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A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FAMILY CHANGE IN ONE GENERATION. The dream—to see children and families experience paradigm shifts that reflect their God-given potential takes time—lots of small steps built on making good choices. Few things in life matter more than our **choices**. Yet this vital opportunity is often met with casual consideration or passive indifference. So many overlook the importance of the choice we make today and the role they play in tomorrow. God spoke to the children of Israel about the issue of choosing, telling them, "*Today I have given you the choice between life and death,*

between blessings and curses. I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, that you and your descendants might live!" **Deuteronomy 30:19 NLT**. Making good choices is a topic often talked about with our students because we want them to understand how the choices they make today will impact their future. This is why we are celebrating the choice made by two of our **His Hoops** athletes to attend the Kanakuk Link Year program next fall. Kevin and Morgan will both graduate from high school this June, serve on our staff this summer, and head off to Branson, MO in August. We rejoice in their choice because we know it will prove beneficial to their ongoing development as athletes, students, and men of character. Ultimately, we trust that this choice, along with others, will play a role in the future families these young men will establish. I would like to thank all our friends who pray, volunteer, and give so students like Kevin and Morgan can continue to be mentored in choosing wisely to affect positive outcomes for their futures.

Grace to you,

Dana L. Thomas
Executive Director



Our 2021 Impact Report!

- 0% teen pregnancies
- 0% high school dropout rate
- 100% participation in our Parent Enrichment program
- 98% of our graduating seniors attended college/trade schools/had current job offers
- 300 Volunteers
- Prepared and distributed 900 Boxes of Love (Thanksgiving dinners) throughout the city
- Hired part-time trauma therapist, reading specialist, and full-time assistant sport's coach





Exciting things are happening at the FORGE for Families this spring! Our second His Hoops team is about to graduate from high school and with that comes decisions on what the future holds. Please meet a couple of young men who just made some potential life changing decisions: Kevin and Morgan.

They recently accepted the opportunity to attend Kanakuk Link Year Academy in Branson, Missouri. Link Year is an 8-month foundational Biblical gap year program designed to build a solid foundation within each student and empowering future leaders to impact the world for Christ. These young men will be experiencing all these development opportunities, and also will be a part of their basketball program which is a top 10 program in the nation.

We are excited for these young men and how this opportunity will influence their development as well as the prospects of them earning a scholarship for their education in the future. Both young men participate in our high school leadership program Jump Start and other programs over the past 5 years. We share in their excitement and invite you to join us in praying that they will make the most of the opportunity and have life changing experiences while they are there.

Ben Jones Athletic Director



Godspeed Taylor Funchess

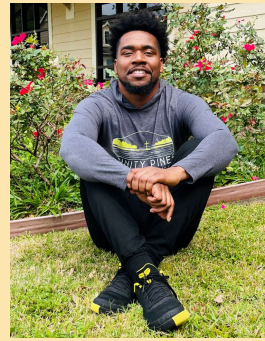
Taylor came to the FORGE as a 14-year-old freshman in high school. She participated in our high school leadership development program while being mentored by our Program Director. As a high school intern, she served in our afterschool program tutoring students, and throughout her college career has worked in our summer program as a lead counselor.

For more than eight years, we have had the privilege to walk alongside her. It is always our desire to see a student come full circle and return to the community to serve. On December 11, 2021, Taylor graduated from Prairie View A & M University with her BA in education. She is teaching 8th grade ELA at a community title I school. Needless to say, we are extremely proud of her accomplishment.

Bridget Thomas Program Director

A WARM WELCOME

We are excited to announce 3 new additions to the FORGE Staff.



Zedric Davis - Youth Outreach/Discipleship Coordinator
Zed is from the neighborhood and has been volunteering with the FORGE for 7 Years. Recently he left his secular job and found God calling him to the FORGE to fulfill his desire working with youth. Zed is attending the college of Biblical Studies to get his bachelor's degree in organizational leadership. He is married to his wife Nakeisha, and they have 2 young children, Zedric Jr and Kierstyn.

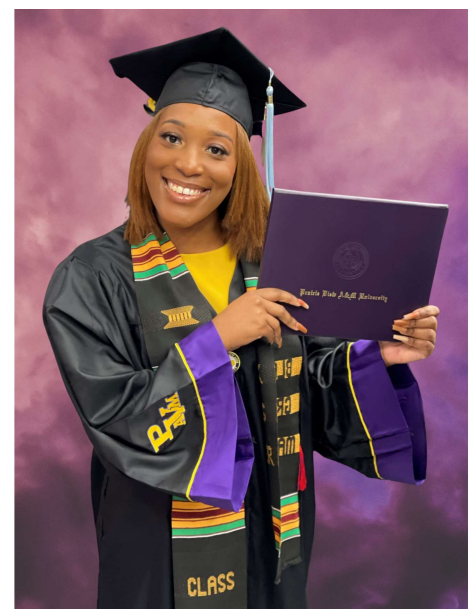


Brandi Jones- Development Assistant
Brandi has more than 20 years of administrative experience in the oil and gas industry and is originally from Louisiana. She was introduced to the FORGE through her church, Autumn Creek Baptist Church. She also left the secular workplace to pursue her longing to work for a ministry. Brandi is married to Daniel and has two children, Christian and Nico.



Kevin Truesdel- Business Manager
Kevin has many years of experience working in the corporate world. Kevin found us through a volunteer opportunity at Second Baptist Church and the rest is history! He received his undergraduate degree at Clemson University and his masters at Wake Forest. Kevin is married to Maria and has 2 grown children, Andres & Cristian.

Welcome Zed, Brandi, and Kevin. We are blessed God sent you our way!





Holly Jolly Toy Store and Boxes of Love

Winter 2021

The FORGE for Families collaborated again this year with over 20 ministries across the city to provide 900+ Thanksgiving dinners to families across the Third Ward and Houston. Over 200 volunteers arrived at the FORGE to organize, pack, and distribute the dinners. Some of the volunteers assisted in decorating our campus for Christmas!

Several weeks later 75 families arrived to shop at The FORGE for Families Annual Holly Jolly Christmas Store. This year we collected 1141 toys and 278 gift cards (more than previous years). We collaborated with the following schools and community organizations: Thompson and Foster Elementary, Yellowstone Academy, Missionary Village Apartments, Barbara Jordan School, and various Community members.

Thank you to all those who provided gift cards, toys and who volunteered! We seriously couldn't do this without your generosity.

Beth Lee Development Director



Coastal Bay Insurance



Seven Mile Road

Elevate Church



RVOS Lodge 146



WK Leonard Sales & Services, INC





the FORGE for Families
A Christ-centered Urban Ministry

The FORGE for Families
3435 Dixie Drive
Houston, TX 77021

SAVE THE DATE



The famous Champions Golf Club Cypress Course, the site of the 1967 Ryder Cup, 1969 US Open, 1993 US Amateur, the 1990, 1992, 1999, 2001, and 2003 PGA TOUR Championship, the 1998 & 2017 US Women's Mid-Amateur and The 2021 US Women's Open



FORGE FOR FAMILIES GOLF CLASSIC

MONDAY APRIL 25 2022
Champions Golf Club
13722 Champions Drive - Houston, Texas 77076

10:30 am Registration
11:30 am Lunch
12:30 am Shotgun Start
Awards reception (following play)

To register online, visit www.forgeforfamilies.org

Questions? Call Beth Williams Lee 713.660.1871 or bethwlee@forgeforfamilies.org

2022 HONORARY GOLF CHAIRS
Jimmy Burke
Alliant Insurance
Warren Spencer
Bayou City Lumber

GOLF CO-CHAIRS
Clint Bawcom
Cushman & Wakefield
Lance Dardis
Evercore
Marcela Maxson
Inspireity
Frank Meyer
MC Management & Development
Blake Webster
Quantum Energy Partners

BRIEF UPDATES ON OUR PROGRAMS

- **After-School Enrichment** - As a result of the negative impact that Covid has had on our after-school program we continue to focus heavily on improving reading proficiency. In addition to using a remediation software for all students, we have added a reading specialist who is focusing on remediation for our K-3rd grade students.
- **The SET** - Our youth night program continues to serve middle and high school students who gather on campus weekly for fun, food, fellowship, and God's word. Once a month we take The SET to a local apartment community where our staff get to love on kids of all ages.
- **His Hoops** - AAU Basketball season is in full swing. We've added a middle school girls' team to this program. 4-nights per week players are practicing, doing tutorials, and getting God's word. Weekends are filled with competing in tournaments.
- **Summer Camp** - We will be operating our summer camp at full capacity (115) and taking 75 campers to overnight camp. This will be the first time in two years we operated at capacity! We are excited that we are already 80% full for our summer program. We are looking forward to a fun filled summer.

MISSIONARY VILLAGE APARTMENTS

My name is Dr. Louann Pepper. I am the Social Service Coordinator for Missionary Village Apartment Community here in Houston's Third Ward. I provide residents affordable housing through the Housing Choice Voucher Program and other needed resources for all ages. I have had the opportunity to build trusting relationships with many of our families.

As a result of COVID, The FORGE for Families has implemented a monthly on-site program at the apartments for our kids in the community. The FORGE staff arrives in their vans, provides a snack, organizes activities, and interacts with our kids. I am grateful for ALL the care, concern, and consistency The FORGE has shown **our students** who call MVA home.

Additionally, The FORGE's staff drives their van to the complex weekly to pick up students and deliver them to the FORGE campus to attend "The SET," a Monday night teen outreach program.

I am thankful for how the staff demonstrates the love of Christ each week, and also for how they tangibly express His love by delivering goodie bags to recognize our kids' birthdays. These small tokens of celebration make a huge difference in the lives of students who desperately need positive role models.

A big thank you to The FORGE for being the hands and feet of Jesus to our apartment community.

-Dr. Louann Pepper