

The Chosen One

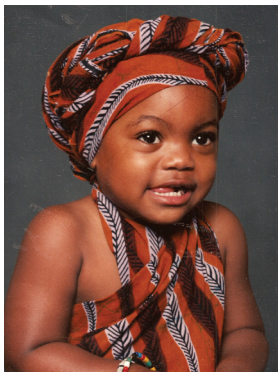
Harlina Churn received the thrill of a lifetime when her daughter, Ayana, was two years old. Ayana was awarded an Educational Opportunity Scholarship from the Lincoln Foundation.



Ayana Churn, recipient of an Educational Opportunity Scholarship

Desiring to make a major impact on the lives of disadvantaged children, a group of extremely generous, anonymous donors established the Educational Opportunity Scholarship to cover the cost of educating a child from pre-school through college. The scholarship fund at the Community Foundation of Louisville targets 2-3 year olds from disadvantaged families who are at risk of not completing high school or going to college. Ayana is the first recipient to graduate from college!

Dr. Samuel Robinson, President Emeritus, shared the wonderful news with Harlina who recalls, "When I walked out of the Lincoln Foundation office I just kept saying, "thank you, God". Then I called her father and shared the great news with him. He could not believe it and said, "are you sure they will take care of college?"



Ayana at two years old

I said, "yes, college". When I got home and read over all the papers, I realized that this scholarship took care of all of Ayana's educational needs: private schools, summer enrichment programs, tutors, books, ACT/SAT help, travel to Africa to study, and all the support she needed in order for her to graduate from college. So here I am in March, 2012 buying eight airline tickets to fly to Hampton, VA on Mother's Day, May 13, 2012, to celebrate with Ayana Kenā Churn as she graduates from Hampton University with a degree in psychology and criminology and a 3.5 GPA." She plans to pursue her Masters in Psychology and a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology.

Ayana, a Whitney YOUNG Scholar, reflected upon why she refers to herself as "The Chosen One". "The Lincoln Foundation is a huge aspect of my life; and being a recipient of the Educational Opportunity Scholarship was a complete life changer. I actually cannot imagine my life without the Lincoln Foundation."

Doors opened for Ayana that her mother could only dream of at the time. As long as she maintained her GPA and remained academically focused, she could attend the educational institutions of her choice. Dreams were realized. Ayana attended private and parochial schools during her formative years. It was during her elementary and middle school years at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School that Ayana began her "search of self" journey through life. "Being the only African American in my class throughout my entire tenure at the school, and the only one my last year there, I was faced with many social,

yet personal challenges. I questioned my worth as an African American female in a Caucasian world, and through this phase of my life I was given answers." As Ayana worked through challenges with the help of God, her wonderful mother, and her family, she realized her place. She emerged with a strong sense of self-worth.

After a successful tenure at Louisville Collegiate School, she embarked upon her college career at Hampton University, an historically black university, a place where "everyone looks like me," says Ayana. She has done her best to take advantage of the opportunities presented. "Words cannot really explain how grateful I am to have been a recipient of the Educational Opportunity Scholarship. I will just have to show my appreciation through my actions... helping children realize that there are miracles and that dreams do come true. I will always give back to the communities and to those who have paved the way for me. It is only right."

Twenty years ago, who could imagine that Harlina Churn would receive the best Mother's Day gift ever, a college graduate!



Ayana with her mother, Harlina Churn

Dear Friend,



I am reminded of the importance of volunteerism by Louisville Metro's "Give A Day" week of service. As a nonprofit organization, we are

grateful for the gifts of treasure we receive. Yet equally important are the gifts of one's time and talent. Lincoln Foundation is extremely fortunate to have support from many wonderful volunteers in various capacities. From the boardroom to the classroom, volunteers make an enormous contribution to our organization. Last year alone, over 200 people volunteered approximately 1,800 hours on behalf of the Lincoln Foundation. That spirit in turn trickles down to the students instilling a sense of service within them as evidenced by Ayana Churn and William Payne.

Partnerships with local companies and universities in the area of community engagement are a win-win and add tremendous value. Many area businesses encourage volunteerism among their organizations allowing employees to volunteer so many hours per month/year. Lincoln Foundation feels extremely fortunate to partner with one such organization.

UPS promotes volunteerism among all of its employees on a global basis. Lincoln Foundation volunteer Cheryl Spencer, UPS Procurement Services Supervisor, states that "community connection and development through education and volunteering is a prime focus for UPS." Locally, UPS employees have participated in a number of our educational programs providing students with a wealth of practical knowledge and expertise.

If you or your organization would like to volunteer, please contact Morgan Hanley at mhanley@lincolnfdn.org.

An Exemplary Morehouse Man

"A Morehouse Man is a Renaissance man with a social conscience," according to Morehouse College President Robert Franklin. That certainly describes William Payne! William, a Whitney Young Scholar, graduates in May as a true "Morehouse Man" majoring in business management and double minoring in Spanish and international relations. William ranks first in his class for business management majors.

William studied abroad in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, and Brazil. In Brazil, as one of sixteen Morehouse students chosen to represent the school's 26th Annual International Spring Tour of South America, William met with senior level management from major international companies to discuss their foreign and domestic operations. These experiences broadened his cultural, educational and business knowledge indicative of a Renaissance man. William's commitment to community service is what makes him an exemplary Morehouse Man!

William's social consciousness began at an early age. His parents, Dr. Karen Bearden and Mitchell Payne, instilled in him the idea that there are many opportunities to get involved in community service. Following their advice, William became a Lincoln Foundation volunteer as a young teenager assisting Dr. Samuel Robinson with a variety of tasks. He officially became a Whitney YOUNG Scholar in the 9th grade. He is legacy in that his grandparents, Llewellyn and Hattie (Cottrell) Payne of Shelbyville, are graduates of the Lincoln Institute. According to William, the interdisciplinary classes offered to Scholars provided the building blocks to a more worldly perspective, one in which he now practices firsthand. The tools he garnered from the Educational Clinics and Summer Institutes, gave him the "survival skills and total awareness to not only compete but to succeed on a world-



William Payne, a Whitney YOUNG Scholar

wide stage." Those skills led to additional summer programs at Princeton University, Governors Scholars Program, an internship at Brown-Forman, and his ventures to South America.

An aspiring businessman, William maintains that "man's highest calling is to be able to help his fellow man, something I was raised to adhere to. Service is also a lynchpin of being a Morehouse Man."

The school's mantra is "Morehouse! Your House, at your service." Taking this idea to heart, William has distinguished himself in the area of service: mentoring elementary and middle school students; tutoring middle school students; working at a food shelter; and conducting a neighborhood clothing drive for the homeless. The latter work with the homeless gained recognition by U.S. News & World Report.

William would like to return to Louisville to work in the private sector in investment banking or international relations. He hopes to one day leverage his practical and academic experience into acceptance in a top-tier MBA program or law school. Dr. Samuel Robinson recognized that William has always been "an ideal student throughout his educational career and he expects great things from him." He also noted that "William is very fortunate to have such great parental support." Whatever his future holds, Lincoln Foundation has no doubt that William will be successful.

Our Mission To provide educational enrichment programs that develop and support youth in overcoming barriers to achievement

Volunteers: An Invaluable Resource

“Volunteering is the practice of people working on behalf of others without being motivated by financial or material gain. Volunteering is generally considered an altruistic activity, intended to promote good or improve human quality of life,” according to Wikipedia. Lincoln Foundation is very fortunate to have the support of many talented individuals and corporations to help improve our students’ quality of life.

Cheryl Spencer is one among many UPS employees who volunteer for the Lincoln Foundation. Since the beginning of the school year, Cheryl gets up early two Saturdays per month to assist the 9th grade Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program® (WYSP) teachers in the Educational Clinic at Bellarmine University.

When asked why she does it, Cheryl points out that “volunteering provides a connection with the commu-

Volunteers aren't paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.

– Anonymous

nity. My life and career have opened many doors for personal and professional development. It is important for me to share my experiences with our future leaders.” Cheryl admits that the diverse programs offered to Whitney YOUNG Scholars sparked her initial interest. She saw the 9th grade Language Arts program as a good fit recognizing that, “professional development starts early in our high school experience. The ninth grade is a great time to continue to build communication and group skills to set the pace for future endeavors.”

Instructors Jimmy Houseal and Causandra Stratton can always count on Cheryl to pitch in as needed. Whether adding commentary to a discussion or assisting students with individual needs, Cheryl makes a valuable contribution to the classroom environment. Her professional and practical experiences complement their educational experience.

Cheryl believes “the experience has been extremely rewarding. It is a good feeling to know that you are sharing knowledge and being a role model for our future professionals.” She has been a consummate volunteer providing her invaluable time and talent as an exceptional role model to others.

Living is the art of loving. Loving is the art of caring. Caring is the art of sharing. Sharing is the art of living. If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.

– Booker T. Washington

Save the Date

17th Annual Evening of Jazz

featuring **Billboard ranked, contemporary jazz keyboardist Marcus Johnson**

Friday, August 24, 2012

6:00 p.m. – Reception

7:15 p.m. – Concert

Churchill Downs
Triple Crown Room

All proceeds from the Evening of Jazz benefit the Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program®, Lincoln Foundation's signature educational program. Tickets are \$100 and can be purchased from the Lincoln Foundation office.

For additional information, please contact Morgan Hanley at mhanley@lincolnfdn.org.

For more about Marcus Johnson, please visit www.threekeys.com.



Marcus Johnson

Did You Know?

Lincoln Institute will celebrate its 100th anniversary this year. On October 1, 1912, the doors of Berea Hall officially opened for the first time welcoming 85 black students. Lincoln Foundation, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2010, was founded by Berea College in 1910 as the fiscal agent for the Lincoln Institute. The National Lincoln Institute Alumni Association will host a reunion weekend at the campus in August.



Berea Hall

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2012 Summer Calendar

June 2

Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars
Program® Senior Banquet

June 3-15

WYSP Summer Institute (12th Grade)
University of Kentucky

June 4-29

Project BUILD (11-12 Grades)
UofL College of Business

June 4-29

Math & Science Program (9-12 Grades)
UofL College of Arts and Sciences

June 11-15 & July 9-13

WYSP Summer Institute -
Broadcasting Basics (10th Grade)
Bellarmine University

July 8-20

WYSP Summer Institute (11th Grade)
Georgetown College

July 9-20

WYSP Technology & Study Skills
(8th Grade)
Lincoln Foundation

July 9-13 & July 16-20

Hands On Minds On (7th Grade)
UofL College of Education and
Human Development

August 18

WYSP Opening Educational Clinic

August 24

17th Annual Evening of Jazz
featuring Marcus Johnson

Youth Organized to Understand New Goals



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