



2021-2023
**Impact
Report**

 **THEGIFTED ARTS**
Empower. Perform. Unite.



FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

In the last few years, we've seen inspirational program impact moments at TheGifted Arts that continue to exponentially fuel our WHY. During this time, we've also faced great challenges, some of which have been with us since the agency's inception, but further complicated by the pandemic, such as access to funding and student retention. Yet and still, we persevered, as we have always done.

Our youth exhibit inherent persistence and resilience, consistently striving for greatness. As such, we took notes from their playbook. As we continued to push through, our families, community and supporters stood by us, carrying us along the way.

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Our students embody agency values in their desire to educate, excite, empower, and inspire the community, with every opportunity they receive to present and perform. Over the last two years our GiftedArtists have been extremely busy learning and curating projects that speak to the essence of who they are now and who they wish to become, as well as a creative display of how they view society. As performers they are dedicated to their craft and work hard to ensure that each audience member leaves with a positive experience and thoughts on how they too can be good people and share joy with others.

Our overall growth has been expansive across program areas and the entire agency, which is fantastic because it reinforces that we are doing the right work that is valued by so many. Choosing to be a part of TheGifted Arts programs means young people are entering a space where they will be safe, seen and celebrated, by a dedicated team of individuals deeply invested in their growth and development. We also seek to ignite the inner creative, while cultivating a critical thinker that can navigate the complexities of the world in which we live.

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Lastly, we want each child to have an opportunity to see, hear and experience artistic moments where they see themselves and naturally connect. We heard from 170 GiftedSummer campers and they reported an aggregate 99.2% overall enjoyment satisfaction rating. Our youth are developing artists, yes this is true, and they are growing in many ways that will prepare them for life, as one student reflects that "It's not always about how good you are, it's about how much effort you put in."

We have evolved from a collective of passionate volunteers to a team of seven dedicated paid staff members, steadfastly navigating through a global pandemic, social unrest, and isolation, all while facing budgetary challenges. Despite these obstacles, **our resolve to co-create enduring experiences for the young people and communities we serve has only strengthened.** After seven early years as a volunteer-run agency, our once nominal operating budget has increased by 80% from 2021 to 2023, as has our resolve. This substantial growth has afforded us greater capacity to excel in our mission: **transforming the lives of youth through culturally**

artistic experiences. Rest assured, we are unwavering in our commitment and have no intention of slowing down.

...our resolve to co-create enduring experiences for the young people and communities we serve has only strengthened.

While we are growing, we still need your help to keep the mission thriving. **We hope that you will join the 40+ volunteers, 9,500+ audience goers, and 220+ community of financial supporters that stood with us in these last few fiscal years.**

We are eagerly looking forward to a promising 2024.

In service,

Nicholé Morgan
Co-Founder + Executive Director



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MISSION

We transform the lives of youth through culturally responsive artistic experiences.

We play an integral role in helping young people establish healthy behaviors that provide a positive and enriching physical, emotional, and mental state of being; strengthening their gifts and abilities to become agents of change.

We are committed to eliminating racial inequalities in the arts and dismantling systems of oppression with and through our art.

VISION

Our vision is to inspire all youth to transcend and embrace their purpose.

VALUES

Engage

We captivate the interests of those we serve

Excite

We bring joy and happiness in all that we do

Educate

We inform and empower all those who will listen

Excellence

We always present the best and most authentic version of ourselves

Family

We create community in all we do

Inspire

We motivate others to take meaningful action

AT A GLANCE

From serving 25 students in 2011, TheGifted Arts now enriches nearly 400 young people each year, through its own site-based programming and through formal partnerships with area elementary and middle schools and community partnerships. TGA takes great pride in cultural arts that celebrate and honor black and brown youth. We have a niche focus on delivering high quality cultural performing arts programs, experiences and curricula, which include but are not limited to step, spoken word, Hip Hop dance, music, fashion performance and original theater productions rooted in celebrating and understanding our cultural experiences.

We envision a world where young people will be celebrated for their culture, heritage and who they are. GiftedAcademy is our longest-standing youth-based projects and programs that utilize our custom formula and curriculum to build confidence, leadership, and artistic development while cultivating

social-emotional skills, self-worth, and drive with each young person.

Recently nominated as a Transforming the Triangle and Renaissance awardee by Triangle Community Foundation and Evolve Mentoring, respectively, TGA has utilized the arts as the vehicle to motivate, empower and inspire K-12 students to transcend their perceived or realized limitations to actualize a full and meaningful life for themselves, their families and community.

We believe that every child should have a safe place to belong, shed the pressures of the world, and be confident enough to live within their purpose. As such, **our curriculum is designed to defend and nurture the gifts in our youth** and we strongly believe in the power of intention – that with racial and social justice and liberated black and brown communities, youth will magnify their personal power.

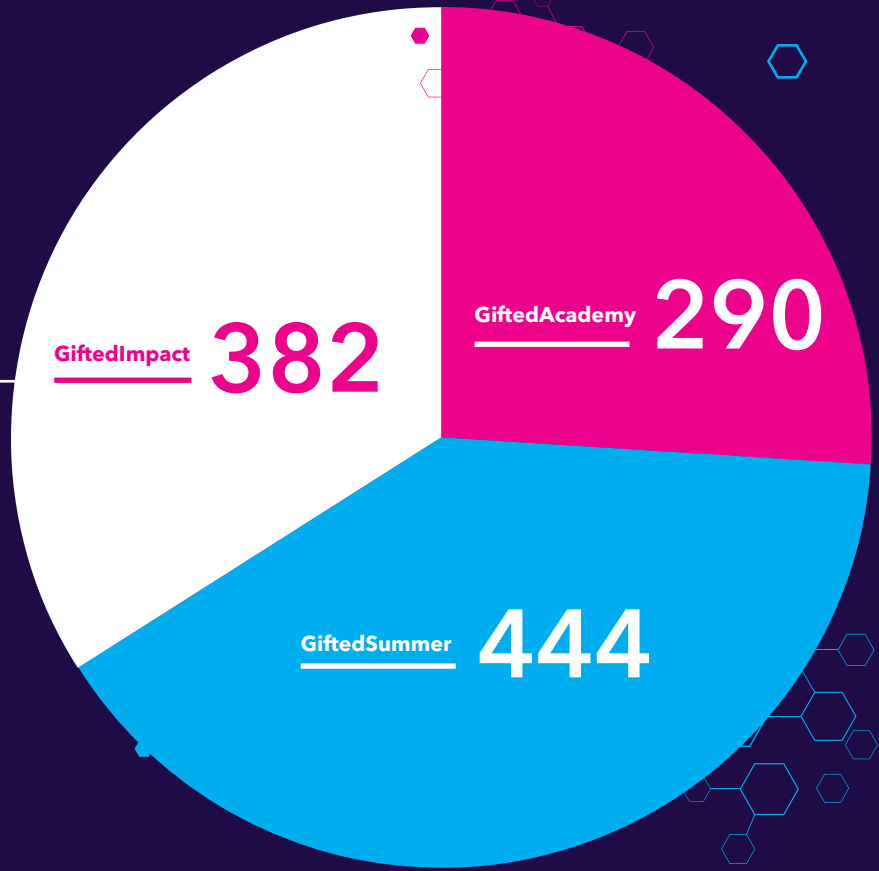


2021-2023 IN NUMBERS

TGA prides itself on employing a holistic and artistic approach that best serves school-age artists. As such, we offer three central programs that allow students to engage artistically, and foster personal growth year-round.

1116

Total Number of Students who participated in ALL programs:



STUDENTS PURSUING ART DEGREES AND/OR COLLEGE POST GRADUATION:

6 graduates in the 2021-2023 window, 50% of whom are pursuing artistic related degrees, 33% nursing degrees and 17% pursuing business degrees.



ART PERFORMANCES:

TheGifted Arts has experienced first-hand the power of collaboration and partnerships. While TheGifted creates and curates annual and original signature productions, we also support requests from the community to perform for external events including:

Downtown Raleigh Tree Lighting

African American Cultural Festival of Raleigh and Wake County

Town of Garner events

Juneteenth programming with the City of Raleigh

Wake County Public Schools performances

Artspace

VAE Gala

Local Businesses

And more!

NUMBERS BREAKDOWN

	GiftedAcademy	GiftedSummer	GiftedImpact
2021	63	69	121
2022	94	170	150
2023	133	205	111

PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS

GiftedAcademy is our year-round youth program offering culturally rich performing arts curricula. The core purpose is to create a safe space, where young people can explore their identity, discover their purpose and greatness. We use our custom formula and curriculum to promote personal power through artistic development to increase confidence, self-worth, and drive utilizing the skills of metacognition, exploration, reflection and presentation that will allow them to flourish in all areas of their lives. GiftedAcademy serves students in the kindergarten to twelfth grade in schools across the greater Raleigh-Durham Triangle area including charter schools.

66%

66% of returning students have spent one or more years with TGA.

95%

95% of students reported feeling safe (knowing that you're cared for, loved and belong to a group, family and a community) after a season with TGA.

96.1%

In the season of 2022-2023, On a scale of 1-5, 96.1% of students rated their overall experience a 4 or 5.

GiftedSummer is our unique, full-day, five-week specialty performing arts camp available for rising 3rd - 9th graders. Campers explore the world of dance, step, theater, fashion, and music weekly. TGA partners with other community members to curate a week filled with indoor and outdoor recreational and team-building activities, as well as a uniquely blended artistic and educational experience based on the theme of the week. At the end of each artistic week campers have the opportunity to apply and perform their new learned and improved skills during a camper-led showcase to their families and peers.

98%

In 2023, 98% of campers believed "I am a better model, designer, stylist, or makeup artist because of TheGifted Arts."

99%

99% of students report overall enjoyment and satisfaction with the summer program.

91%

91% of campers reported they made new friends or built stronger relationships at camp.

"One thing I learned is to be **confident** in yourself and not to compare yourself to anyone,"

[a camper highlighted.](#)

"I learned the **only** way you fail in the arts is by not trying at all"

[a camper stated.](#)

Performance Academy is our premier youth performance group and an extension of GiftedAcademy. This academy dedicates a space for students interested in deepening their technique training in Ballet, Modern and Jazz, as well as increased performance time as training progresses. Performance opportunities for these dancers include dance competitions, community affairs, and school partnerships. This unique group consists of fifth to twelfth graders. Across three seasons Performance Academy has completed 12 performances.

GiftedImpact offers performance demonstrations and free after-school programs for schools and community agencies, providing participants with an introductory experience in cultural arts. This initiative allows students to explore their gifts and talents, enhance their confidence, and develop artistic skills. TheGifted Arts aims to reach hundreds of students across various settings, creating a space where children feel acknowledged, secure, and celebrated. By hosting GiftedImpact at neighboring middle and elementary schools, the program effectively engages students from diverse backgrounds and identities without financial or transportation constraints. Students then have the opportunity to showcase their talents during school assemblies. Since 2021, GiftedImpact has served 382 students from kindergarten through eighth grade across five schools.

100%

100% enjoyed their Gifted experience.

94%

94% would return to another program with TGA.

"GiftedImpact after school helped me **grow** by **helping** me speak out during the school day."

"My experience at school after performing with TheGifted Arts has been **wonderful**. I've learned to not allow intrusive thoughts to get in the way of doing something you have a passion for. I've grown to **love myself** and chase after my passions. I don't believe I would do anything differently next time."

OUR IMPACT

THEGIFTED ARTS EXPOSURE

We've found through surveyed data that upon entering TheGifted Arts on average 50% of our students come into the program with no prior arts education. As such, while the other 50% of students usually come in with a primary interest, all students enrolled are immersed in multidisciplinary cultural arts experiences. Students find themselves engaged in the process and training not only their bodies physically but mentally through exploration of all the arts and develop techniques that can apply across all art forms. We believe that all performing artists at their core are all around performers fusing together skills and techniques across disciplines to deliver a memorable performance.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE OVER TIME

Since its inception, the growth of student enrollment among returning students has consistently continued. A brief overview from 2021 to 2023 reveals an average returning student rate of 65%. Consequently, each season witnesses an influx of new students who attend our programs due to their connections and curiosity about TheGifted Arts. Through our expansion into schools and performances within the community, our aim is not only to showcase the TGA culture but also to actively engage families and generate interest in the program.

Across all programs: Students receive performance/creation training and development, coaching and informed positive beliefs around self-image and confidence. Our high schoolers receive college readiness and exploration and workforce/entrepreneurship development. They attend leadership workshops and high school participants can complete our in-house workforce development program, where we are proud to offer paid job opportunities in our agency in our GiftedImpact and GiftedSummer programs.



Of the **2021-2023** staff, **65%** are **alumni** of the **GiftedAcademy** program.





OUR GIFTED FAMILY



GIFTED ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Michael Lassiter

Also known as GiftedName "Hollywood" Michael has been a part of TheGifted Arts for nine years. "The most prominent skill I have gained while being with TheGifted Arts is definitely public speaking. Growing up in TheGifted has really taught me the importance of having confidence, not just in general but professionally, publicly, and personally. Being able to speak publicly has allowed me to be able to teach the craft that I've studied, practiced and love, which is dance. I am also able to use this skill in day to day life interactions."

Michael compares his experience with TheGifted Arts to the common saying, "If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. If you teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime." "What does fishing have to do with anything?" he said. "Well, anyone can teach kids to dance. Not everyone can teach kids the importance of professionalism, confidence, leadership, empowering others, valuing mental health and physical health and creating a family. That is what TheGifted Arts is all about." -

Michael Lassiter aka "Hollywood"

GIFTED ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Olivia Uzoewulu

"My experience at TGA is AMAZING! I attend the GiftedAcademy and the Performance Academy programs at TheGifted Arts. TheGifted Arts has impacted me by helping me with school with socializing with other students and getting out of my comfort zone. I



also love being around my people where I get to learn more about my ancestors through the arts. I love being in this positive space where I have been able to explore more art forms and learn the art forms techniques. TGA has pushed me to understand whatever I think I can't do ...I can! as I have been able to get main parts in the theater roles and be a part of Performance Academy."



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Aliyah Lopez

I am currently signed to New York Model Management (NYMMG) as a professional model. Personally I'm in a beautiful space honoring different aspects of myself, tapping more into my creativity, figuring out adulthood and mastering flow state.

If I could describe TheGifted in one word it would be Infinite.

One thing I'll forever remember about my Gifted experience is our practices and how close we became with each practice.

TheGifted has impacted my life in so many ways. I was taught how to step out of my comfort zone and I began to learn how to be confident on stage, which has helped me in many roles as an adult. To have a community full of so many talented individuals and surrounded by talented leaders who truly care about the youth was an amazing example to have growing up. They will always be family to my sister Essence and I. We had so much fun, but were taught how to be disciplined and dedicated.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Jeremiah Kasongo



One word to describe TheGifted Arts is TRANSFORMATIVE. I simply just think about my transformation from when I started [at 12-years-old] to now being a highschool graduate pursuing my dreams and I am in awe.

While I've always had a passion for dancing, TGA played a crucial role in turning my dreams into reality. Before, it seemed unattainable, but TGA transformed my aspirations into achievable goals. Currently, I am enrolled at Fayetteville State University, where I am studying Theater Tech. Additionally, I am thrilled to share that I have been accepted into the CLI Conservatory in Massachusetts and will begin in the Summer of 2024.



PARENT SPOTLIGHT

Robbie Perry

"TheGifted Arts (TGA) found my family. My son's science teacher at the time presented us with a flier that informed us about TGA. Both of my children have always enjoyed dance. We never placed my son into a program because we couldn't find one that would allow him to be himself while learning new skills at the same time. The summer when they both attended the program, it was like a light went off in both of them! This program has become a lifeline for my family.

We have gone through a truly tough season, and I sincerely believe that had



youth, especially youth of color and/or from underserved backgrounds, are celebrated for their contributions in redefining the narrative. Young people will emerge as scholars and enthusiastically engaged in their respective communities through cultural affairs, service, and essential civic duties.

GOALS TO SUPPORT THIS VISION:

- Maintain and support the current students and families served
- Hire more BIPOC identifying artists and full-time staff
- Relocate to a new and more permanent facility centrally located within the communities we serve
- Deepen engagement in arts and education advocacy efforts

As long-term artists, educators and youth advocates, we believe that with community support and adequate resources, we can close the gap for children from under-resourced communities. Our aim is to ensure ongoing development of essential life skills while fostering a nurturing environment for children to grow personally and artistically.



"At TheGifted Arts, I teach Performance Academy, GiftedAcademy, and GiftedImpact. I most enjoy seeing the students be introduced to the arts both new and experienced. Seeing the exposure to the arts and how they can utilize them to become smarter, stronger, healthier and just happier beings makes me extremely happy. Working with the TGA Tribe has taught me the importance of community."

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

We intend to see communities where

they not been a part of TheGifted, we would not have made it through. Not only does TGA care about the WHOLE child, they care about the parents as well. The support, love, and care that I received from TheGifted Arts by just being a safe place and outlet for my children helped me to keep pushing and moving forward. I have truly been blessed by this program and so have my children. They have been stretched and pushed outside of their limits and have grown so much. I am forever grateful for being introduced to this program." - Robbie Perry

INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT

Shadidja Parker







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FINANCIALS

	Annual Income	Annual Expense	Earned Income
2021	\$224,798	\$120,437	\$18,832
2022	\$457,638	\$355,095	\$41,064
2023	\$412,547	\$433,232	\$44,334

	Individual Giving	Grants	Cost for Academy
2021	\$13,855	\$137,500	\$77,222
2022	\$15,293	\$337,260	\$106,816
2023	\$15,293	\$275,250	\$65,982

	Cost for Impact	Cost for Summer
2021	\$2,496	\$9,307
2022	\$53,840	\$17,865
2023	\$42,943	\$15,200



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

CRAIG WILLIAMS

As President and CEO of Cyber Synergy, LLC and Williams Manor LLC, I am responsible for setting strategic vision, creating new business opportunities, managing key client relationships and serving as chief cybersecurity strategist. Mr. Williams has accumulated 25 years of industry experience in IT consulting and training as well as real estate.



"I support TheGifted Arts because I believe in their mission, the founders, and I have also witnessed the impact that the program has on participants of the program."

BREE CARNES

I am Bree Carnes, lover of travel, food, and art. Now, I'll be the first to admit that my pockets are not always in position to book a flight. But when my budget says, "Not this month, Chile!" there is usually a little left to devote to food and art experiences. I see food and art as budget friendly ways to travel the world. They are the unassuming expressions of culture and give access to the world and the people therein.

TheGifted Arts offers provision for the expression and exploration of the arts to those whose pockets might say "not this month, Chile!" So, it gives me great joy to partner with the



organization as a financial donor to offer an entry point to the world for fellow lovers of art (or those soon to be).

KATHLEEN YUSKA

I'm a mom of three young men, an East Garner Middle School Counselor and a former dancer and thespian. My husband and I have been supporters of TheGifted Arts for over 10 years and a monthly donor for seven years.



We've enjoyed helping with the fashion shows, selling tickets, designing sets or just lending a hand here and there. Through my students, I have been able to watch their self confidence grow, their purpose bloom, and joy exude

from the ones who have been a part of TheGifted. I have watched the ones who have gone on to college return to support the next wave of talent. It is a beautiful synergy that is created by TGA that benefits our community by fostering artists and innovators that care about our world. From one artist to the next ones, the return on investment of giving to TGA is wonderfully exponential.



OUR SUPPORTERS

CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS

AJ Fletcher Foundation
Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina
City of Raleigh Arts Commission
Cyber Synergy
Goodwill Industries of Eastern North Carolina
iCRYO Triangle
Ivy Community Service Foundation
John Rex Endowment
Main Street Renewal
Mary Duke Biddle Foundation
National Recreation Foundation
North Carolina Arts Council
North Carolina Community Foundation
Pfizer
Publix
Saint Michael's Episcopal Church
South Arts
Tito's Handmade Vodka
Triangle Community Foundation
United Arts Wake County
United Way of the Greater Triangle
Vanguard Charitable
Wake County

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

Adrian Green
Adrienne Collins
Alexis White
Alexus Rhone
Alison Nuccio Medley
Allyson Caudill
Allyson Cobb
Alray Fulwood
Amber Boaz
Andrea Resto
Angela D. Dunn
Angeline Echeverria
Anita Carlton
Anna Brown
Annie Schmidt
Anonymous
April Johnson
Athena Montgomery
Ayako Christopher
Barbara Cronin
Bernetta Butler
Beth and Ken Brody
Blair Amphy
Bree Carnes
Brenda Tucker
Bri Surles
Brian smith
Bridgett Cox
Cady Howe
Cake Gerald
Cameron Simmons
Candice Dixon
Candice Lee
Carole Montgomery
Carolyn + Jonathan Fendelman
Carrie Baker
Carrie Le Chevallier
Cejuanna Morgan
Celestine Hinnant
Charity Uzoewulu
Charles Edwin Killian, Jr
Chaselynn Jones
Chelsea Thomas
Cheryl Thomas
Chris Cox
Christine Vance
Clarence A Morgan Jr
Clarence 'CJ' Morgan, III
Coach D
Cory Adcroft
Craig Williams
Damon Circosta
Darren Brothers
David Bake
David Isley
Davoren Brown
Deborah B. Warren
Dena Nealy
Devon Montgomery
Donna Jackson
Ebern Dobbin
Elaine Whitford
Elena Ashburn
Elizabeth Doran
Elliot Brody
Emily Page
Ethan Burton
Faith Williams
Floyd McMillan
Francisco Quiles
Gayla Luster
George J. Beraka
Geraldine D. Currie
Gigi Lockhart
Gwendolyn Goodwin
Jackie Goddard
Jacqueline Montague

Jacqueline Leslie
Jamesha Brown
Jasmine Vinson
Jeffrey Baker
Jeffrey Hammerstein
Jenine Byrd
Jennifer Vinson
Jennifer Weiss
Jeremy Drawas
Jerri Bland
Jerrie Chiles
Jessica Rice Hawkins
Jocie LaVerne Russell Jarman
Joel S. Zimmerman
Joyce S. Wall
Justin Montgomery
Justin Edward Hendricks
Kareem Smith
Karen Bishop
Kathleen Yuska
Kathryn Wyatt
Katie Weeks
Katina Williams
Kayla Coleman
Kaylor Garcia Gries and Robert Gries
Kellan Moore
Kelon Blackshear
Ken Marshburn
Kendrick Mayes
Kenneth L. Jarman Jr.
Kimberlee Hyman
Kimberlee Parker
Kimberly Cole-Brown
Kimberlyn Lopez
Kira Coate
Kweilyn Murphy
Kyara Medlin
LaCresha Styles
Lamonica Chambers Smith

Latarsha Singleton
Latisha Carnes
LaTonya Meori
Laura Zohn
Leah Sigal
Lenita Henderson
Leslie Johnson
Letitia Hargrave
Linda Morgan Hocutt
Lisa Noelle Mead
Lison Miller
Lory Mills
Luz Adorno
Madeleine Niang
Malenia Swinton
Margaret Able
Martha Glomah
Martrella 'Martie' Morris
Mary Sparks
Matt Ashburn
Matthew
Maxine P. Phillips
Megan Q. Bostic
Melinda A. Meschko
Melissa Forde
Melissa Verea
Meredith Yuckman
Michael Joyce
Michael Jennings
Michael Joyce
Michele Gibbons-Carr
Miriam Cedano
Monica R. Bass
Natasha Elliott
Natazzja Pipkin
Nathan Davis
Nicholé Morgan
Nicole Monae
Nicole Stewart
Pamela Blizzard

Patches Jacobs
Patricia Foster
Patricia Coleman
Patricia Morgan
Patricia Morris
Percy Bell
Phillip Hammac
Precious Nicholson
Preston Ross, III
Rafik Keith
Ragen Carlile
Rebecca Blake
Regina Ross
Renee Edwards
Richard Hill
Rick DuPree
Rose Thomas
Ryan Chapman
Sara Mulligan
Sara Pena
Sarah Hall
Sarah Rabiner
Sarah Guidi
Schmella Barney
Scott Dickinson
Serena Staples
Shabowanna Parker
Shaina
Sharla Murrill
Sharneé Pierre
Shelia Reich
Sonia Essaibi
Sonya Murphy
Staci E. Barfield
Stacy Eleccko
Stanley Davis
Stuart McPherson
Susan McSwain
Sylvia M. Wilson
T. Alexander-Threatt

TaMara Hunt
Tanya Barrett
The Guirlinger Family Fund TCF
Theresa Freeland Jones
Tiffany Brooks
Tiffany Yancey
Toiya Dunbar
Tommie Kearney
Toni Outlaw
Tracy Sledge
Valeka Bryant-Hamm
Valonda Calloway
Velma Forde
Victoria T. Gaviria
Wanda Lassiter
Yudora Johnson
Zach Ward

