 2021 graduates. We are so proud to recognize these special students from the Class of 2021 with scholarships sponsored in part by the East Lake Foundation.



Ann and Tom Cousins Scholars

(\$5,000 scholarship annually, renewable for four years)

- Alani Andrews
- Sydney Berenson
- Adia Barnes
- Samuel Cooper
- Gavin Kelley
- Carrington Grant

Eva Davis Empowerment Scholars

(\$3,000 scholarship annually, renewable for four years)

- Jabari Freeman
- Jordan Dixon
- Kennedy Bradshaw
- Kenneth Jones
- Brianna Griggs
- Taylor Lipscomb
- Molly Watkins

RC Pruitt Scholar

(\$3,000 scholarship annually, renewable for four years)

- Celestine Cole

Fischer Family Scholars

(\$500 each)

- Alanna Tookes
- Kim Foster
- Jonathan Bush
- Kira Clark

Jackson Family Scholars

(\$500 each)

- Jordan McCrary
- Jada Roseberry



For more information on the Foundation's sponsored scholarships, please click [here](#). If you are interested in supporting Drew Charter School's College and Career Readiness Program, please email Jessie Bond at jbond@eastlakefoundation.org. ■

Geathers Twins Complete Cradle-to-College Pipeline in East Lake



Lyonah



ShaNya

ShaNya and Lyonah Geathers, residents at The Villages of East Lake, are proud members of Drew Charter School's Class of 2021. Starting

their early education at Sheltering Arms East Lake and matriculating through Drew Charter School, they have completed the cradle-to-college pipeline in East Lake with plans to attend college.

ShaNya Geathers is interested in fashion design and

merchandising and Lyonah would like to become a Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technician.

Their mother Kishina Geathers is overwhelmingly excited to have witnessed her daughters' remarkable growth since their first days at Sheltering Arms East Lake. Geathers said, "Their educational experience in East Lake starting at Sheltering Arms and matriculating through Drew Charter School was Godsend. From the duration of pre-school to high school, all parties contributed to making sure they successfully obtained their diplomas. East Lake provided a community full of support and a wealth of resources that aided my family and further enabled my daughters to stay the course." ■

East Lake YMCA Names New Director



Joe Ambler has been named the East Lake Family YMCA's new Executive Director. Ambler has been part of the Atlanta YMCA Association since 2005, beginning his YMCA career at the Carl E. Sanders Buckhead Family YMCA. During his time at the Buckhead Family YMCA, he served as a Tennis Professional, Director of Tennis, Senior Program Director and Associate Executive. Most recently Joe has provided leadership as the Branch Executive at the JM Tull - Gwinnett Family YMCA.

Joe has a wealth of experience in program and membership growth, fund development, operations, and partnerships. Prior to working for the YMCA, Joe served the communities of East Lake, Kirkwood and Oakhurst through the Department of Juvenile Justice, supporting the neighborhoods and serving youth and families. Joe's family has also been deep-rooted in the service area of the East Lake YMCA for the last 16 years and he is already strongly connected to the East Lake community. ■

Community Garden Opens at The Villages of East Lake Gardenside



In late 2020, Columbia Residential opened The Villages of East Lake Gardenside, a new mixed-income apartment complex in the East Lake neighborhood. The state-of-the-art 108-unit complex, located behind the Publix at East Lake facing Fayetteville Rd., features apartments with 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms, playground, community room and a beautiful community garden.

On Earth Day, April 22nd, we were proud to host the grand opening of the community garden. Gardenside residents who reserved plots joined us to cut the ribbon, till their dirt and plant their first vegetables and flowers. Thank you to Farmer Joe at East Lake Commons' organic Gaia Gardens for providing plants, flowers, and important gardening tips. ■

Drew Charter School Alumnus Suprim Allah Graduates from Bard College



Suprim Allah was a member of Drew Charter School's Inaugural Class of 2017. He matriculated to Bard College where he recently graduated with a degree in studio arts with a concentration in Africana studies.

Despite the difficulties associated with attending college during a pandemic and showing art without many patrons due to pandemic protocols, Suprim was able to pivot beautifully and has excelled. When talking about his art, he says he hopes to use his art as a form of activism, but to do it subtly utilizing authentic Black stories and tapping into all the different facets of Black identity.

Post-graduation, Suprim hopes to continue his art and participate with the Japanese Exchange and Teaching Program.

Suprim attributes much of his collegiate success to his experiences at Drew Charter School. He said, "I feel like Drew gave me a very confident sense of who I was... There was a level of familiarity that we got to have with each other where people could be their most authentic self." Suprim also reflects on the high-quality college and career readiness program that introduced him to Bard and the scholarship opportunity that ultimately provided him the finances to attend.

He hopes to continue to stay connected with the Drew Charter School community where he has participated as a virtual guest in several arts classes and Alumni panels. ■

The East Lake Foundation is nationally known for its integrated approach to community revitalization that focuses on three pillars: **cradle-to-college education**, **mixed-income housing** and **community wellness**. The Foundation serves as the lead organization working closely with its partners within and across these pillars to benefit our youth and their families. To make a donation visit eastlakefoundation.org.