

  
Cornerstone  
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

  
30<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

The Cornerstone Times

FALL 2018

# LEGACY

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



*“After 30 years, here’s what we know; Cornerstone transforms children’s lives and futures.”*

Dear Cornerstone Families and Friends,

It is Cornerstone Christian Academy’s 30th anniversary year and we are filled with gratitude for the many people who have contributed to help educate the minds and shape the Christian character of thousands of children served since 1988. What a legacy we have built!

There is a tradition of sacrificial service and generosity at Cornerstone. By an unofficial count, there have been 105 teachers, 50 administrators and support staff, 57 board members, and thousands of volunteers—including 75 missionary interns from around the world—who have served nearly 6,500 students during the course of 30 years. Additionally, there are 71 current donors, including 4 churches that have been contributing financially to Cornerstone every year and in some cases every month for 25 to 30 years.

Cornerstone was planted in the Kingsessing community of Philadelphia to be a beacon of hope for at-risk children by offering excellent academics in a Christ-centered environment, where seeds of faith and knowledge would be sown. Our founding mission remains the same to this day: to educate children in an environment that provides the highest standards for academic achievement and spiritual development—to offer parents an opportunity to send their children to a school that proclaims the good news of Jesus Christ while providing a firm educational foundation.

After 30 years, here’s what we know: Cornerstone transforms children’s lives and futures. We inspire faith, hope, and love in the hearts and minds of children. Our students stand out among their peers because of their character, confidence, competence, and compassion. Something very special has been built at Cornerstone Christian Academy; not in bricks and mortar but in a legacy of providing hope and opportunity to children who are often marginalized because of their socio-economic status.

Thank you for helping to build and sustain Cornerstone’s legacy. Your gifts of prayer, service, and generous financial contributions have been and will continue to be the key to our helping children dream more, learn more, do more, and become more of who God created them to be. Please stay by our side as we continue the good work God began 30 years ago, believing—as we do—that Cornerstone’s best days of inspiring hope in children are still ahead.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dick".

**Dick Ollinger, President/CEO**  
**rollinger@cornerstonephiladelphia.com**  
**215 724 6858 x232**

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## Looking Back With Gratitude

When Cornerstone's doors opened in 1988, the Rev. Marie Schilling, a Baptist minister and lifelong educator, was at the helm as School Principal. Thirty years later, Mrs. Schilling still vividly recalls opening day. She writes:

"It was a privilege and an honor to have been a part of the establishment in 1988. Mr. Schilling and I worked very hard to bring it all together for opening day in September. God had His hand upon us and the renovations as we labored with the many volunteers to get the building and the staff ready. By His grace it

happened. Uniforms were made and distributed. Materials were gathered and placed in the teaching areas. Furniture was donated and set up in classrooms. Classrooms were prepared and decorated and made ready for the arrival of the children. Faculty was selected from the many applicants who were interviewed during the summer months. Opening day brought 98 students to our doorstep and our doors opened for the 1988-1989 school year. It was a joyful beginning."

**We are grateful for Marie and all those who labored in love 30 years ago to lay the foundation upon which Cornerstone Christian Academy stands today.**

## Our First Ever Cornerstone Student Body 1988 - 1989



## 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Fund

It's a big year for Cornerstone. We are celebrating three decades of faithful service to children and families in southwest Philadelphia. We hope you will help us celebrate by generously contributing to our Annual Fund that provides scholarship and resource support for our students.

The need to raise annual unrestricted funds to enhance and advance the educational program at Cornerstone is essential. **Our goal this fiscal year is \$1,850,000**, needed in order to fulfill the financial aid promises we have made to our families and to support our academic program, teacher salaries, and facility upkeep.

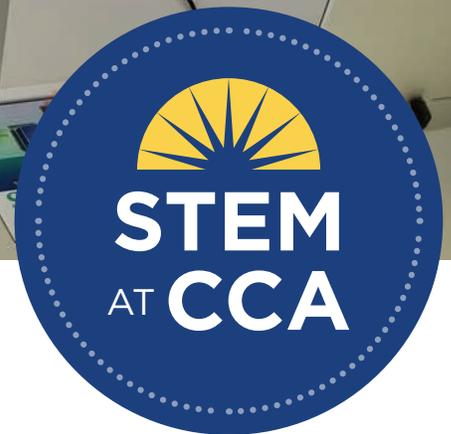
Please consider a contribution to support our students and help us celebrate our 30th anniversary. Checks can be made payable to Cornerstone Christian Academy and mailed to our address at P. O. Box 5520, Philadelphia, PA 19143. Or donate online at **[cornerstonephiladelphia.com/donate](http://cornerstonephiladelphia.com/donate)**.

If you have any questions, please contact Monifa Moore, Director of Advancement at 215-724-6858, x234 or by email at [mmoore@cornerstonephiladelphia.com](mailto:mmoore@cornerstonephiladelphia.com).

# CORNERSTONE REPORTS



*Cornerstone students in the Computer Lab*



## Robots and Coding and Drones, Oh My!

Cornerstone's technology program for elementary and middle school students is second to none. With a Computer Lab equipped with 26 new iMac computers, a Learning Commons outfitted with iPads, iMacs, and a 3D Printer, as well as a Maker Space with numerous advanced tools and gadgets, our students are being prepared to excel in an ever-increasing technological world. From kindergarten to 8th grade, students are engaging in hands-on lessons that promote science,

technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) skills. New this school year is the introduction of coding using a curriculum developed solely for Cornerstone by BSD Code and Design Academy.

Beyond the school day, Cornerstone's Tech Titans is a select group of 20 students who meet after-school every Wednesday for more advanced technology mentoring and training. With leadership support from our

partners at the Uncommon Individual Foundation, as well as Technology Teacher Wilbur Wilborne and Integration Specialist Anup Somalwar, the Tech Titans are being equipped to pursue future opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). During the course of 26 weeks, students engage in workshops on Robotics, 3D Printing and Modeling, Coding and Web Development, and Drone and Virtual Reality.



## “Processions” – 5th Graders Model the Art of Norman Lewis

Cornerstone’s Artist-in-Residence Julie Kring recently completed a special project with the 5th grade class entitled *Processions*. As she always does, Julie began the project by introducing the students to the life and work of a particular artist. The students then follow the artistic style of the artist to produce their own work.

This fall, the 5th graders were excited to learn about Norman Lewis, a leading 20th century African-American painter who focused his work on black urban life and his community’s struggles. Adopting his unique style the 5th graders produced inspiring individual paintings depicting a procession of community issues of concern to them.

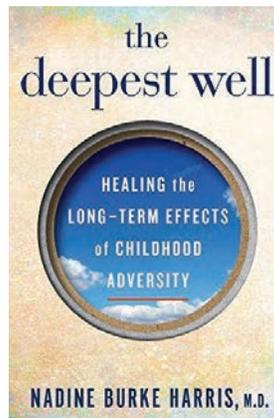


Artist-in-residence Julie Kring showing off Norman Lewis-inspired student art

## Creating Trauma-Sensitive Classrooms

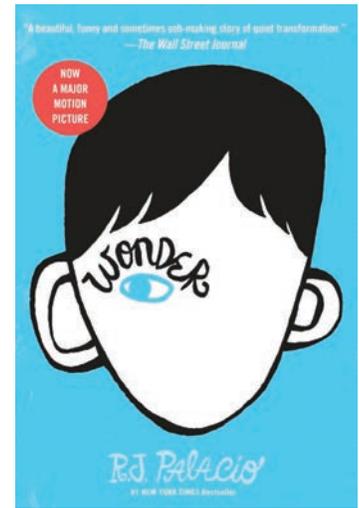
In preparation for the current school year Cornerstone teachers, administrators, and staff read *The Deepest Well: Healing the Long-Term Effects of Childhood Adversity* by Nadine Burke Harris, M.D. Dr. Burke Harris’ research reveals how adverse childhood experiences – like abuse, neglect, parental addiction, mental illness, and even divorce – change our biological systems. For young children, these traumatic experiences often severely impact a student’s ability to learn, function in social environments, or manage their emotions and behaviors.

Because teachers and other school personnel see children for the longest periods of time during each day, they play a critical role in recognizing the symptoms of trauma and treating it in their classrooms. To better equip our teachers and staff to address the needs of



children exposed to trauma, as well as to complement the reading and discussion of *The Deepest Well*, Dr. Colleen Lelli, Ph.D. from Cabrini University led a workshop on Grit, Determination & Resilience: Creating Trauma-Sensitive Classrooms. Dr. Lelli is Associate Professor of Education and Director of Cabrini’s Center for Children of Trauma and Domestic Violence Education.

## ON CAMPUS Cultivating Character



This fall our 4th grade students are reading the New York Times #1 Bestseller and major motion picture, *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio. It was chosen by teachers Carol Malone and Ashleigh Bynum because of the ways the story compliments Cornerstone’s new social emotional learning curriculum for our K-5 students. Ms. Malone and Ms. Bynum say “the book helps teach empathy, kindness, and positive attitudes by learning what it would be like to walk in another person’s shoes without judgement.”

*Wonder* advocates the principles we uphold in the Cornerstone community, to Love God, Love Yourself, Love Others, and Love God’s World by Respecting and Celebrating Yourself, Respecting and Celebrating Others, Respecting and Celebrating our School, and Respecting and Celebrating the Environment.

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## Sarai Morris: The Young Entrepreneur



Sarai Morris stood out when she was a student at Cornerstone. She still does! Now a senior at the Academy at Palumbo, Sarai balances a very busy young life as a student, actor, dancer, singer, model, and business owner. That's right; she is the founder and owner of Sable Treasures, a personally designed jewelry business.

Sarai is an incredibly talented young woman; having performed in numerous productions around the City of Philadelphia since she was a child. She is applying to a number of colleges and universities around the country, but at the top of her list is Spelman College in Atlanta.

Sarai is proud to be a graduate of Cornerstone, attributing her success to her time here as well as "extreme prayers, focus, love and the support of family and friends." We're proud of Sarai and pray for God's continued blessings in her life.

## Patricia Douglas: Alum Returns to Teach



Patricia Douglas was in the Cornerstone graduating class of 2003. Now, she is back at Cornerstone as a 1st grade teacher, teaching in the same classroom where she was once a 1st grade student. She wants to positively impact the lives of students in the same ways her teachers at Cornerstone influenced her life. "Students can be drawn to the wrong or right choices when they are young and Cornerstone paved the way for my best choices."

Patricia holds a B.S. degree in Psychology and an M.S. degree in Education from Neumann University. Prior to teaching at Cornerstone, she was an Assistant Teacher and an Applied Behavioral Therapist for Elwyn Seedlings, an early intervention program for primary age children. We are thrilled to welcome Patricia to our faculty!

### Cornerstone Kids Challenge:

Name the two people serving at Cornerstone today who were at the school when it began in 1988.

Answer: Connie Harper (Chaplain and Parent Relations Associate) and Tracey Harris (Middle School Math Teacher)



# 2018 YEAR END GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

As you plan your 2018 year-end giving there are several options that provide tax savings for you and benefit to Cornerstone students. Please contact us for details on the options outlined here:

**Note:** Information on this document is not intended as tax advice. Please consult your tax advisor or financial consultant on these and any other giving strategies.

Gift Type	Timeline	Benefits & Details
<b>Check</b>	All mailed checks must be dated and envelopes postmarked no later than December 31, 2018. Electronic checks generated from your bank should set to be received at the school no later than December 31, 2018.	Individual tax deduction to the extent allowable by the IRS.
<b>Cash</b>	Please initiate wire transfers by December 24, 2018	
<b>Credit Card (online)</b>	Submit no later than December 31, 2018, 11:59 p.m.	Individual tax deduction to the extent allowable by the IRS. Visit our website.
<b>Credit Card (by phone)</b>	Contact the Advancement Office by the close of business, December 20, 2018. After December 20, visit: <a href="http://cornerstonephiladelphia.com/get-involved">cornerstonephiladelphia.com/get-involved</a>	If you plan to give by credit card over the phone after the deadline, please contact Monifa Moore by December 20, 2018.
<b>IRA Charitable Rollover</b>	Only those 70 1/2 or older qualify. Up to \$100,000 of the Required Minimum Distribution can be rolled over directly to Cornerstone. The transfer must be initiated before December 31.	Amount of transaction is not reported as capital gains or charitable gift – no penalty or deduction to individual.
<b>Securities: Publicly Traded Stock, Mutual Funds, ETF</b>	Initiate transfers with your broker by December 26, 2018 to ensure receipt in Cornerstone’s brokerage by December 31, 2018. Check with your broker on additional time needed for transfer.	Deduction received on amount of trade; capital gains passed on to Cornerstone.
<b>Corporate Matching Gifts</b>	Individual and corporate gifts must be dated and postmarked no later than December 31, 2018.	Consult with your employer’s corporate giving officer about matching your personal gift to Cornerstone, and time necessary to process paperwork.
<b>United Way of Southern PA and Southern NJ or United Way of Tri-State</b>	Make a pledge to Cornerstone by December 31, 2018.	United Way will provide tax deductible receipts to the full extent allowed. SE PA/ Southern NJ – all contributions are for Cornerstone Extended Care Program; Donor Choice Agency #9616. Tri-State – Donor Choice Agency #026566

**For details contact Monifa Moore:**  
(215) 724-6858 ext. 234 or [mmoore@cornerstonephiladelphia.com](mailto:mmoore@cornerstonephiladelphia.com).

**For Private or Family Foundations and Donor Advised Funds:** please consult the foundation or fund administrator about a distribution to Cornerstone.

**For all mailed correspondence:**  
**By USPS:**  
Cornerstone Christian Academy  
P.O. Box 5520  
Philadelphia, PA 19143

**By UPS, FedEx, DHL etc:**  
Cornerstone Christian Academy  
1939 S. 58th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19143

*Cornerstone Christian Academy is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with the Internal Revenue Service. All gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the IRS. Unless allowed or indicated, no goods or services are exchanged for contributions.*

Mr. and Mrs. Philanthropy  
123 Giving Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19143

## Our Mission

The mission of Cornerstone Christian Academy is to educate children, including those from at-risk neighborhoods, in an environment that provides the highest standards for academic achievement and spiritual development.

## Our Vision

It is our vision to be a model urban Christian school where students are grounded in faith, shaped with Christ-like character, and equipped with knowledge & skills to excel in high school, college, & throughout life.

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