

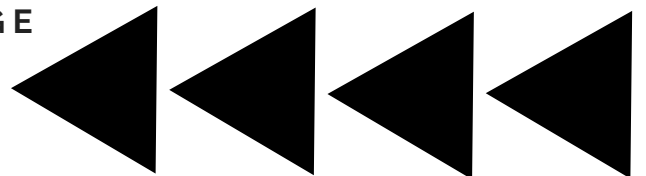


THE LISTENING:
FREEDOM

SCHOOL

HOSTED BY RANDOLPH COLLEGE

JUNE 17 - JULY 26, 2019



FROM NICK



All,

We have arrived at the end of our first Freedom School summer!

The Listening has been building towards this program for some years now, and for the past six weeks we have been reading and learning about a wide variety of topics and elements. Our goal has been to build up our young people to learn how to make a difference with hope, education and action - and we are excited to finally show what we've been up to!

With a foundation in the Civil Rights Movement and a steady grounding in the local arts community, we believe in the potential of this program to make an impact - not just in the lives of our young people, but in the families and volunteers and supporters that have helped make it possible. On the behalf of The Listening, Inc and the staff of our Freedom School program, I thank you for investing in the lives of the youth and trusting us to empower them with reading, art and social action!

Nicholas Steven George

Founder/Executive Director, The Listening, Inc

#welcometothelistening

The Listening is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation under IRS code 501c(3).



CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND[®] **FREEDOM SCHOOLS** PROGRAMS

Through the CDF Freedom Schools model, we empower youth to excel and believe in their ability to make a difference in themselves, their families, communities, country and world with hope, education and action.

Rooted in the Mississippi Freedom Summer project of 1964, the CDF Freedom Schools program is a six-week summer literacy and cultural enrichment program designed to serve children and youth in grades K-12 in communities where quality academic enrichment programming is limited, too expensive, or non-existent. By partnering with schools, faith and community-based organizations, municipalities, colleges and universities, and juvenile detention facilities, we are able to offer this program in these communities at no-cost.

The CDF Freedom Schools program enhances children's motivation to read and makes them feel good about learning. At the same time, the program connects families to the right resources in their communities. Freedom School students engage in a research-based, multicultural Integrated Reading Curriculum that supports them and their families through five essential components:

High quality academic enrichment

Parent and family development

Civic engagement and social action

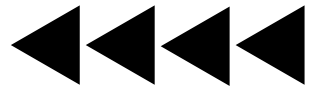
Intergenerational servant leadership development

Nutrition, health and mental health

Students also receive two nutritious meals and a snack daily (Courtesy of VSU/VA Cooperative Extension & the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank), as well as a book each week to build their home libraries.

We believe in an intergenerational leadership model. That's why our program is staffed primarily by college students and recent college graduates, with a 10:1 child to adult ratio. As a result, many children and youth make significant gains in reading achievement and don't experience any summer learning loss.





HARAMBEE



*Harambee is a Kiswahili word that means "let's pull together". The phrase was first used as a method of unity upon the release of Jomo Kenyatta from prison in Kenya. Kenyatta had been imprisoned for several years for demanding freedom from Britain for his country.

He had not committed a crime.

Harambee is a time of informal sharing when scholars and staff come together to celebrate themselves and each other! This time includes *Read Aloud*, the singing of a *Motivational Song*, *Cheers and Chants*, *Recognitions*, a *Moment of Silence* and any important *Announcements* before the start of the day.

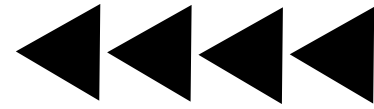
DAILY SCHEDULE

- 8 AM THE DAY BEGINS**
Breakfast with Scholars and Staff
- 8:30 AM "HARAMBEE!"**
Scholars and staff come together & celebrate!
- 9 AM INTEGRATED READING CURRICULUM (IRC) PART 1**
Reading, Conflict Resolution, Social Action
- 10:30 AM MORNING BREAK**
- 10:45 AM D.E.A.R. TIME**
Drop Everything And Read
- 12 PM LUNCH WITH SCHOLARS**
- 1 PM AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES**
- 3 PM DISMISSAL**



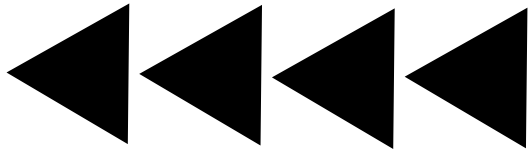
SOMETHING INSIDE SO STRONG

Labi Siffre



The higher you build your barriers
The taller I become
The further you take my rights away
The faster I will run
You can deny me, you can decide
To turn your face away
No matter 'cause there's
Something inside so strong
I know that I can make it
Though you're doing me wrong, so wrong
You thought that my pride was gone, oh no
There's something inside so strong
Oh, something inside so strong
The more you refuse to hear my voice (ooh-weh ooh-weh
ooh-weh ooh-weh)
The louder I will sing
You hide behind walls of Jericho (ooh-weh ooh-weh ooh-
weh ooh-weh)
Your lies will come tumbling
Deny my place in time, you squander wealth that's mine
My light will shine so brightly it will blind you
Because there's
Something inside so strong, strong
I know that I can make it
Though you're doing me wrong, so wrong
You thought that my pride was gone, oh no
There's something inside so strong
Oh, something inside so strong
Brothers and sisters
When they insist we're just not good enough
Well we know better
Just look him in his eyes and say
We're gonna do it anyway
We're gonna do it anyway
There's something inside so strong
And I know that I can make it
Though you're doing me wrong, so wrong
You thought that my pride was gone, oh no
There's something inside so strong, oh
Something inside so strong





WEEKLY READING

THE SKIN I'M IN

Sharon G. Flake

P.S. BE ELEVEN

Rita Williams-Garcia

GIVE A BOY A GUN

Todd Strasser

MARCH: BOOK ONE

John Lewis, Andrew Ayden,
Nate Powell

LA LINEA

Ann Jaramillo

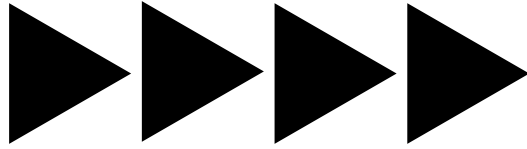
BROWN GIRL DREAMING

Jacqueline Woodson



“I do not know if these hands will become Malcolm’s—raised and fisted or Martin’s—open and asking or James’s—curled around a pen. I do not know if these hands will be Rosa’s or Ruby’s gently gloved and fiercely folded calmly in a lap, on a desk, around a book, ready to change the world . . .”

JACQUELINE WOODSON,
BROWN GIRL DREAMING



THE LISTENING:
**FREEDOM
SCHOOL**
STAFF & INTERNS

BRIAN A. FARROW

Lynchburg, Virginia
Freedom School Project Director

ERIN "ROX" CRUZ

Lynchburg, Virginia
Freedom School Site Coordinator

PHILEMON AFRIFA-BOAKYE

Accra, Ghana
Servant Leader Intern

DOMINIQUE DEBOSE

Hampton, Virginia
Servant Leader Intern

DOMINIQUE NELSON

Tallahassee, Florida
Servant Leader Intern

LACROY NIXON

Charlotte, North Carolina,
raised in Williamsburg, Virginia
Servant Leader Intern



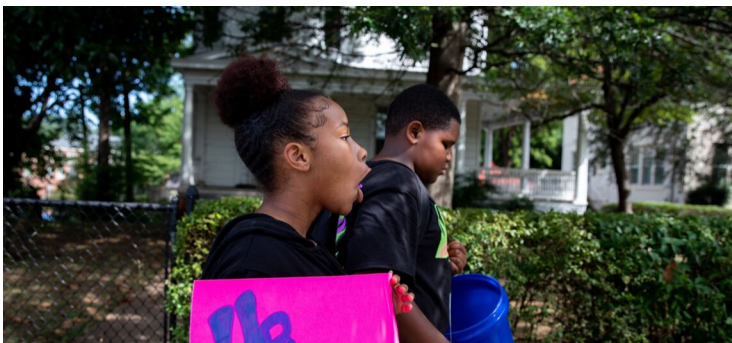


NATIONAL DAY OF SOCIAL ACTION

JULY 17, 2019

The Listening's CDF Freedom School joined over 180 Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools® sites in 87 cities and 28 states across the country for a National Day of Social Action to "Protect Children, Not Guns." Scholars and community members marched along Rivermont Avenue and leave images of school buses to reflect the thousands of children and teens who lose their lives to gun violence every year in America. This action was supplemented by a national moment of silence and later in the afternoon, a Q&A panel of local community figures who fielded questions from the Freedom School scholars.

The National Day of Social Action is the cornerstone of the civic engagement component of the CDF Freedom Schools program that encourages community service and social justice advocacy.



PROTECT
children,
NOT guns



FAMILY dinners

Weekly family dinners allowed parents and caregivers to share a meal with their scholars and participate in guided discussions related to the weekly readings and topics of Freedom School. Meals were donated by local area churches and fresh produce was made available by the **Blue Ridge Area Food Bank**.

STATISTICS

A child or teen is killed with a gun **every 2 hours and 34 minutes** in the United States.

3,410 children and teens were killed by guns in 2017 - enough to fill **71** school buses.

Guns kill more **children under 5** each year than law enforcement officers in the line of duty.

Less than one month before Freedom School debuted in Lynchburg, Virginia, the local community was rocked when an instance of gun violence ended with two victims, **including one fatality**.

This is a national story. This is a Lynchburg story.



Photos in this program by: FS Staff, volunteers Meridith De Avila Khan and Larry Taylor, Jr., and Randolph College photographer Jill Nance Waugh



THE LISTENING

write. dance. sing. speak. listen.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nicholas George, Board Chair

Gerald Griffin, Vice Chair

Nakesha Moore, Secretary

Lincoln Baker*, Treasurer

Keith Anderson, Member-at-Large (Steering Committee Co-Chair)

Dori Baker*, Member-at-Large (Steering Committee Co-Chair)

**These two board members are related by marriage*

FREEDOM SCHOOL STEERING COMMITTEE

Ashley Bullock

Teacher, Lynchburg City Schools

William Cardwell

IBM Software Developer, Retired

Kim Glenn MDiv

Associate Rector, St. John's Episcopal Church

Chris Glover PhD

Assistant Principal, Dunbar Middle School

Dan Harrison, MDiv

Pastor, Church of the Covenant

Libby Jarrett Founder Member

Retired educator and counselor, New Vistas School

Emma Johnston, MDiv

Associate Pastor, Peakland United Methodist Church

Martha Kears

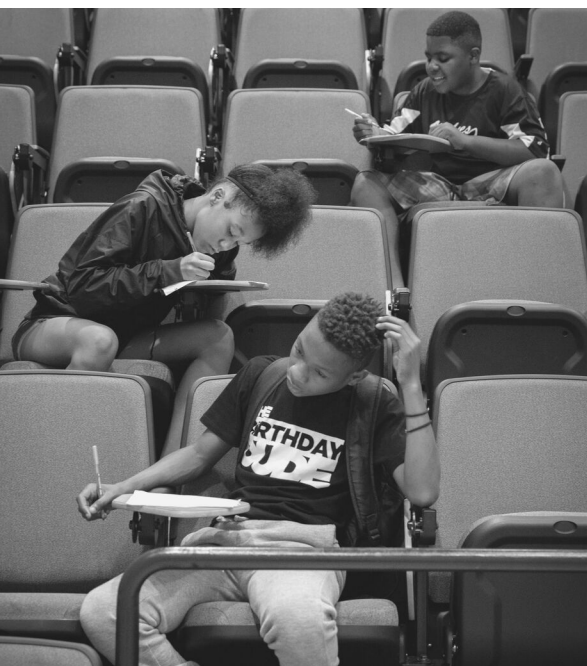
Pastor, Peakland Baptist Church

Jan McKee

Retired High School Principal

Elizabeth Perry-Sizemore

Professor of Economics and Head of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Randolph College



Freedom School 2019: The Finale

July 26, 2019
Randolph College

Doors Open: 6:00pm
Event Start: 6:30pm

WELCOME/HARAMBEE

FS Site Coordinator Rox Cruz

Motivational Song

Read Aloud

Cheers and Chants

Moment of Silence

RECOGNIZE: MAJOR DONORS APPRECIATION

Servant Leader Intern Dominique Nelson

RECOGNIZE: VOLUNTEERS APPRECIATION

Servant Leader Intern Philemon Afrifa-Boakye

SHOWCASE

Clinic: On Display

Maier | Pottery | Writing | Games | Chickens

Clinic: Exhibition

Drums | HipHop Poetry | Female Artists | Dance

AWARDS CEREMONY

Servant Leader Intern Dominique DeBose

Super Scholar Award - Most Participation/Hype

Servant Scholar Award - Most Caring

Signature Scholar Award - Most Creative

Lifelong Reader - Loves/Grown to Love Reading

Developing Scholar Award - Most Improved

Ella Baker Scholar Award

CLOSING

FS Project Director Brian Farrow

Staff Appreciation

Philemon Afrifa-Boakye - Servant Leader Intern

Dominique DeBose - Servant Leader Intern

Lacroy Nixon - Servant Leader Intern

Dominique Nelson - Servant Leader Intern

Brian Farrow - Project Director

Erin "Rox" Cruz - Site Coordinator

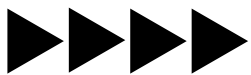
The Ask - Executive Director, Nicholas Steven George

THE LISTENING MISSION & VISION

The purpose of The Listening is simple, and the vision is two-fold. Our **mission** as an organization is to engage, change, and save lives with the performing arts through community engagement and youth mentoring.

We have a bold **vision** to see our community changed by socially minded artists who have a burden to use their talent, time, and passion to change the world around them, as well as the world inside of them. We believe that the road towards a better tomorrow is best accomplished passionately, creatively, and intentionally - together.





SPONSORS

Bank of the James
 Centra Foundation
 Greater Lynchburg
 Community Foundation
 Human Kind
 Randolph College



SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

Benaiah Prints
 Blackwater Branding
 The Blue Ridge Area Food Bank
 Church Of The Covenant/Common Grounds
 Diamond Hill Baptist Church
 Depot Grille
 First Christian Church
 First Presbyterian Church
 First Unitarian Church Of Lynchburg
 Hill City Community Church
 Maylynn's Creamery
 Peakland Baptist Church
 Peakland United Methodist Church
 Rivermont Pizza
 Roanoke & Lynchburg Society Of Friends
 St. John's Episcopal Church
 St. Paul's Episcopal Church
 Urbavore
 Virginia United Methodist Church
 VSU/VA Cooperative Extension

The Listening: Freedom School also thanks the dozens of individual donors who helped make the inaugural school a reality.

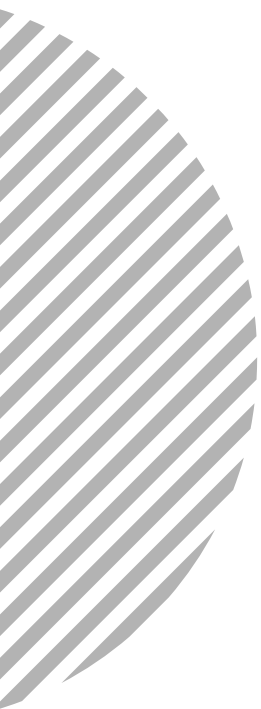


WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Throughout this summer, our goal has been to make sure that our scholars were safe, fed and cared for - but we could not have done this without the community of volunteers that were available to walk alongside us this summer. From the daily read-aloud guests to those that joined us each week for our Family Engagement Meetings, The Listening has been able to build relationships throughout the community in a truly engaging way.



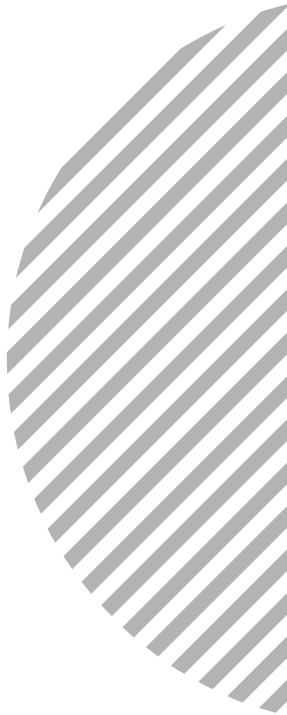
AUTOGRAPHS



@welcometothelistening
@childdefender1973
#CDFfreedomschools



AUTOGRAPHS



Welcome.

To your community.

to voices that sound nothing like yours.

to unity in diversity and inclusion.

to honesty.

to understanding the world around and within you.

to strength stemmed from vulnerability.

to where fear and courage coexist.

to a stage that's waiting for your voice.

to healing through your talents.

to performing with purpose and passion.

to beauty from pain.

to a resistance founded in love.

to a potluck of personality.

to a family of musicians, writers, dancers, poets, and all
aesthetes.

to something more than art.

to something worth listening to.

Welcome to The Listening.

THE
LISTENING