

AKE FOUNDATION



Helping Students Achieve Their Dreams

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT ON AMAZONSMILE

As we enter the holiday shopping season we have an awesome way for you to support AKEF. If you shop with Amazon you can designate AKEF as your charity of choice on AmazonSmile. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to AKEF. The link below will take you directly to the page where AKEF is designated as the charity:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/32-0330374>

Thank you so much for your continued support of the Angie Kennedy Educational Foundation and the young people that we support.

INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING AN ARTICLE?

Share your story about your scholarship awardee experience, college experience, learning experience, or experience supporting a college student. To have your article featured in an upcoming newsletter, simply submit your draft to akefoundation@gmail.com Make sure the article is roughly a page or less in length. We can't wait to hear from you!

“Helping Students Achieve Their Dreams.”

STOP IN THE NAME OF LOVE

Being a parent is difficult. Being a parent who is also a student is harder. But, it does not matter how hard life gets or the difficulty of a homework assignment, parents must learn to be parents first; everything else has to come later.

Sitting at my desk one evening and working on a very difficult assignment, my three year old daughter comes to me and says, "Mommy, will you join my tea party?" I had a few thoughts. The first was, "Oh, how sweet!" The second was, "I should really enjoy this because she may not want to hang out with me as a preteen or teenager." My third thought was, "Talk about imperfect timing; I have got to get this project done". The due date to turn in the project was approaching and I wanted to hurry and finish so I could have more time with my daughter. I figured that once I finished my homework, nothing would interrupt our play time.

So, I asked her to wait a few minutes. After all, I thought, she's only three; she'll probably forget and start playing with something else. Boy, was I wrong because a few minutes later here she comes with her tea party toys in tow. "Now, will you join my tea party?" she asks. Right then and there I had two choices: join her in her tea party or refuse her request - again. It was at that moment, I realized how important it was to stop.

Stop doing my work. Stop thinking of reasons to say no or asking her to wait - again. Stop



thinking about how much longer it would take for me to finish. Most importantly, stop refusing to spend time with my daughter. Just stop. I didn't need to stop because I might lose time with her later. I didn't need to stop because I could do my homework later. I didn't even need to stop because she asked me to play with her. No. I needed to stop because I love my daughter. I needed to stop because love is making time for the most important people in our lives. I needed to stop because I want my daughter to know she can always come to me regardless of how busy I may seem. I needed to stop because what I do now affects her later. I needed to stop to enjoy the things she enjoys. I needed to stop because I want her to know that I would be there for her, even for a tea party with no tea.

This article was submitted by Tyachenna Bradley

Scholarship Recipient Spotlight

Alyssa Smith, AKEF Scholar

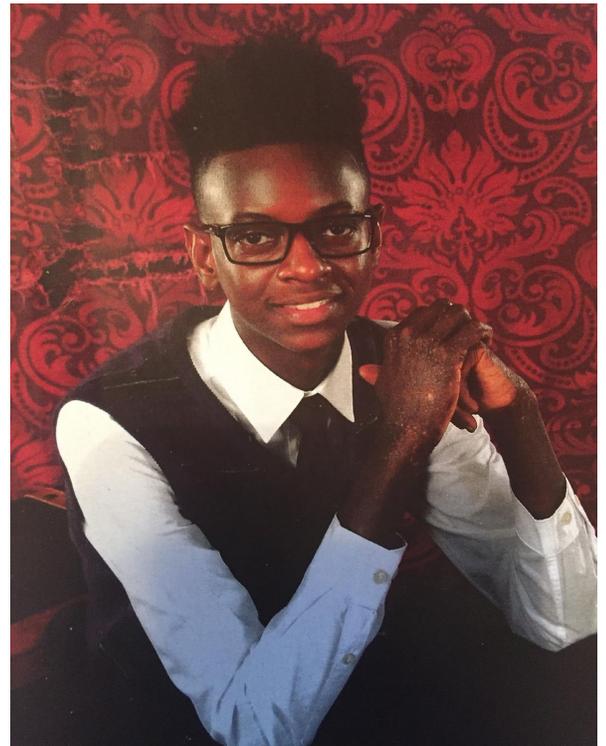
Alyssa Smith will pursue a degree in Exercise Science at St. Augustine's University during the 2017-2018 academic year. She was a member of the National Honor Society throughout her high school career, a member of the Helen Sheffield Society, and a member of Girl Scouts. She ultimately wants to become a physical therapist. Alyssa was awarded the Angie Kennedy Educational Foundation Scholarship for \$1000 for the 2017-2018 academic year.



Scholarship Recipient Spotlight

Jordan Thomas Williams, AKEF Scholar

Jordan Thomas Williams will pursue a degree in Computer Engineering at Morehouse College during the 2017-2018 academic year. Throughout high school, he was a member of the National Honor Society and remained on the A/B honor roll. After graduating from Morehouse College, Mr. Williams plans to obtain a broader understanding of the world by traveling. Ultimately, he plans to become a professional snowboarder. Jordan was awarded the Angie Kennedy Educational Foundation Scholarship for \$1000 for the 2017-2018 academic year.



MA CHERIE AMOUR

I made the decision to raise my daughter bilingual. When I was 15 years old, I lived in Brazil for one year and I became fluent in Portuguese. When I was 19 years old, I lived in Japan for 1 year and again when I was 28 years old I visited Japan for 3 months and I became fluent in Japanese. I took French for about 3 years in high school, but I learned to speak French when I worked in Benin for two years as a Peace Corps volunteer when I was 22 years old. I picked up all of my languages through immersion. My family is not currently in a position to raise my daughter in an environment where another language is spoken. Therefore, I am practicing my language skills and giving my daughter a valuable skill by speaking to her in French.

I chose French as the language I wanted to speak with my daughter as she grows up. That's not to say that I'm not going to expose her to other languages, but French will be predominately spoken and taught first because it is the language that I believe that I can get the most support. As I speak French to her at home and the world speaks English to her, she will pick up both simultaneously.

Although my daughter is only 2 years old now, I've been speaking and reading to her in French and English since she was born. Some of the strategies I use to stay motivated to speak French with her and to promote her language skills are:

- Check out and read French language books from the library;
- Have her listen to YouTube videos of French nursery rhymes (this is one of my favorite activities);
- If there is vocabulary that I am not familiar with, I look up the word and the proper pronunciation on Google translate (I usually look up the entire sentence instead of just a word because the translation could be different based on the context of the term)
- Use the French and English version of "Your Baby Can Learn/Read"™;
- Speak French with my daughter like I'm carrying on a conversation with a friend;
- Take my daughter to French meet-ups, a social event where individuals meet regularly to practice their conversational French over coffee or a meal;
- Set up play-dates for my daughter with children who speak French; and
- Hire a local college student who is majoring in French to babysit periodically and ask that they speak French to her.

One of the coolest things about this process is that when she was just an infant she responded to French more than she responded to English because most of her need based conversation (i.e. regarding eating, playing, and comfort) I spoke to her only in French. When she was 3 months old I took her to my West African dance class. During a water break, a lot of the participants crowded around her carrier to meet her. I kept saying, "Say Hello...Say Hi". She just stared at all of us with a blank face. Then I said, "Dire Bonjour...Dire Bonjour." She smiled. Well that was it...everybody started chanting "Bonjour...bonjour." She continued to smile and giggle. Finally, one of the young ladies started speaking French to her and she just smiled and began making her gurgling noises. It was such a sweet moment. The people around me are so supportive and excited. From my grandmother asking how to say great-grandma in French to my husband and father saying, "jet'aime," over and over to her even though they do not speak French. Family members even hold up my daughter's pacifier and say, "what do we call this again?" (sucette). The love and support from friends and family has been such an exciting part of this process.

Language is a way to empower children. Giving children a second language at an early age is a way to give them the world.

This article was submitted by Nia S. Peters

CONNECT WITH US!

Interested in ways you can become connected or involved with AKEF? A great way you can is by connected with us on social media! Our scholarship fund grows as we gain awareness, so sharing our updates, following our profiles, and leaving us reviews helps us to reach potential donors and future scholarship recipients.

You have the ability to help us reward more students with scholarships! All you have to do is connect with us! To connect with us on social media, click the hyperlinks listed below and follow, tweet, or like us across many different platforms!



Please Keep in Touch!

The Angie Kennedy Educational Foundation

P.O. Box 232

Orangeburg, SC

29115

akefoundation@gmail.com

980-395-3606

Find us on social media!

[Facebook](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Pinterest](#)

[Google+](#)

[Twitter](#)

[AKEF blog](#)

[Instagram](#)

[YouTube](#)

[GreatNonProfits](#)