

Community Vision



Drew Charter School Celebrates Class of 2024

In May, Charles R. Drew Charter School celebrated the 111 graduates of the Class of 2024. This impressive class includes artists, athletes, musicians, dancers, and engineers. 98% of the class graduated and 97% of its college applicants were accepted into 130 colleges and universities.

Collectively, the Class of 2024 was awarded more than \$13 million in scholarships, which included two Posse, two 5-Strong, two Gates, one Ron Brown, one Emerging 100 of Atlanta Leadership, two HCZ Wealth Builds, four athletic, and 36 East Lake Foundation scholarships.

Congratulations to the Class of 2024! ■



Drew Charter School's Valedictorian and Salutatorian Shine Inside and Outside the Classroom

Drew Charter School's Valedictorian, Morgan Walker, and Salutatorian, Alana Nicholson, were recognized this year for their academic success, but also their artistic accomplishments outside of school. Both "Drew Babies," having attended Drew since Pre-K and Kindergarten respectively, Morgan and Alana successfully completed the cradle-to-college continuum. In addition to excelling in the classroom, each of them has artistic talent that exemplifies the 'A' in STEAM.

Morgan is a talented composer whose original musical composition was performed by the renowned Georgia Philharmonic Orchestra. He attends Columbia University and hopes to be an astronomer and musician.

Alana is an amazing artist whose artwork has been featured in several galleries and shows. During her com-



mencement address she unveiled her gift to Drew Charter School—a portrait depicting Charles R. Drew. She is attending Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) with hopes of continuing in an art career. ■

Run for East Lake 5K & Fun Run Showcases Restored East Lake Golf Club

On August 3, 2024, the East Lake Foundation hosted the 2nd Annual Run for East Lake 5K & Fun Run. It was a fun-filled day of fitness and community spirit, bringing together residents, students and visitors of all ages and fitness levels.

More than 400 participants hit the streets of East Lake running from Drew Charter School through the neighborhood. The route featured Drew Charter School, the Charlie Yates Golf Course, the Villages of East Lake, the Publix at East Lake, and finished with a half mile stretch on the cart paths traversing the back nine of the newly restored East Lake Golf Club.

The Run for East Lake raised nearly \$20,000 to support the East Lake Foundation thanks to our participants and generous sponsors: East Lake Family YMCA (Presenting), Purpose Built Communities, Ashley Derrick Realty, Columbia Residential, City of Atlanta District 5, Sovereign Realty & Management, Oakhurst Market/UJoint, East Lake Neighborhood Development Corporation, Perc Coffee, and Coca-Cola Bottling.

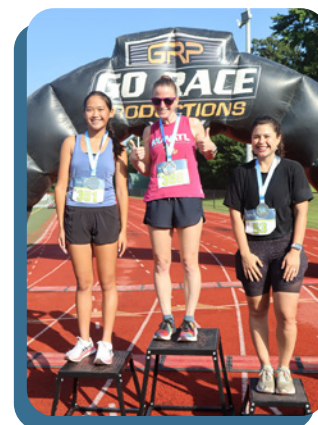
Congratulations to our top finishers:

5K Men

- Brett Vogt - 18:30.56
- David Kurt - 20:03.32
- Everett Teusink - 20:18.66

5K Women

- Ashley Bozart - 20:19.49
- Chelsea Kallen - 22:42.28
- Lauren Tippins - 23:43.35



Click [here](#) for the full race results. Mark your calendars for next year's Run for East Lake, scheduled for August 2, 2025. ■

East Lake Foundation Welcomes Students Back to School



In July, the East Lake Foundation held its annual Back to School Community Day at the Villages of East Lake, bringing families together for a fun-filled day of excitement and preparation for the new school year. The event

featured a variety of activities, including games, delicious food, vendor spotlights, and the popular ice cream truck, all creating an atmosphere of celebration for both kids and adults. Thank you to RSM for sponsoring the ice cream truck.

One of the highlights was the backpack giveaway, ensuring that students were prepared to start the school year. We extend a heartfelt thank you to For the Kid in All of Us and RSUI for their generous donations of backpacks. We are also deeply grateful to the numerous volunteers, community partners, and students for helping to make the day a great success.

For more information about community programs and volunteer opportunities, please contact Jennifer McCrary at jmccrary@eastlakefoundation.org. ■

East Lake Foundation welcomes Ed Elkins to its Board of Directors



The East Lake Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of Ed Elkins to its Board of Directors. Mr. Elkins, Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer at Norfolk Southern Corporation, brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to community and sustainability.

Ed Elkins has had an illustrious 35-year career with Norfolk Southern since joining as a Road Brakeman in 1988. Over the years, he has held various positions, including Conductor, Locomotive Engineer, Relief Yardmaster, and has spent two decades in Intermodal Marketing. In 2016, he was named Group Vice President of Chemicals Marketing and was promoted to Vice President of Industrial Products in 2018. Since 2021, he has led the Intermodal, Automotive, and Industrial Products business divisions, and managed the Real Estate, Industrial Development, Short Line Marketing, Field Sales, and Customer Logistics business groups.

Mr. Elkins' dedication to community service is evident in his engagement with several high-performing organizations, including his role as Vice Chair of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and his memberships on the boards of the National Association of Manufacturers and TTX Company. He also serves on the Georgia State University Marketing RoundTable and is a member of The Conference Board, Inc. on the Council for CMOs.

"I am honored to join the East Lake Foundation Board of Directors, and I am inspired by the Foundation's history and legacy of fostering equitable access to important resources for families," said Ed Elkins. "I look forward to working alongside my fellow board members to contribute to the continued growth and success of the vibrant East Lake community."

"The East Lake Foundation welcomes Mr. Elkins and looks forward to the valuable insights and leadership he will bring to our organization," said Ilham Askia, President & CEO, East Lake Foundation. ■

Start:ME Graduates 10th Cohort; Applications now open for 2025 Cohort



In April, Start:ME East Lake graduated its 2024 cohort of 16 ventures. The impactful accelerator program in partnership with Goizueta Business School at Emory University, Access for Capital for Entrepreneurs and the East Lake Foundation, provides business know-how, mentorship support, and early-stage capital to promising micro-entrepreneurs to develop and sustain businesses.

Of the 16 ventures represented in the 2024 cohort, 83% of the ventures were led by women, 57% were led by

people of color, and 61% by people who identify as low-to-moderate income. Three entrepreneurs live in the Villages of East Lake, eight are Drew Charter School parents, and two are Drew Charter School staff. The final showcase featured a celebration of all graduating ventures and grant investment award announcements, including a Community Impact Award presented by the East Lake Foundation.

Since the program began, more than 150 ventures have been served, more than 350 jobs were created or retained, and more than 40 businesses have received capital grants.

Applications are now open for the 2025 Start:ME East Lake Program. ***If you are a promising small business owner who may be interested in this free business accelerator program, please apply now. Applications will be accepted until October 5, 2024.*** ■

The East Lake Women's Alliance Doubles Down on Volunteerism

The East Lake Women's Alliance (ELWA), a philanthropic group of committed Atlanta women, is amplifying its efforts to support the East Lake community. By working closely with the East Lake Foundation's programs, ELWA members are gaining deeper insights into the community's unique needs. Their volunteer efforts are helping to drive meaningful change while fostering a strong sense of connection between the group and East Lake residents.

One of ELWA's standout initiatives this year was the "Garden Party," held at the Villages of East Lake community garden. This signature event brought members and residents together in a collaborative effort to enhance the shared green space, promoting sustainability and community bonding.

With a renewed focus on volunteerism, the ELWA is more committed than ever to making a lasting impact in East Lake.

If you are interested in learning more about the East Lake Women's Alliance, please email Kivatah Castilla at kcastilla@eastlakefoundation.org. ■



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

We hope you'll join us **Saturday, October 26, 2024**, at East Lake Golf Club for Party on the Green, the Foundation's signature fundraising event and celebratory party for the 10th Annual East Lake Cup, hosted in partnership with Golf Channel and East Lake Golf Club.

This year's Party on the Green will honor Kathie and Chuck Palmer who will be recognized for their volunteer and philanthropic support of the East Lake Foundation and unwavering commitment to our families in the East Lake and Drew Charter School communities.



Chuck serves on the boards of the East Lake Golf Club and the East Lake Foundation and as General Chairman for the TOUR Championship.

The 10th Annual East Lake Cup will take place October 28-30, 2024, and feature eight of the top men's and women's programs, including seven of this year's semifinalists from the NCAA national championships.



Golf Channel and Peacock will provide live coverage of the competition.

Party on the Green and East Lake Cup benefit the East Lake Foundation's cradle-to-college and career continuum ensuring that children from birth through 12th grade are educated, nurtured, and empowered to achieve their full potential.

Sponsorship opportunities and tickets for Party on the Green are available. ***Please visit the Foundation's [website](https://www.eastlakefoundation.org) or contact Kivatah***

Castilla at kcastilla@eastlakefoundation.org for more information or to secure your ticket. ■



East Lake Golf Club Celebrates Grand Reopening and Welcomes the TOUR Championship

In the weeks leading up to the TOUR Championship, East Lake Golf Club celebrated its grand reopening after an extensive restoration of the golf course, led by golf course architect, Andrew Green. Green's restoration of the golf course preserves the Club's renowned history while incorporating modern touches seen on some of the best championship courses in the world. The course was ready in time and in perfect condition to welcome the 30 best golfers in the world for the TOUR Championship.

After four days of exciting competition, Scottie Scheffler capped off his history-making season by winning the TOUR Championship and claiming his first FedEx Cup. The TOUR Championship, with generous support of its Proud Partners, The Coca-Cola Company, Southern Company and Accenture has raised more than \$50 million for local nonprofits since the event was first staged at East Lake Golf Club in 1998.

This year's tournament proceeds support five charitable beneficiaries: East Lake Foundation, First Tee – Metro Atlanta, Focused Community Strategies, Grove Park Foundation, and Purpose Built Schools Atlanta.

To kick off TOUR Championship week, Southern Company hosted Tee Up ATL, a celebratory welcome event featuring 2 Chainz, PGA professionals Rory McIlroy and Shane Lowry, and hosted by Ryan Cameron, at the Eastern.

New this year at Tee Up ATL was a philanthropic twist. This year's event featured a special artist activation sponsored by Southern Company and curated by artist Greg Mike and the ABV Agency. Four custom designed golf bags, displayed at Tee Up



ATL and later at the Georgian hospitality suite at the TOUR Championship, were auctioned off to support the East Lake Foundation.

Thank you to the PGA TOUR, The Coca-Cola Company, Southern Company, Accenture, East Lake Golf Club, and all our corporate partners, spectators and volunteers for their continued support! Next year's TOUR Championship will be held Wednesday, August 21-24, 2025. **If you are interested in securing hospitality, please contact Scott Gordon ScottGordon@pgatourhq.com.** ■



The Foundation hosts Bank of America Student Leaders



The Bank of America Student Leaders

Celebrating our 12th year of partnership, the East Lake Foundation was thrilled to host five Bank of America student leaders this summer. The Bank of America Student Leaders program empowers rising high school seniors and rising college freshman to make a difference in the community through an eight-week paid internship. Selected from a pool of more than 300 applicants, this year's student leaders were remarkable. They spent their time working with several East Lake Initiative partners, assisted in the garden at the Villages of East Lake Gardenside, and supported the Run for East Lake 5K & Fun Run.

East Lake Foundation's 2024 Bank of America Student Leaders:

Annie Lin - Annie is a freshman at Georgia Tech majoring in environmental science. She is passionate about environmental justice and transitions to ecological reconstruction and has conducted research on E. coli contamination in the Chattahoochee River. She is also the founder of First Step, a community service team

that now has about 200 volunteers and various partner organizations.

Ellis Schroeder - Ellis is a senior at Druid Hills High School. Passionate about combining research and advocacy to promote health equity and sun safety, Ellis leads the international organization DermaTeens, reaching over 150k teens across the world in their youth-targeted skin health programming.

Matthew Phillips - Matthew is a freshman at Princeton University majoring in politics. He is interested in urban studies and community development. In high school, he started Model UN and was the Quiz Bowl Team captain. He has coached lacrosse at Druid Lakes Youth Lacrosse League.

Ososese Okojie - Ososese 'Oso,' is a senior at Douglas County High School. Interested in finance and economics, she started a financial literacy club at her high school and organized various service projects in Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), a pre-professional business club for which she serves as Vice President of Community Service, including a sandwich project for the unhoused and a March of Dimes fundraiser walk.

Paul Gomez - Paul is a senior in the magnet program at South Cobb High School. He is passionate about medicine, especially trauma surgery, as well as health and educational equity. He spends his time shadowing physicians in Mexico and the United States, including those in the emergency medicine department at Grady Hospital. He aspires to become a trauma surgeon and tackle health disparities. ■

East Lake Foundation Awarded Impactful Grant Funding

The East Lake Foundation is excited to expand education initiatives at the Charles R. Drew Charter School. Through a three-year, \$1,250,000 grant from The Goizueta Foundation, the initiative will expand College & Career Readiness Program, the Cox Pre-K Fellowship Program, and post pandemic academic recover efforts. The Goizueta Foundation's generous investment into

these signature programs will help ensure all students in the cradle-to-college continuum get the academic support they need to reach their full potential.

For more information about how you can support our work, please visit our [website](#) or contact Kivatah Castilla at kcastilla@eastlakefoundation.org. ■

The East Lake Foundation is nationally known for its integrated holistic approach to community revitalization that focuses on four pillars: **cradle-to-college education, mixed-income housing, community wellness** and **economic vitality**. 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.