



# The Northside Voice

## #MillikenGives



Milliken, a longtime partner and supporter of the Northside Initiative, recently donated 40k to The Northside Development Group. With no restrictions, NDG will be able to dispense the funds where the most impact can be made in the best interest of the Northside community. In addition, Milliken has partnered with SBDC (Small Business Development Center) to provide the Milliken Mentorship Program, which is intended to foster support, guidance, and partnership with the community to increase small business growth. These educational opportunities include sessions on topics such as cyber security, marketing, unconscious bias, tax workshops and more. The sessions for 2023 began in April. Start:Me, a small business accelerator program co-directed by The Northside Development Group's Lekesa Whitner, had 32 graduates sign up for the program. To sign up or get more information about the mentoring program, contact the Milliken Diversity team at [SupplierDiversity@Milliken.com](mailto:SupplierDiversity@Milliken.com)

# START:ME GRADUATION CEREMONY



**Start:Me, a joint venture between the University of South Carolina Upstates' George Dean Johnson College of Business and Economics and the Northside Development Group, celebrated the graduation of its seventh class on May 6, 2023. The 14-week business accelerator program had a perfect attendance record this year and 100% participation in the IDA (Individual Development Account) program. After the ceremony, the 18 graduates revealed their new business ventures for those in attendance to enjoy. A requirement of the program is that their business will either be in the Northside community or provide a service to it. Of the graduates four were chosen, by their peers, to receive a substantial monetary award to invest in their businesses. Tamiaka Alston-Gibson was the keynote speaker and a 2018 graduate of the Start:Me program. Mrs. Alston-Gibson is the founder of Visions Medical Health Care, which is a health care organization that provides accessible, affordable primary care and house calls. To learn more about the Start:Me program go to [www.startmespartanburg.com](http://www.startmespartanburg.com).**

## Health Collaboratives Converge on the Northside

The Northside Community hosted two health collaborative events in the month of April. On Saturday April 22, 2023, the Dr. T.K. Gregg Community Center was the chosen venue for the Community Health Awareness Day (CHAD). This annual event was created to bring awareness to health issues facing communities and how to acquire the necessary resources to address them. This event featured a 5k run, health screenings, health education, family activities, a kid's zone, food, and entertainment.



The following week Wellville, a 10-year national non-profit project representing five communities nationwide including Spartanburg, held its conference at the downtown Marriott Hotel. A group of 75 guests visited the Northside on two consecutive days. The Northside Voyagers facilitated tours and held round table discussions with the focus on improving health outcomes for all residents of Spartanburg County. Both events were highly attended and sponsored by a host of local and national organizations.



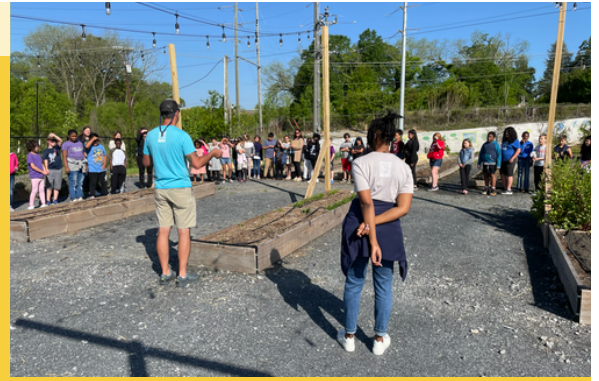
## Voyager Spotlight

Mrs. Deborah Moore-Wade is in the “Voyager Spotlight” for the Spring edition of the Northside Voice. Mrs. Debbie, as she is fondly referred to, is a 40 + year resident of the Northside community. Of her many accomplishments, she is the first African American female journalist to be hired at WSPA-7 news station. She was in the first group of community residents to graduate from the Voyager Leadership Training Program and continues to serve diligently. She has also served on the Board of The Northside Development Group.

Mrs. Debbie loves art and is an avid coin collector. She is the proud mother of two children, Dheeaba Moore, 50, of Los Angeles and Dawnita Moore, 39, of New York city. She recently wed Mr. Odell Wade in a private ceremony. When asked what community means to her, Mrs. Debbie stated, “community is very personal for me. I grew up in a northside community where families came together and supported each other. We were there for each other. A special connection existed. Black and white kids played together after their chores were completed even though they did not attend the same schools. There were small businesses that flourished, and it is my hope that in my lifetime - with this Initiative, these things will begin to return to my beloved community”. As a pillar of the community, Mrs. Deborah Moore-Wade is well respected for her wisdom, intellect, and determination. This is why she is in the “Voyager Spotlight”.

## Summer Youth Program

The Hub City Farmers Market recently held interviews for its Summer Internship Program at The Dr. T. K. Gregg Community Center. This will be the fourth cohort of students chosen to participate in the program. Interns must submit letters of recommendation from a teacher, coach, or community advocate. Scholastic achievement and civic involvement are also considered in the selection process.



The 8-week paid summer internship focuses on empowering youth, ages 14-17, through teamwork in a farm setting and by providing community-oriented workshops. Workshop topics include College and Career readiness, Health and Wellness, Diversity and Inclusion, Financial Literacy, and more. The program is gaining in popularity amongst the youth and a total of 12 interns will participate this summer - a 20 % increase. Interns will receive \$9/hour with uniforms and lunches provided. This year's program will begin on June 13, 2023, and end on August 5, 2023. If you would like to learn more about this program, or recommend a youth for the next cohort, contact Raven Logan at [rlogan@hubcityfm.org](mailto:rlogan@hubcityfm.org) or call (864) 585-0905.



## “The Lion King Kids” Performed at CAL

In March of 2023, The Cleveland Academy of Leadership students presented Disney's “The Lion King Kids.” Under the direction of Mrs. Barbara Wilson, and many volunteers, the students performed their roles flawlessly as Simba, Pumbaa, Nala, and the rest of the Lion King gang. On two consecutive evenings of engagement, before a full house, the children of Cleveland Academy of Leadership wooed the crowds. Disney's “The Lion King Kids” takes you on a journey to the African savanna, where a future king overcomes betrayal and tragedy to assume his rightful place on Pride Rock. “We want our children at CAL to have meaningful ways to express their talents and to have exposure to opportunities not generally afforded them” stated one doting parent. In the Fall of 2022, the students gave an exemplary performance of the Broadway play “Annie”. The rights to perform these plays was obtained by Mr. Marquice Clark, principal of Cleveland Academy of Leadership, who expressed his gratitude for the dedication exhibited by students, faculty, and community volunteers to make “The Lion King Kids” performance another big success. Well done, Tigers!

# WALKING THE WALK



To increase physical activity, The Northside Development Group staff will be “walking the walk” every second and fourth Mondays of the month during the Spring and Summer months. NDG staff have gotten to know the residents of the Northside community well over the past 10 years, and these walks will provide us with the opportunity to grow these relationships. The staff wants to hear from you- your ideas and thoughts are critical to the success we have in our service to the community. So, if you see us out walking on Howard St. or the Butterfly Greenway trail, stop us and share with us. Your feedback is most important! Go to [www.northsidedevelopmentgroup.com](http://www.northsidedevelopmentgroup.com) for a listing of staff members and their roles.



## Linda Askari - Dual Leadership Roles

Linda Askari, a 30-year resident of the Northside community, has served as president of the Northside Neighborhood Association for 2 years and president of the Northside Voyagers for almost a year. Linda began her service to the community many years ago as an event planner and community organizer. She founded the Aset Society and has organized events for the Harambee festival and Kwanza- both being a celebration of Black and African heritage. Linda loves serving the community and believes in the Kai-Zen method of “becoming good through change”. Having been a member of several service organizations, including service on the NDG Board and Community Development Committee, Linda has ample experience in serving her community as a volunteer. She currently works at The Dr. T.K. Gregg Community Center as coordinator of the 50+ Senior Program. Mrs. Askari has consistently shown a willingness to serve her community and is admired by many for her dedication. We salute Mrs. Linda Askari!

# Coming Soon - Voyager Park!



The long-awaited Voyager Park will soon be a reality in the Northside community. From the onset of the Northside Initiative, the Northside Voyagers have played an instrumental role in the visioning for the future of the Northside community. The Voyagers believe that it is of utmost importance that future generations of northside residents be inspired by the work and volunteer spirit of those who came before them. Voyager Park will feature a statue depicting the Voyager logo which will stand near the center of the park. The statue will have references to the past, present, and future of the Northside community. The Voyagers are honored and grateful for the recognition Voyager Park will bring for their service to the community but are more excited about the inspiration it will provide for future generations. Earlier this year Tiger Park, a playground named after The Cleveland Academy of Leadership's mascot, opened near the site of Voyager Park. An opening date for Voyager Park has not been announced. To Gene Burgess of Burgess Enterprises, Martin Livingston with the city of Spartanburg's Community Development Department, Parks & Recreation, and The Northside Development Group, the Northside Voyagers say "thank you" for the diligence and passion shown to make Voyager Park a reality for the community.

# REDEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Northside Development Group continues to collaborate with community development partners to provide both market rate and affordable housing. With some developments still on the drawing board, others are underway. NDG's partnership with Oak and Ave. Property Group has yielded 11 new single-family home builds for the Northside community.

A proposed project to build 18 townhomes with Oak and Ave. Property Group is in the final stages of negotiations, with 30% of those dwellings to be sold as affordable units. Mr. Raymond Davis, CEO of Habitat for Humanity, announced recently that the organization will be adding a total of 6 home builds in '23 and '24 to add to an ever-growing stock of homes created through partnership.

Carolina Foothills Federal Credit Union has partnered with NDG and The Cleveland Academy of Leadership to build 3 new homes for the families of children who attend the school. Village at Creekside is underway and will consist of 31 units of mixed-income housing including brownstones, townhomes, and single-family dwellings. Although home ownership is one of the main objectives of the Northside Initiative, the desire for rental units has also been expressed by the community.

A Phase II project of townhome rentals is slated to begin soon with Montgomery Builders, of Spartanburg, to address those needs. The Northside Development Group congratulates all those who have become new neighbors through these partnerships and will continue to assist those desiring the opportunity to become a part of this burgeoning community.

For more information on the home ownership program, contact Gigail Petty at [gigail@spartanburgndg.com](mailto:gigail@spartanburgndg.com) or call (864) 598-0097, ext. 7.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming events

New Voyager Training- June 12- July 17, 2023

Voyager Park opening- TBA

Chili Cookoff-TBA

Northside Block Party- September 30, 2023

Check out our calendar of events at

NDG EVENTS CALENDAR – Northside Development Group ([spartanburgndg.com](http://spartanburgndg.com))

