Inside this issue:
- Urban Gardening Project
- Alumni Social Recap
- Freshman Fill-A-Room Gallery
- NFL Hall of Fame Experience
- Tribute Gift Opportunity
- Baba Scholars Program
- Book and SAT problem of the quarter

This summer NEED partnered with the Center for Community Enrichment for the Seeds for P.E.A.C.E. (Promoting Education Arts Culture Environment) project. The initiative aims to improve urban agriculture and conservation by engaging local churches, communities, students, and veterans. The goal of the project is to create five new urban gardens in Pittsburgh that beautify urban areas and promote well-being in marginalized communities.

So far, 58 students have participated in Seeds for PEACE across five sites, which include:
- Metropolitan Baptist Church
- Nazarene Baptist Church
- Destiny International Ministries
- Morningstar Baptist Church
- Allen Place

Students work with local veterans and community leaders to maintain 2' x 5' gardens, learning several skills and lessons in the process. Environmental responsibility is taught through phytoremediation, flower cultivation, water conservation, recycling, composting, and forming healthy eating habits. Interaction between students and veterans provides a therapeutic experience for all involved, connecting generations and learning about each other. At the end of the season, vegetables and fruits are harvested and served to the community. (cont. on page 2)

Autumn Alumni Social Raises Awareness

On October 2nd, NEED held an Alumni Social at Common Plea Catering in Pittsburgh. Former NEED graduates, as well as staff and board members, gathered for a night of music, food, fun, and networking.

The growing alumni chapter seeks to come together to give back to future generations of NEED students so that they can achieve their dreams. This year, the focus was monthly direct deposit donations to NEED, as well as donating through apps such as Cash App, Venmo, and PayPal. If everyone gives a little, our students will benefit a lot!

Thank you to everyone who attended the event, and to all of our guest speakers that presented moving testimonies of NEED’s programs and the importance of giving back.

We enjoyed seeing everyone and look forward to the next alumni event.
Seeds for PEACE Urban Gardening Project

In addition to learning agricultural skills, students also learn the importance of community responsibility and giving back, self-sufficiency, sustainable resources, and can explore a career in agricultural science.

NEED teachers supplement the agricultural aspect of the project with black history lessons, African drumming sessions, and mentoring services. It’s important that students leave the project with a well-rounded education experience that teaches physical, mental, and social skills.

Second Annual Freshman Fill-A-Room Fundraiser
HBCU Hall of Fame Game in Canton, Ohio

August 31, 2019 was a special day for a select group of students. NEED took a busload of high schoolers to the NFL Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio to celebrate the Hall’s grand opening of the HBCU museum.

The day included a tour of the museum, socializing with HBCU alumni, and watching the Morehouse and Alabama A&M football squads face off at the Black College Hall of Fame Classic at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium. Students didn’t have to wait long to see some action, as A&M returned the opening kick-off 54 yards and threw a 40 yard touchdown on the next play. A&M secured the victory, 35-30, but students were mesmerized by both schools’ impressive half-time band performances.

Thank you to the Hall of Fame for having our students and check out the HBCU museum if you get a chance!

Support NEED through a Tribute Gift

What gift do you buy for the person who has everything? How do you memorialize a life well lived? The answers to these questions may be a tribute gift to NEED.

Tribute gifts are made:
- in memory of a person who is deceased
- in honor of someone reaching an important milestone
- as a gesture of gratitude
- to recognize a special occasion

Recognition is made both to the donor (with all appropriate IRS-required information) and to the honoree or family of the deceased. The latter recognition does not reveal the amount of the gift. Recognition is timely, given the special circumstances of these gifts.

Tribute gifts to NEED mean the lives and good works of others live on through scholars completing college, high school youth touring HBCUs, and younger students receiving the academic support and mentoring critical to college preparation.

The next time you want to express your gratitude or sympathy, please consider a tribute gift to NEED. Your gift will enrich the lives of others for generations to come.

Baba Scholars Program Engages Fathers and Students

NEED is excited to announce the launch of a new program beginning November 21, 2019. The Baba Scholars program is designed to engage fathers in preparing themselves and their children for college and higher education. Meetings will be held three times per month: the first meeting is fathers only, the second is fathers and students, and the third is for the entire family.

The goals of Baba Scholars are to form a fathers’ learning circle that informs fathers of the college process and the necessary steps that need to be taken for college admission, and to serve as advocates for fathers, students, and families in their pursuit of a college education. Financial and educational support services aim to enable fathers to begin or complete college.

While fathers are working on their own degree, they learn how to prepare their children for college through workshops that cover tutoring, SAT prep, FAFSA, college and scholarship searches, and completing college applications. The program also offers economic development opportunities to facilitate employment and home ownership.

Fathers of students from 6th to 12th graders are welcome to join. Contact the NEED office if interested!
Book of the Quarter

*Ghost Boys*
By Jewell Parker Rhodes

This powerful story follows a 12 year old boy named Jerome, who is shot by police after his toy gun is mistaken for a real gun. As a ghost, he sees the impact of his death on his family and community, who demand justice for his killing. Jerome eventually meets the ghost of Emmett Till; the two commiserate their similar fates and how structural racism played a part in the events leading up to his death. He also meets the daughter of the police officer who shot him, as she tries to make sense of what happened. Jerome grapples with the complexities of modern society and what it means to be black in America.

SAT Problem of the Quarter

The United States Senate has two voting members for each of the 50 states. The 113th Congress had a 4:1 male-to-female ratio in the Senate. Forty-five of the male senators were Republican. Only 20 percent of the female senators were Republican. How many senators in the 113th Congress were Republican?

A. 20  
B. 49  
C. 55  
D. 65

Providing career and college access services that empower youth from the Pittsburgh region to aspire to, learn about, and complete higher education.