



Good news to share and celebrate this month!

Thank you [Dogwood Health Trust](#) for funding these important community initiatives and for entrusting fiscal sponsorship for the projects to ACSF.

Glitter Sisters: For Girls Committed to Glow and Grow

Glitter Sisters is a high school mentoring program founded and led by SILSA Principal, Nicole Cush. Glitters Sisters supports the social-emotional development of over twenty young black women each year, ages 15-18, and is uniquely situated within our high schools.



Youthful HAND After-School

Founded over 27 years ago, Youthful HAND (Housing Against Narcotics and Drugs) is a community-based after-school program addressing Asheville's racial opportunity gap by providing academic support for students grades K-5. Youthful HAND is a program of the Asheville Housing Authority, organized and led by Mrs. Elinor Earle.



Learning PODS (Positive Opportunities Develop Success)

Through a partnership between ACS, Asheville Housing Authority, City of Asheville, and other community partners, Learning PODS have been established at 12 community sites to support students during remote learning. They provide access to safe, supervised remote learning spaces for students of color and students in public housing while schools are not in session due to COVID-19.



Someone Cares Fund for AHS and SILSA



The Someone Cares Fund was established in 2020 as a bequest from [Maria Mason](#) to ACSF with the sole purpose of increasing mental health supports for students in our high schools. Someone Cares provides support for young people as they navigate the extreme social and economic issues, obstacles, and disparities facing them. This fund increases access to mental health services with more trained adults listening to, validating, and guiding our students towards positive outcomes.



TEACHING ARTISTS PRESENTING IN ASHEVILLE SCHOOLS

Storytelling workshop led by artists from [The Pachasayana Institute](#).

The [Racial Equity Ambassador](#) team took part in this virtual workshop led by artists from Ecuador titled "[From the Cracks: Stories as Seeds of Change](#)".

"If we want to change the world, we must first change our stories. The global pandemic and widespread social movements of 2020 have revealed cracks in our educational system, which for too long has upheld a legacy of racism. These cracks show us the importance of reimagining teaching and learning as part of a community-led movement to liberate education from systemic injustice."



Dream Vs Reality poem written by the Racial Equity Ambassador team

Dream Vs. Reality

I had a dream in elementary that all kids are the same.
I had a dream that we were equal and life was fun and games.
The reality is that we must play the hands that we are dealt.
Our Country benefits from poverty and generation wealth.

I saw a dream in elementary school, it was supposed to be special.
Now in High School, I don't see that dream. The dream is gone.
Taken away, I strive to get them back.
Time is running out, so I have to go find my dream.
The dream has found me and now I am wearing my dream, with me it shall stay.
The dream will never leave me because I am the dream.

I had a dream that my elementary school stage would create community and relationships between all people.
The reality was that after elementary school,
The education system allowed a divide that constantly got wider as the school years went by.
A divide between who was determined to succeed and who wasn't.

My Dream: Walking into 5th grade to a collective drumbeat on desks,
friends from every walk of life, laughter, everyone shining together
Reality- an Asheville High diploma that I was "entitled" to- it says it in cursive font.
A bright future, an academic foundation as strong as the stone with which our high school was built but also a gnawing knowing that the same diploma in different hands was a dead end-
a representation of an education that was built upon assimilation, compliance, and inequity.... same diploma, different futures.

These projects are supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural Resources.

What's happening in IRL After School?



IRL's spring session runs Feb 22nd -April 2nd. Most clubs will be virtual with the addition of small group in-person opportunities on Fridays.

With changes being worked out for school schedules, we plan to offer small group in-person sessions for April-May. More details on those sessions to come.

In Real Life After-School Network

Spring 2021

Limited space available due to COVID 19 safety protocols

Program Schedule: Mon - Thur 4:00 - 5:00 PM

Session Dates: Spring 2021
February 22nd - April 2nd



SPRING CLUBS:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<p>Jewelry Making: virtual</p> <p>Design necklaces, earrings and bracelets using wire, crystals and beads!</p> <p>Dungeons and Dragons: virtual</p> <p>Play the game and build your dungeon master skills!</p> <p>Art & Sketching: virtual</p> <p>Learn how to make abstract portraits with watercolor paint and pen!</p> <p>Outer Banks: Marine Biology & Pirate Edition: virtual</p> <p>Surf the waves of North Carolina, study the creatures that live there and learn about pirates that buried treasure long ago!</p>	<p>No Bake Cooking and Arts and Crafts: virtual</p> <p>Learn how to make delicious no bake recipes and do arts and crafts!</p> <p>Outer Banks: Marine Biology & Pirate Edition: virtual</p> <p>Surf the waves of North Carolina, study the creatures that live there and learn about pirates that buried treasure long ago!</p>	<p>Math and Money: virtual</p> <p>Get the bang for your buck- play fun games that develop real entrepreneur and investment skills!</p> <p>Jewelry Making: virtual</p> <p>Design necklaces, earrings and bracelets using wire, crystals and beads!</p> <p>Journalism: virtual</p> <p>Learn how to write engaging stories, produce podcasts and conduct interviews!</p> <p>Art & Sketching: virtual</p> <p>Learn how to make abstract portraits with watercolor paint and pen!</p>	<p>No Bake Cooking and Arts and Crafts: virtual</p> <p>Learn how to make delicious no bake recipes and do arts and crafts!</p> <p>Cooking Academy: in person</p> <p>Cook amazing teen friendly dishes!</p> <p>Homeward Bound Birds Arts and Crafts: virtual</p> <p>Do various art activities that revolve around birds!</p>

Friday Fun days!

IN- PERSON SPRING CLUBS:

Date	Pop Up Experience
Friday 2/26	Asheville on Bikes at Carrier Park 3:30-5:00 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car Riders • Blue Bus Pick Ups
Friday 3/5	Asheville on Bikes at Richmond Hill Park 3:30-5:00 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car Riders • Blue Bus Pick Ups
Friday 3/12	Asheville Art Museum tour w/ Dewayne Barton & Pizza Party 3:30-5:00 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car Riders • Blue Bus Pick Ups
Friday 3/19	Basketball in the Park 4:00-5:00 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car Riders • Blue Bus Pick Ups
Friday 3/26	Basketball in the Park 4:00-5:00 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car Riders • Blue Bus Pick Ups
Friday 4/2	French Broad Chocolate Factory Tour 3:30-5:00 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car Riders • Blue Bus Pick Ups

*Register for spring clubs
here*

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS



ACSF scholarship applications are open NOW through February 28th.
Students have 10 days left to apply!
Awards range from \$500-\$10,000. For more information or to begin an application,
visit www.acsf.org/scholarships



The Writing Center is open and operating virtually this semester! Writing coaches are trained to assist students at any phase of the scholarship essay process, from brainstorming initial ideas to reviewing final edits. Click [here](#) to request an appointment. Email Rebecca Abide, Scholarship Coordinator at rebecca@acsf.org for more information.

Class of 2021: Do you have questions about the financial award letters you've received from colleges and universities? Join ACSF on Thursday, February 25th for a virtual session with the College Foundation of North Carolina where we will discuss financial next steps and frequently asked questions.



For meeting link and info visit our website at www.acsf.org/student-supports

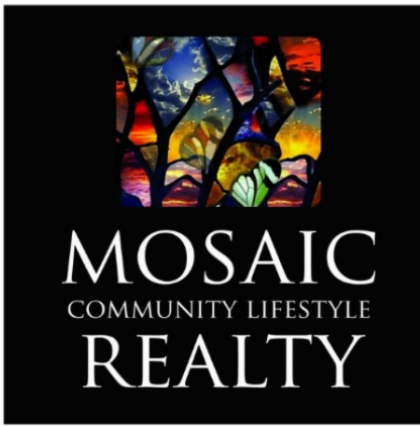
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