As Atlanta Youth Academy enters its 15th year as a Christian college preparatory school, I want to celebrate all of our students, parents, faculty, staff, donors, volunteers and alumni who have made this moment possible. What began by faith with nine students and a budget of less than $50,000 has grown into over 120 students and a $1.6 million operating budget. Our programs have evolved to include a rigorous academic program, athletic teams that have experienced championships, and our art programs now include both visual and performing arts. Our alumni to date have accumulated over $2.9 million in scholarships and financial aid awards.

From the wisdom of Grandparents Day, to our successful Community Festival, to our Annual Benefit Auction, to our grand International Week, to our emerging Jr. Theatre Group and Robotics Team, AYA truly has much to celebrate.

Our goal continues to be one and the same — to produce the finest students that we possibly can from our campus and send them out academically and spiritually prepared.

Kind regards,

Derrick B. Lockwood, Principal
One day while in the car with her young niece, Maya, and her three-year-old daughter, Stephanie, Maya found a book in the back seat and began reading it to her little cousin. Mrs. Simpson turned in her seat. “What grade are you in?” she asked. “Kindergarten,” said Maya. She was shocked. “And you’re reading?” Mrs. Simpson talked with her sister, who told her that Maya had been attending AYA. A few months later, Mrs. Simpson’s daughter Stephanie turned four, and begged to go to school like her big brothers. So Mrs. Simpson signed her daughter up for all the pre-K public school lotteries in their area. They even showed up in person on the day the lotteries were drawn, waiting and watching to see if Stephanie would be picked. They were the only two people there. And in lottery after lottery, Stephanie’s name was never called.

Mrs. Simpson, remembering the conversation she’d had with her sister, applied to the pre-K program at Atlanta Youth Academy. Stephanie was tested and accepted.

“I wasn’t a first-time mother,” said Mrs. Simpson, “but I was a first-time mom of a little girl. I felt protective.” She started volunteering at AYA to keep an eye on Stephanie. She worked in the library, reading to the students and working to make library time part of their daily curriculum. Meanwhile, as she watched Stephanie’s interactions with her teachers, she liked what she saw. “It wasn’t just a job to them,” she said. “They were involved in the total child. They took care of my daughter as if she was their own.”

It wasn’t long before volunteering turned into substitute teaching, and when Stephanie’s pre-K teacher moved away the following year, AYA asked Mrs. Simpson to apply for the vacant position. She had taught middle school, but never this age group. She had her doubts. “I worried I’d spend more time mothering them than teaching,” she laughed. That may have been just what the students needed, because today Mrs. Simpson is one of AYA’s most prized educators. Mrs. Simpson recounts a story from the classroom:

“I have a little sweetheart who is always touching the girls’ hair or sitting so close to them that they say, ‘Get off of me!’ So this morning I sat all the pre-K students down in a group and said, ‘We’re going to start talking about personal space.’ Then, of course, I had to convey that big-sounding word to them so they could visualize it. So I picked one student out and got in her face real close and said, ‘Are you comfortable like this?’ And she said, ‘No!’ And I said, ‘Well, you should tell Mrs. Simpson, ‘Mrs. Simpson! Could you please step back a little bit? You’re in my personal space.’’"

“I’m always amazed because at some point during the day I’ll hear exactly what I said. ‘You’re in my personal space!’ We have to teach the behavior that we expect, and we have to model it as well. I’ve found that children are able to give you back exactly what they’ve learned. I mean, really. They’re just smart.”

The Atlanta Youth Academy staff knows that what makes a child successful is not just what happens in the classroom. Parents and grandparents play a vital role in a child’s education. Mrs. Simpson exemplifies this by demanding excellence from children and parents alike. She expects parents to have their children in bed by 8:30, for example, which can be a challenge when a single parent is working full-time.

“It’s a chance encounter that brought Angela Simpson to Atlanta Youth Academy. Our children are our most precious commodities. We have to give them all of us. If that means sacrificing some things, we must do it and I am here to help.”

“I’m very up front with parents about what I expect from them regarding their children,” Mrs. Simpson said. “Our children are our most precious commodities. If that means sacrificing some things, we must do it and I am here to help.”

Like so many of the staff, Mrs. Simpson helps however she can. Whether it’s ensuring that a student finishes his homework in the afterschool program or helping a family to secure a child’s ride to school, the staff of Atlanta Youth Academy demonstrate their commitment to their students’ success.

“We want our parents to know that we’re not just a school,” Mrs. Simpson said. “We’re a community.”
“AYA is what we dreamed it would be fifteen years ago: a place where anyone would want to send their kids, but also a place made especially for underserved communities. In another fifteen years, we will continue to be a school of elite status with a heart for everyday people.”

“Because of AYA, I have changed from an immature boy to an urbane, mature young man.”

“We maintained a personal connection with Kyle Woodruff, from when he started at AYA in kindergarten until he graduated in 8th grade. We still have his picture in our living room.”
How has AYA influenced you?
AYA has made me who I am today. They taught me from kindergarten that when you see someone you don’t know, you go up to them and introduce yourself and say, “Welcome to our class.” That’s what I do at school now, and that’s what I do at work. That’s just what I do period. So when people say, “You’re so kind,” I have to credit AYA.

What’s your fondest memory of AYA?
I used to love dressing up in my uniform, going to chapel and singing along to the songs. My kindergarten teacher was James Daniel, and we would always practice a Bible verse or a song to present to the school. So that’s one out of the millions of memories I have of AYA.

What challenges did you face while at Atlanta Youth Academy?
My mom passed in 6th grade. So that was a big obstacle in my life. My mom was my backbone, so when she passed AYA stepped in.

We were like a close family. It’s a small school, so anything I needed, they’d come running.

Do you think that going through grief at a young age has made you more mature?
It has made me stronger. Not having a mom makes me want to be a mom to other people.

Talk about your transition to high school.
The first day I walked into public school I was like, “I do not want to be here. I want to go elsewhere with the smart kids.” I had been hearing all this bad stuff about public schools, but I made the best of it by doing what AYA teaches you. I developed relationships with all my teachers and made a name for myself. One of the highlights of my high school career has been making the varsity cheerleading squad. I’ve always wanted to be a varsity cheerleader.

What are you passionate about?
Writing. I have so much to say. I also find myself trying to impact the lives of other people. My dad is always saying, “Worry about Jamie.” But if I see one of my classmates walking down the hall in the opposite direction of class, I will literally grab them and say, “Let’s walk to class together.” Sometimes I’ll find myself late to my own classes because I’m taking people to their classes. But I guess that’s the motherly instinct that’s been instilled in me from day one at AYA. They used to call me Grandma. Wisdom is the word I like to use. I have a couple of gray strands up here.

“My mom was my backbone, so when she passed AYA stepped in. We were like a close family. It’s a small school, so anything I needed, they’d come running.”

What’s been your proudest accomplishment so far?
There are a lot of things that people might call accomplishments, but I don’t think I’ve reached that point yet. Maybe after I earn my high school degree, maybe I would consider that an accomplishment. I have very high standards for myself, I don’t want to give AYA all the credit, but I kind of do. There’s a push that I have.
Chloe Johnson
8th Grade Student

What’s the most important thing you’ve learned at AYA?
“A short pencil is better than a long memory.” It means you should write things down. I learned that from my principal, Mr. Lockwood.

Devron Woodruff
Alumnus

Sophomore at Woodward Academy
Sports: Football
Scholarships: $84,000
Potential colleges: UGA, LSU
Projected major: Business

If you had a little brother starting at AYA, what’s the one piece of advice you would give him?
Two things: Be a leader and do your homework.

Kayla Price
4th Grade Student

Share something you’ve memorized in school, like a Bible verse, equation or quote.
“Fathers, do not exasperate your children. Instead bring them up in the training and instructions of the Lord. Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ.” —Ephesians 6:4–5

What do you think you’ll be doing in 15 years?
Probably still in school. My dad told me that if I want to be a dolphin trainer I have to go to school for a long time to learn. I’m fine with that.
“What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?” —Mark 8:36, NIV

Larry Teem grew up in Atlanta’s Buckhead neighborhood among privilege and opportunity. His upbringing led him into the business arena, but he soon grew dissatisfied with the lack of fulfillment it had to offer. He knew that he loved two things: working with kids and seeing them come to know Christ. So after witnessing the wealth divide firsthand while working in Atlanta’s housing projects, he left the business world to become what he calls an “urban entrepreneur.” Today Larry applies his gifts of leadership and mentoring to the communities that need them most. Since founding the Atlanta Youth Project in 1990, he has launched more than a dozen programs for underprivileged kids, including Atlanta Youth Academy.
Chuck Johnston leaves his position as Founding Headmaster of Whitefield Academy to become the Executive Director of AYA. Whitefield honors his contract for 18 months, paying him his salary in full. Over the next 11 years, Chuck will bring AYA from survival mode into thriving adolescence.

"Every kid who has come through AYA has graduated from high school. 94% have gone onto college. Statistically, that’s off the charts.”

AYA moves to its own 13-acre campus — “The Promised Land,” as Larry calls it.

Larry begins looking for a new Executive Director, a “David” character. He spends six months praying and waiting.

“If I had said Chuck Johnston, there’s no way we could have gotten him. But since God wanted him...”

AYA IN 2011:
120 STUDENTS
14 TEACHERS
1.6 MILLION DOLLAR BUDGET

ernels: What piece of advice would you give your former self?

"Wait for the miracles.”
What does it feel like to be the first AYA student to attend Blair Academy?
When I first stepped foot onto campus at Blair, I felt scared because I realized I was all alone. But as I think about it now, my outlook has completely changed. I see myself as an opportunist for other prospective students.

How do you think your life has changed because of AYA?
AYA taught me the life lessons I need to survive in the real world as an African American. They taught me to see myself and others as equals. They opened a door that led to a lot more doors of opportunity.

What impact have AYA’s donors and volunteers had on you?
They have shown me how to be selfless. They believe that one more educated child can lead to a better future, and I truly admire that.

“Last month we had another of our supper get-togethers with Jordan Arnold, an AYA graduate. Jordan was the first to receive a full scholarship to New Jersey’s prestigious Blair Academy, where Frank just celebrated his 50th reunion. AYA is unique in that it trains the whole student, equipping him or her with the maturity and confidence necessary to thrive in broader American culture.”
Miles Gibbs
*Pre-K Student*

*Do you have pets?*
I have a dog. Winston. He's black.

*What is something you have learned since you started school?*
"A" and "1." And I know how to do a circle.

Desireé Fraley
*Alumna*

Senior at The Lovett School

GPA: 3.5

*Extracurriculars:* Track and Field, Varsity Cheerleading, Dance, Speech, Debate

*Potential colleges:* University of Maryland, James Madison University, Virginia Commonwealth University

“My family taught me that education is not an option; it’s a necessity.”

Byron Orr
*6th Grade Student*

*What’s the coolest thing you’ve learned in school so far?*
PEMDAS.

*What does that mean?*
*P* stands for parentheses, *E* stands for exponents, *M* stands for multiplication, *D* stands for division, *A* stands for addition, and *S* stands for subtraction. It’s for equations and we have to do them in that order to get the answer. I've been getting good grades.

*Where do you see yourself in 15 years?*
I want to be in the FBI.
When you first meet Chuck Johnston, his gentle spirit and smart wit are immediately evident. And as he begins talking, his love of children, education, and strategic problem-solving shine through, and it becomes obvious why the role of Executive Director at Atlanta Youth Academy fits so well. In his final year of leading the school before retirement, Chuck shares a bit about his journey and love of AYA.

Q&A

How did your career in education begin?
I grew up as one of four boys in Atlanta. My father told us early on to do as a career the thing that we would most enjoy. It was during my sophomore year of college that I decided I would most enjoy teaching high school English and coaching. I’ve always enjoyed the combination of academics and sports and it felt like a great way to do both.

Talk about your journey into educational leadership and eventually your move to the Atlanta Youth Academy.
I was eventually tapped on the shoulder to move from the classroom to administration. I’ve been at more different schools than anyone could name. Both Whitefield and Atlanta Youth Academy started in the same year [1997-1998] and we were sister schools that first year. Larry [Teem] would come and teach a class each week at Whitefield called Urban Issues. It is one of the best classes I’ve ever been a part of creating. We would have panel discussions in the classrooms, but more often than not students would go into organizations and ministries in downtown Atlanta and serve and learn. It was a life-changing experience for those students and it put in my heart a desire to work more closely downtown. I’ve always felt that children from lower income families didn’t have a fair opportunity at a first-rate education. I was glad for the chance to take what I had learned from my years in first-rate prep schools and apply it to children from the urban sector. For me it was almost an experiment. Can children without certain background components accomplish the same things as affluent children if they have a very focused and challenging educational environment?

What have you found?
The range of IQ is the same as suburban kids. I had hoped that as our children graduated from the eighth grade at AYA, they would gain access to some of the really good prep schools. And I can remember saying that even if they are in the bottom quartile in those schools that those schools will be glad to have them because they’ll have good attitudes, be involved in activities and have a good work ethic. The remarkable reality is that almost all of our graduates, as they have gone to these schools, have been honor roll students. So something’s happening. The experiment is working.

You’ve been at Atlanta Youth Academy now for 11 years, longer than any other school you’ve served at in the past. What is it that has kept you here?
I’ve always seen myself as a troubleshooter. If something ever gets to the point of just maintaining the status quo, my interest wanes. [My time at Atlanta Youth Academy] has always been a new adventure and a new faith walk. When you’re growing is when you’re most excited about something.

How do you feel that working here has affected you?
Having grown up in Atlanta in pre-integration days and living through that revolution, I have a keen interest in Atlanta being an example of a city that can plunge the richness of a multi-racial culture. The historic divide in Atlanta has always been between black and white. I love playing my small role in trying to breach that gulf.

How important is attitude?
I think it’s ninety percent. At one time, because of finances, there was some conversation about ending AYA at the fifth grade. But I fought for us to maintain those junior high years because I think they are fraught with the most pitfalls. If a child can get from the fifth grade to the ninth grade with their attitude, work ethic and purity intact, high school will be relatively easy for them.

How does AYA remain a support system when a student goes to high school?
The graduates make it easy for us to do that because they’re constantly coming back to campus. And I really like that. Secondly, [Principal] Derrick [Lockwood] and I have made a practice of visiting some of the high school campuses and showing students that they’re still accountable to us. Because if you think about it, the opportunities for the students that follow them are to a large extent dependent on how well these students do.

They’re ambassadors of AYA.
Right. We’ve made it to almost every high school graduation of our former students, and we look forward to going to our first college graduation.

Can you share a specific success story with me?
I hate to single out any one child, but I’ll speak of my friend Anthony Gates, with whom I have breakfast from time to time. Anthony came to us as a sixth grader. He had a bad stutter, couldn’t look you in the eye, and was doing poorly in school. I think his success had a lot to do with the faith aspect of the school and learning to put into practice the Christian faith. Anthony has heard me say that I don’t think he’s innately brilliant, but he compensates for that with great attitude and work ethic. So he went from here to Whitefield Academy. He would get to school in the dark of the morning to meet with his teachers for extra help. He took into account advice that various people would give him. He lived with a family out there for one school year. He had a couple of opportunities when it came to college and he chose Morehouse. He is now a sophomore, doing well, and at the same time working in a children’s after school program.

So he’s starting to give back already.
He’s a remarkable young man.

“If a child can get from the fifth grade to the ninth grade with their attitude, work ethic and purity intact, high school will be relatively easy for them.”

People who visit AYA and interact with students always comment on how the students carry themselves. Why are good manners important?
Mr. Lockwood has been very adamant about teaching students good manners. I can’t tell you how many visitors have been impressed by a student giving them a firm handshake, looking them in the eye and introducing...
themselves. Invariably I hear the refrain, “I wish my children would do that.” I think that teaching students good manners — holding the door, for example — is not just some kind of folderol passed down from the Victorian era. It’s a way of putting another person ahead of yourself and showing consideration for them. I think if our graduates leave here not just interested in self-aggrandizement but really have a heart for other people in general, and particularly the less fortunate, then I will feel like we’ve done our job.

Where would you like to see the school in the next fifteen years?
I would like to see Atlanta Youth Academy serve more children than it does. We like the size of the school, classes ranging from 12 to 15 per class. The principal knows not only all the students but all the parents as well. So if we become larger I would like for it be in the form of a second unit of 125.

What do you think is the greatest impact that AYA has had so far?
I focused a lot on prep schools, but I’m proud of our students who have gone to some of the really fine public schools. And I hear story after story of how they have exerted leadership in those schools and had an influence on other students. They are showing culture at large that it’s cool to be a person of character, who cares for other people, maintains a good work ethic, and maybe on top of that has a good sense of humor.

What will you be doing in your retirement?
I’ve always wanted to write. I’ve been a journal keeper since I was in my twenties and I’ve never taken the time to go back through those early journals. I look forward to seeing if there may be some writing that would help me understand the course of life better and be of value to my family. We’ve also just moved to a pre-transitional neighborhood off of Bankhead Highway. I am looking forward to devoting time to being a part of that neighborhood as well.

Anything else you’d like to say?
Being at AYA has been a great education for me. I have gotten a lot more than I have given.
2010–2011
School Year Results

INCOME

- 72% DONATIONS
- 9.33% ARETE & GOAL SCHOLARSHIPS
- 16.44% PARENT TUITION
- 2.23% SUBSIDIZED LUNCH

EXPENSES

- 65.91% FACULTY & STAFF SALARIES
- 8.05% DEVELOPMENT & FUNDRAISING
- 2.15% OPERATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE
- 23.89% EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

TOTAL

INCOME: $1,642,863
EXPENSES: $1,600,503

Lawrence F. Teem
Founder & Chairman

Charles L. Johnston
Executive Director

Derrick B. Lockwood
Principal

Board of Directors
Leroy Barber, Jr.
Jane Berry
Philip Bray
Harold Melton
Joel T. Moore
Jay Simms
Lawrence F. Teem
Keith White

Board of Advisors
Wayner Crowder
Larry Edge
Glen Jackson
Emanuel Jones
Richard Parker
Chris Schoen

Steve Shuler, Chair
Jack Sibley
David Songy
Carolyn Young
Zach Young

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Billy Briggs
Frank H. Briggs, Chair Emeritus
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Molly Plyler
William M. Ragland, Jr.
Erwin Reid
McKittrick Simmons
Anita Wallace Thomas
Hank Thomas
Tom Wamsley
Michelle Wlodarek

Friends of AYA
Billy Van Eaton, Chair

All contributions to the Atlanta Youth Academy go through our fund raising foundation, Atlanta Youth Academies Foundation, Inc. Atlanta Youth Academies, Inc. and Atlanta Youth Academies Foundation, Inc. are audited each year by Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC. As of November 7, 2011 the audit for school year 2010–2011 is not complete. At your request, we would be pleased to provide you with a copy of our audited financial statements. Mauldin & Jenkins may also be contacted directly at 200 Galleria Parkway, Suite 1700, Atlanta, GA 30339-5946 or via telephone at 770-955-8600.

*NOTE: YMCA Campus did not operate in 2010–2011
## Budget Projections

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1,759,885 yr. to yr. increase 2.52% 1,754,923 yr. to yr. increase 2.34%
ALUMNI

Class of 2004
Christopher Davis, Tech High School
Davion Greer, Washington High School
Jinea Gaston, Tech High School
Dianna Porter, Tech High School, Albany State
Paige Reynolds, Grace Christian Academy, Devry Institute of Technology
DeCarlo Tatum, Tech High School
Nicole Warthen, Pathway Christian School, Atlanta Metropolitan College

Class of 2005
Robert Boyd, Southwest DeKalb High School, Georgia Southern
Clarence Dixon, Grace Christian Academy, Kennesaw State and University
Myosha Gosier, Mount Vernon Christian Academy, Valdosta State
Brent Grantville, Druid Hills High School
Sythea Lester, Greenforest Christian Academy, Emory University
Jameel Stokes, The Lovett School, Georgia Southern
Jameesa Stokes, The Lovett School, Auburn University
Albert Wilson, Rabun-Gap Nacoochee School, Winthrop College

Class of 2006
Quadulyn Cummings, Tech High School, Paine College
Jaquan Ford, Rabun-Gap Nacoochee School, Louisiana State University
Anthony Gates, Whitefield Academy, Morehouse College
Caroyne Ouya, Miss Porter’s School, Santa Clara University
Keenon Rush, The McCallie School, Wake Forest University
Kentavria Wheat, Southwest Dekalb High School, Gordon College
Brittnay Wilson, Starr’s Mill High School, Tuskegee Institute

Class of 2007
Joel Barber, Carver School of the Arts, West Georgia
Sekani Crawford, Newton County High School, Georgia State
Sabria Hall, Tallulah Falls, Georgia Perimeter
Milton Hancock, Darlington School
Tatiana Mapp-Pearson, Norcross High School, Georgia Perimeter
Korey Phillips, Hope for Excellence School
Ricky Reynolds, Grace Christian Academy, Atlanta Area Tech
Terris (Jakobi) Scroggins, Rabun-Gap Nacoochee School, Mars Hill College
Derell Wilson, Rosa Parks Leadership Academy

Class of 2008
Jordan Arnold, Blair Academy
Desirée Fraley, The Lovett School
Chelsea Norwoood, Westlake High School
Tyree Rush, The McCallie School
Andrew Scott, Druid Hills High School
Jamal Willis, Druid Hills High School
Tevin Woodruff, Early College High School at Carver

Class of 2009
Apreya DeVoe, Tech High School
Jasmine Francis, Piney Woods
Brigham Hall, Grady High School
Onrica Harris, Piney Woods
LaMarvin Hines, Columbia High School
Larenzia Lawrence, Piney Woods
Jonathan Myrick, Ben Franklin Academy
Amazier Ouya, University High School
Jamie Pauldo, Washington High School
Katriana Simmons, Holy Innocents Episcopal School
Alexis Vinson, Blair Academy
John Welch, Blair Academy
Kyle Woodruff, South Atlanta High School

Class of 2010
Kyler Dixon, Grady High School
Kendall Dunovant, Walla Walla High School
Herschel Knox, Maynard Jackson High School
Keaton Manning, Blair Academy
Kaelin Matthews, The New Schools at Carver
Alex Mitchell, Holy Innocents Episcopal School
Logan McIntosh, Wheeler High School
Ashley Rush, Decatur High School
Bryce Simpson, King’s Ridge Christian Academy
Marquavious Strozier, The Westminster Schools
Cornesha Williams, Decatur High School
Adrianna Williams, Riverwood High School
Devon Woodruff, Woodward Academy

Class of 2011
Donovan Bess, Mount Vernon Presbyterian
Myka Delancey, Rockdale County High School
Sydni Dunovant, Grady High School
Brianna Evans, The Piney Woods School
Aab Gruduah, Holy Innocents’ Episcopal School
Jazmine Lester, The Westminster Schools
Atia Williams, Holy Innocents’ Episcopal School

CORPORATIONS,
SCHOOLS &
MINISTRIES
Access Worldwide
Atlanta Westside Presbyterian Church
Areté
Bible Way Ministries
Buckhead Charities
Chick-fil-a
Church of the Apostles
Conklin Metal Industries
Delta Kappa Gamma
Flash Point Community Church
Friends of Atlanta Youth Academy
Gay Construction
Georgia GOAL Scholarship Program
Ginger Howard Company
Gleneagles Group
Holy Innocents Episcopal School
Infotank, Inc.
Jackson Spalding
Keeble & Pyke Financial Advisors
Keller Knapp
Lyles and Crawford Clinical Consulting
McNealy and Associates
Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC
Menchies Frozen Yogurt
Milbury Design
North Avenue Presbyterian Church
Petrus Brands
SafeHouse Outreach
Seven Oaks Company
The Lovett School
The Westminster Schools
Tory Burch LLC
Trinity School
UBS Employee Giving
Vinings Village Church

We have made every effort to list in this report all who gave of either their time or monetary resources to Atlanta Youth Academy from August 1, 2010–July 31, 2011. We regret any errors or omissions and request that you report corrections to Caroline Fejoku at 404.924.2694.
VOLUNTEERS
Beth Abernathy
Amber Alford
Doris Allen
Donyal Andrews
Chris Baldwin
Gail Beavers
Maytie Beeson
Cheryl Blackmon
Leslie Blount
Lib Boggs
Armedon Bonds
Daniel Boyles
Billy Briggs
Chanda Briggs
Juadon Brown
Webb Brown
Cathy Clark
Clark Coole
Caroline Crawford
Chase Louis Crawford
Kamala Cummings
Daughtery Family
Dordt College, Sioux Center, IOWA
Carlyn Defnall
Jessica DeHart
Buffie Feider
Brian Freeman
Friends of AYA
Lynne Fuqua
Dedra Geter
Monique Gholston
Caitlin Goodrich
Natasha Grant
Sam Graves
Frankie Hobbs
Karatim Holston
Consuela Johnson
Adrian Jones
Ron Lenderman
Mary Margaret Lewis
Weston Lewis
Yvette Lindo
Sensei Louis
Jelina Lovett
Matt Martin
Noel McCullough
Angel McCurdy
Elizabeth McEver
Susan McGonigle
Chris McGown
Anne Miller
Amani Mitchell
Melanie Mitchell
Tonda Morris
Shannon Nease
Billy Peebles
Rodney Pierre-Paul
David Plyler
Molly Plyler
Becky Riley
Debbie Sanders
Molly Hilsman Smalley
Robin Smith
Beatrice Perry Soublet
Melissa Stahel
Katherine Strate
Charlotte Marie Sturtz
Jonathan Sturtz
Rustin Sweeney
Susanne Teegarden
Stewart Teegarden
Valerie Thrasher
Stacey Triesch
Billy Van Eaton
Melissa Walker
Alice Watson
Margaret Davis White
Whitefield Academy 5th Grade
Whitefield Academy 9th Grade
Jeff Williams
Molly Willis
Michelle Wlodarek
Rashida Wright
James Yallery
Jason Yallery

FOUNDATIONS
Akers Foundation
Anita Moses Shippen Charitable Fund
Arthur and Sarah Merrill Foundation
Atlanta Christian Foundation
AXA Foundation Matching Gift Administration
Colonial Hill Foundation
Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta
Community Foundation of South Georgia
Daniel P. Amos Family Foundation
Edward Colston Foundation
Equifax Foundation
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Frances Wood Wilson
Fraser-Parker Foundation
Goldman, Sachs and Company Matching Gift Program
Grandview Foundation
National Christian Foundation
Northwestern Mutual Foundation
Realan Foundation
Sartain Lanier Family Foundation
Somerset Foundation
SunTrust Bank Atlanta Foundation
Thomas Lanier Foundation
Triangle Community Foundation
Watkins Christian Foundation
Weswood Foundation

AYA FACULTY & STAFF
Chuck Johnston, Executive Director
Derrick Lockwood, Principal
Rock Curlee, Administrative Director
Carrilyn Strickland, Administrative Coordinator
Temekai Dorsey, Administrative Assistant
Beth Cheatham, Development Director
Caroline Gay Jejoku, Development Assistant
Angela Simpson, Pre-Kindergarten
Stephanie Banner, Kindergarten
Caroline Germany, First Grade
Jillian Marsh, Second Grade
Willetta Buchanan, Third Grade
Paullette Woodruff, Fourth Grade
Shanda Daniel, Fifth Grade
Janelle Yallery, Sixth Grade
Benjamin Wills, Seventh Grade
Kathryn Stanley, Eighth Grade
Ron Lenderman, U.S. History
Millie Turner, Art Teacher
Rica Ward, Spanish
Rachel Barber, Cafeteria
Pam Smith, Cafeteria
Lib Boggs, Librarian
Reggie Short, Facilities
Kimberly Strickland, After School Director
The Atlanta Youth Academy Foundation exists to advance the Kingdom of God by providing the funding necessary to offer students of Atlanta Youth Academy an excellent, Christ-centered education regardless of their families’ economic status.

Our Mission

The Atlanta Youth Academy Foundation seeks to vigorously raise the financial support necessary to provide assistance to as many needy students as the Atlanta Youth Academy can accommodate. Then, as these students are empowered, they will utilize their gifts and resources for the Kingdom of God and in turn help others in their communities. Additionally, the vision is to serve as a Christian witness to all, regardless of race, creed, resources or religion, by exemplifying a contagious spirit of benevolence.

Our Vision