

2015 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dream Keeper Scholarships Recipients

Eboni TyTiana Georges, a senior at Airport High School, said she learned the importance of helping others at a young age starting out as a volunteer to help feed the homeless. As Georges grew older, she combined her interest in healthcare with her volunteer efforts. Georges has volunteered with both Palmetto Health Baptist and Mid-Carolina Area Health Education Consortium. Georges completed 42 hours of service as a junior volunteer at Palmetto Health Baptist. During her time with Mid-Carolina Area Health Education Consortium, Georges served as an ambassador and helped put together packages for breast cancer patients. Georges also traveled to Australia in 2014 as a student ambassador in the People to People Student Ambassador Programs.

Keenan High School senior **TyKira Smalls** is a member of the National Society of High School Scholars. Smalls has volunteered with a variety of groups including the Girl Scouts, the Jeanne L. Noble GEMS Institute of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc, the Columbia Urban League and the Robo Raiders. Through the GEMS Institute, Smalls helped feed the homeless, make Easter baskets for senior citizens, participated in an afternoon arts program and more. Smalls has received several honors and awards including the American Legion Auxiliary Palmetto Girls State and the National Beta Club. She has also been recognized for her outstanding writing skills having received the Best Writing Voice – AP English Language and the “Practically Publishable” Writing Award.

Ravyn Cunningham is a sophomore at A.C. Flora High School and enjoys serving her community through Teen Outreach programs, Academic Success sessions, Career Preparation events, and other community service projects. Cunningham attends Brookland Baptist Church where she serves as junior usher on the Junior Missionary Board and volunteers with the Homeless Outreach Ministry. Ravyn participates in the Jeanne L. Noble GEMS Institute of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc’s community outreach programs and was elected as “Keystone” president of Fort Jackson’s Boys and Girls Club. Ravyn continues to be a force in her community and is determined to make a difference.

Seventh grade student **Lauren Gantt** attends Hand Middle School where she co-founded the LSB (Let’s Stop Bullying) Committee, a student run anti-bullying and awareness organization. Through the LSB Committee, Gantt has helped organize anti-bullying workshop, family fun day, and fundraisers that catered to her peers and families in her community. Her efforts with the LSB Committee were featured on WLTX News 19. In addition to her community service, Gantt was named “Best Singer” in Richland School District One in the fifth grade and is a member of the SC Honor Choir and Young Sandlapper Singers. Gantt also enjoys swimming, track and field gymnastics and dance. Gantt is civic minded and is dedicated in making a difference in Columbia.

Gabrielle Cummings is a senior at Dreher High School and is making a difference in her community by volunteering at Harvest Hope Food Bank, tutoring and working with the Keep the Midlands Beautiful Project's "The River Sweep." Cummings is an active member of the Eleanor Dogette National Honor Society, the Key Club and is the secretary of the Environmental Club. For her outstanding leadership, grades and humanity in the fields of science and medicine, Gabriel has received several awards including the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists Award of Excellence and the West Point Leadership Award. She has also been named a University of South Carolina-Aiken Scholar, South Carolina High School Scholar and Clemson University Scholar. Cummings has been accepted to several colleges and universities including Clemson University, Davidson College and Oglethorpe University.

Blythewood High School senior **JaLyn Nicole Johnson** is an active member in the Fort Jackson Red Cross VolunTEEN Program, and has received numerous awards and accolades as a member of the National Art Honor Society and the Future Business Leaders of America. JaLyn has accumulated more than 100 hours volunteering with various groups including Harvest Hope Food Bank and the Dorn Veterans Affairs Medical Center. JaLyn created SKY3, a nonprofit dedicated to helping others build hope, optimism and character. JaLyn will attend the Savannah College of Art and Design in the fall.

Alyssa Claire Brunson is a freshman in the Discovery Magnet Program at Spring Valley High School. Some of Brunson's achievements include being named a Carolina Master Scholar, a Duke TIP Scholar and a South Carolina Junior Scholar. Brunson has volunteered through her church, Word of God Church, to help feed the homeless, and conduct food and clothing drives. Brunson has also volunteered with the Boys and Girls Club and has served on the Youth Action Council on several service projects including Teens for Jeans, Pennies for Pasta and more.

Imani T. Osborne is an eighth-grade student at W. G. Sanders Middle School who says she enjoys helping people in her community. Imani volunteers her time providing meals for the homeless and collecting coats for the cold, winter months. Imani participated in several service learning projects through her school including collecting toys to donate to Palmetto Children Life.

Third-grade Round Top Elementary School student **Journei Simmons** is an A Honor Roll student and a member of the ALERT program. Journei has taken an interest in our environment and participates in the school's green initiative by collecting litter and recycling. Journei also gives back to her community by reading to kindergarten. Journei loves reading and is currently working on a book she says she would like to read to children at the Palmetto Richland Children's Hospital.

Princess Anderson is a seventh-grade student at W. G. Sanders Middle School and a member of the Future Business Leaders of America. Princess says she participates in the program because she wants to save our trees and encourages others to recycle. Princess has also volunteered at a

local library, collected canned goods for Harvest Hope Food Bank and helped start an air purifying plants program with fellow students at Sanders Middle.

Ridge View High School senior **Kierra Jackson** has been actively engaged in her community since the third grade. Kierra has volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House and Harvest Hope Food Bank. Kierra has been recognized for her outstanding volunteer service through the Jack and Jill of America, Inc. and through the Corporation for National and Community Service. She has received several awards including the President's Volunteer Service Award, and is a member of the National Beta Club and the National Honor Society.

Taylor Cunningham is a sophomore A.C. Flora High School was recently chosen to represent the Fort Jackson Boys and Girls Club in San Antonio, Texas for the Southeastern Teen panel. Taylor attends Brookland Baptist Church where she serves as junior usher on the Junior Missionary Board. As a member of the Jeanne L. Noble GEMS Institute of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Taylor participates in projects with Sister Care and providing meals for the homeless. Taylor also participates in coats drives; HomeWorks, an organization that helps renovate homes on Columbia; and a kids program that helps promote physical activity.

Harmonie Jade Frederick, a third-grade student at Polo Road Elementary School, has been willing to help others since the age of 5. Harmonie is a member of her brother's organization Kids Inspired by Cancer Kampaign (KICK) and volunteers at Life Care. The A Honor Roll student is the recipient of the City of Columbia's Humanitarian Award.

East Point Academy first-grader **Gregory A. Jackson** was inspired to help others after a visit to St. Lawrence Place. Gregory and his brother decided to combine their love for birthday parties and books to help make the children at St. Lawrence feel special and to promote a love for reading. The children are provided with a book to take home. Thirty books have been given to children so far.