



February 2007

Dear Friends,

The principal of one of Philadelphia's finer high schools recently said to me, "*Please, keep sending us Cornerstone graduates!*" According to Dr. Barbara Moses of Philadelphia Mennonite High School, our Cornerstone graduates are some of the best prepared, well-behaved, and highest achieving students in her school. I'm not surprised because that is what we expect of our graduates. **We're very proud of the fact that most Cornerstone graduates go on to excel at whatever high school they attend.**

For instance, Isaiah, now a senior at West Catholic High School, has a 4.0 grade point average and has already been accepted to Clark Atlanta University in Georgia, where he plans to major in Criminal Justice. Recently, Isaiah was selected to represent Pennsylvania at the 11th Annual Down Under Hoops Classic in Australia. This summer he will join hundreds of athletes from around the United States and Australia in a basketball competition. As an alumnus of Cornerstone, we are going to help Isaiah raise the necessary funds for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Teyanna is another Cornerstone alumnus who has excelled in her high school years. A senior honor student at Franklin Learning Center, Teyanna has been on the staff of "*Yes! And . . . Collaborative Arts iMagination Programming*" for the last four summers. "*Yes! And*" partners with schools and agencies in underserved neighborhoods to run programs that use the arts as a tool for personal discovery and communal reconciliation. This coming summer, Cornerstone will be hosting a "*Yes! And*" summer theater camp for children in the Kingsessing community and Teyanna, who lives in southwest Philadelphia, is going to be one of the lead staff members.

Isaiah and Teyanna are just two examples of the high caliber of students your prayers and financial gifts are helping to produce. It is only because of your generous support that we are able to fulfill our mission to provide a quality education in a Christian environment to children living in one of the highest at-risk neighborhoods in the country.

If anything can break the cycle of poverty, crime, and violence in southwest Philadelphia, it is children receiving a superior elementary education that prepares them for successful high school enrollment, higher educational pursuits, and eventually productive careers and leadership roles in society. **No school is doing this better than Cornerstone Christian Academy. We desperately need your help though to continue creating hope and opportunity for the children we serve.** Our prayer is that you will partner with us and pledge your support to *The Campaign for Cornerstone* which is our effort to improve and insure the ongoing quality of a Cornerstone education for future generations of students. Please take a moment to read about this campaign in the enclosed brochure, and then pray about a transformational gift that you might be able to make.

Gratefully,

Dick Ollinger
President/CEO

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