

# SHIELD AMPLIFIED

SUMMER 2021



## THE RECAP

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In March 2020, we were disrupted six weeks into our program during the pandemic, with precisely six more weeks to go while completing the SHIELD Saturday Leadership Academy (SSLA). We pivoted in the same manner that many other youth-serving organizations did by continuing our program online via Zoom.

Like many other program delivery models, we experienced a decline in attendance and participation as students experienced Zoom fatigue. So we started to think about ways that we could help with this.

SHIELD MENTOR  
PROGRAM

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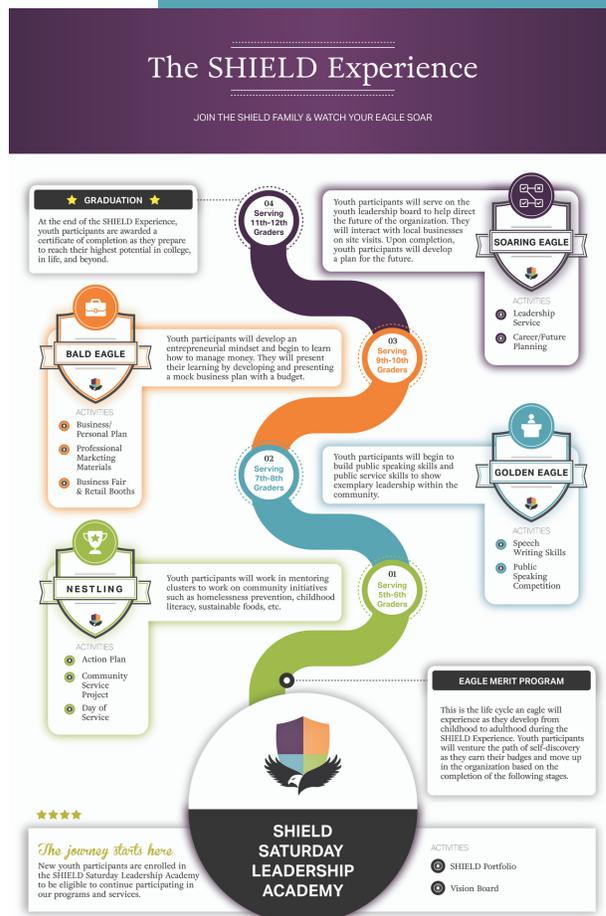
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With the added hours of children being home with their parents, we wanted to be a resource to families as we prepared to relaunch in February 2021.

Our custom-built online mentoring platform, the SHIELD Online Community, became an incredible solution for our youth, mentors, parents, and families to continue to meet.

Online mentoring has allowed us to use many technologies - from live events, video calls, chats, online forums, and virtual reality meeting spaces - to connect college and professional mentors to young people seeking mentorship and leadership services.



Together, youth and adult volunteers were able to continue to participate in interactive workshops, team-building exercises, and leadership development while focusing on a specific theme: goal setting, decision-making, conflict resolution, effective communication, and teamwork.

**"IT HELPS ME BUILD CHARACTER AND TEAM BUILDING."**

In addition, we launched a new program called the Intentional Parenting Online Summit, bringing in guest speakers worldwide to speak to our private Facebook group impacting 186 participants who joined us virtually.



Our theme, **YOUR DESTINY IS NOT DISRUPTED**, will encourage youth and their families to explore how to unlock their desired futures while breaking free from cycles of generational setbacks that hold them back.

**Watch YouTube Videos**

Crystal Adair, Hyattsville, MD  
Mrs. Sana Cotton, Middleton, CT  
Quiana Daniels- Smart, Philadelphia, PA  
Anthony Davis, Orlando, FL  
Tony and Nicole Davis, Owings Mills, MD

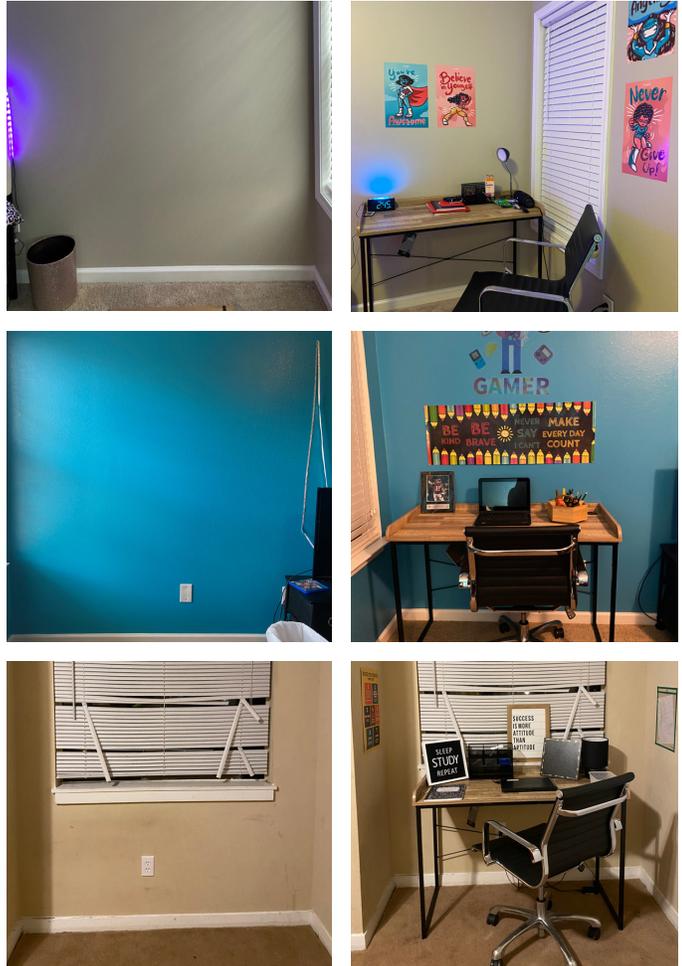
Tikisha-Michelle Johnson, Sneads Ferry, NC  
Jeff A.D Martin, Ontario, Canada  
Shenequa "SP" Pierre, New Rochelle, NY  
Nicola Smith, Virginia Beach, VA  
Tavis Taylor, Bogart, GA

We decided to put on this program to support parents as the first line of communication with their children. We wanted parents to know that they were not alone and that many other parents were navigating the new normal. From homeschooling to making important decisions regarding their child's social and emotional health issues, we wanted to be there for like-minded parents who needed positive outlets for their children.

**Check out our before and after at-home learning Spaces!**

## AT-HOME LEARNING SPACES

The SHIELD Mentor Program raised over \$4000 to design at-home learning spaces for 25 youth and families in need after learning that many did not have designated areas to really focus on learning, especially while spending so many countless hours in front of a computer screen. This project has enabled us to provide deserving children the opportunity to receive a fun and engaging learning space in their homes to cut down on any distractions that were not conducive for their learning that we wanted to address. We are so happy to have had the opportunity to provide our SHIELD families that could not afford to buy a desk in addition to the many other needs during the pandemic.



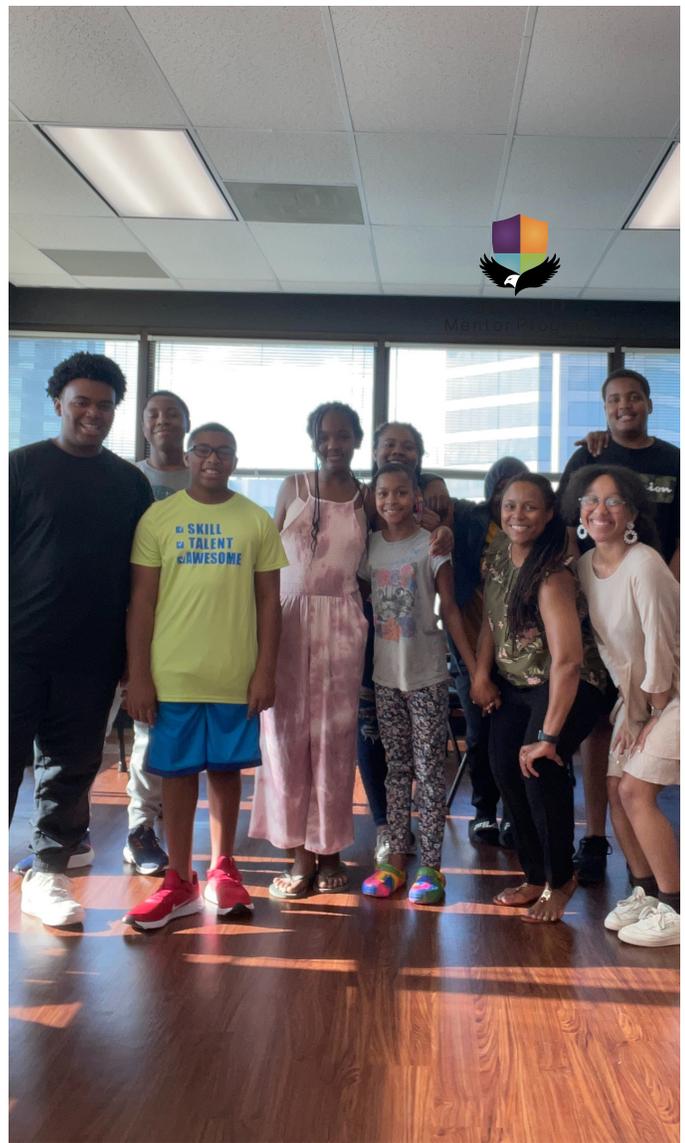
*Thank you to Nicole Walker, April Wilson-Johnson, and Alisha Walker, and the many supporters for making the project possible.*

# WHAT'S NEXT?

We are accepting applications for the Fall 2021 SHIELD Saturday Leadership Academy.

We are excited to continue our programs virtually as we uplift our community beyond Greensboro in spreading our mission to Strengthen, Help, Inspire, and Encourage Leadership Development by delivering structured mentoring activities and programs for young people.

The safety of our youth and families always remains a priority as we navigate through the pandemic.



## CALLING ALL 4TH – 12TH GRADERS!

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

We are now accepting applications for new and returning youth participants. SPACE IS LIMITED!



**12** sessions & workshops

**12** weeks of networking

**30+** experts & community leaders



THE 2021 SHIELD Saturday Leadership Academy is going virtual, offering a 12-week leadership intensive program to bring together parents, youth, and families that are interested in strengthening and empowering a strong community.

The program runs from **September 4, 2021 – November 20, 2021** (12-week program) and will be structured around talks, panel discussions, live events, and group discussions around a variety of predetermined topics.

**You & Your Child Will Receive:**

- Access to the *12 Days of Success Talks Discussion Guide*
- Digital copy of the *SHIELD Portfolio* (49 pages of ENGAGING, printable activities, worksheets, and more)
- Access to our *SHIELD Online Community* for the 12 weeks program with community leaders, guest speakers, and panelists
- Certificate of Completion

**\* Fee assistance & payment plans available**

\*\*From the very first SHIELD Saturday Leadership Academy in 2018, we've made access and affordability a priority and given all that has happened, this has never been more important. Fee assistance is made possible by the Greensboro Virus Relief Fund which was established by United Way of Greater Greensboro, City of Greensboro, and Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro and other generous contributions.

**APPLY ONLINE**



[www.shieldmentor.org/slsa](http://www.shieldmentor.org/slsa)

Follow us online:



**Registration is open until August 14th, 2021!**



## CLOSING AWARDS CEREMONY

Thank you to our parents and youth for sticking with SHIELD as we went virtual! We reached the goal of leading 45 youth which is an admirable goal during the pandemic.

We recognized volunteers and youth from the SSLA and Eagle Merit Program (EMP) for completing the 12 weeklong programs during the Awards Ceremony.

Our mentors from their respective universities created presentations and videos presented on their positive and educational experiences with us. Mentors and mentees shared kind words based on their experiences with the mentoring circles as well.

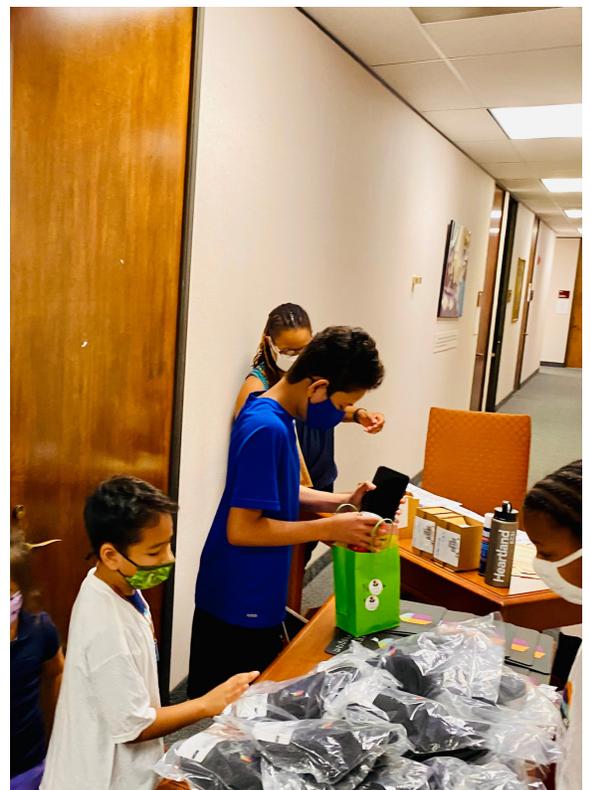
To close out the ceremony, board members and parents expressed their appreciation for the continuation of mentoring services.

We could not be more thankful for the support SHIELD received amidst the pandemic. Thank you for creating this educational yet rewarding experience with us!

[Our Volunteers](#)

[Our Award Recipients](#)

[Watch Recap Video](#)



# THANK YOU

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS, VOLUNTEERS, AND PARTNERS FOR HELPING THIS PROGRAM GROW INTO WHAT IT IS TODAY.

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Thank you for your generous gift to the SHIELD Mentor Program from our partners to donors and volunteers. We are thrilled to have your support. We could not be happier to have designed at-home learning spaces and created a 100% virtual mentoring program for the Spring 2021 cohort through your generous contributions. You truly make a difference for us, and we are extremely grateful!

We want to extend a huge thank you to our volunteers, who are the backbone to making our program successful and what it is today. We built our largest volunteer staff to date to support us through unprecedented times. Planning and creating an online curriculum on top of supporting weekly mentoring sessions was not an easy feat. However, our volunteers took on this task with stride.

Without organizations such as the Leadership and Civic Engagement, Human Development and Family Studies Program, United Way of Greater Greensboro's Mentoring Matters, Mentor Hub, and Mental Health Greensboro this program wouldn't have been successful. Our organization cannot thank our partnering agencies enough for your support.

Last but not least, we would like to thank the Greensboro Virus Relief Fund for believing in us and supporting our vision. We are grateful to have been one of the many recipients of the grant awards.

Our program will be continuing our virtual program in the Fall, and this wouldn't be possible without your generosity this past year.

Thank you.

BE A 2021  
SUPPORTER

OUR  
SUPPORTERS

OUR  
BOARD MEMBERS

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

**August 10th, 2021, at 6pm EST**

Please join us for an information session. It is a terrific way for you and your child to find out all about the activities that we will do during the Fall! SHIELD staff will discuss the program, review the application process, and answer any questions that you might have. Those in attendance will receive guaranteed acceptance.

## JOIN US FOR THE INTENTIONAL PARENTING ONLINE SUMMIT!

**July 31st, 2021 - August 14, 2021**

Join our [Intentional Parenting Facebook Group](#) to stay connected! Grab your [free resources](#) here to get started!



Save the Date

NOVEMBER 30TH, 2021



# GIVING TUESDAY

## STAY IN TOUCH!

 [@shieldmentor](#)

 [@mentoryouth](#)

 [@shieldyouth](#)

 [@shieldyouth](#)



## *Meet our Intern*

# DESTINY KING

Marketing and Communications Intern

SECU Public Fellow from UNC-Greensboro

Music Education major with a minor in Arts Administration

### Social Media Platforms

- Coordinating social media posts through Facebook Business Suite and TweetDeck

### Testimonials and Marketing Content

- Curating new ways to engage with parents and youth to gather testimonials
- Using new vision to create more marketing initiatives