



Tamia White

My teachers have helped to make me a stronger person

By *Tamia White, a senior at LFLA*

I have been going to Lift For Life since the 6th grade and I have realized that I have made a change. With the help of my teachers, they have made me a stronger person and who I am today.

I used to act out in class, not do my homework and get suspended a lot. But there was a turning point. I had to realize that I could and would do better. So I had to change and get on the right track.

The teachers, staff and students at Lift For Life believe, "Failure is not an option." So I had to try something different. As I started to focus, I noticed that I was getting better and better. There was one class that I thought I would never pass. But the teacher saw the potential in me and

I won an award for most improved in her class. When I won that award I was so proud of myself because I knew I could do it.

The award made me a better person. After that I did my work and paid attention in every class. My grades were looking right, my attitude had changed and it was just a new me.

Later, I had trouble with science. The new science teacher told me to give her a chance and I did. Now, I have a good grade and actually think I like science.

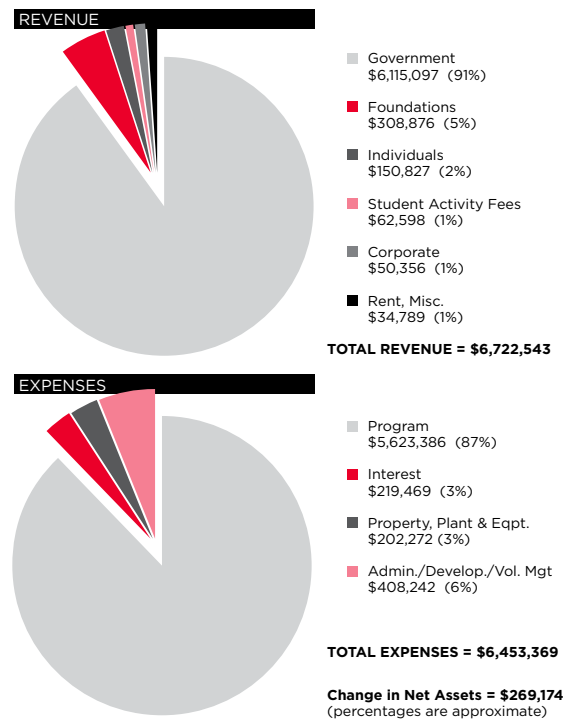
I didn't want to be a person who failed, didn't complete work or misbehave. I learned my lesson by failing, making mistakes and embarrassment. With the inspiration of my teachers here at Lift For Life, I became a changed person.

Lift For Life Academy *audit at a glance*

In November 2013, the independent auditing firm, Hochschild, Bloom & Company LLP, submitted the audit for Lift For Life Academy for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013. The audit was conducted in accordance with Government Auditing Standards. No material weaknesses or significant deficiencies were identified.

The complete FY 2012-13 Audit is available for review at Liftforlifeacademy.org/annual-report/.

Of particular note: **94 cents of every dollar is spent on programs and services for students.**



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com/liftforlifeacademy.

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Community support makes a difference

Lift For Life Academy is a challenging and supportive learning community where students are valued and empowered to maximize their full potential as students, citizens and productive members of society.

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1731 S. Broadway
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The Winter 2014 Gazette is produced by the Development Department of Lift For Life Academy.
EDITOR: Jackie Parker
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THE GENEROSITY OF LOCAL FOUNDATIONS, corporations and community organizations enable Lift For Life Academy to lift incoming students from severe underachievement to grade level proficiencies through intensive classroom engagement, tutoring and support so they graduate prepared for the future. We know it's working as **97% of our 2013 seniors graduated!**

The following are just a few examples of how our community is making a difference in the lives of Lift For Life Academy students.

Funds to provide the full continuum of extra services and support necessary for an education that meets the needs of students with significant disadvantages and high potential for dropping out of school were made possible by **Lee H. Cruse Trust, Florence Heiman Charitable Foundation, Pott Foundation, Guth Foundation Charitable Trust, Wischmeyer Family Charitable Trust, Melvin & Adele Roman Foundation, Sanford and Gloria Spitzer Family Foundation, Catherine Manley Gaylord Foundation and American Eagle Credit Union.**

St. Louis Philanthropic Organization's generous grant enabled 40 students to earn college credit while still in High School. **Sign of the Arrow's** wonderful gift purchased supplies for our math department. (Thank you **Linda Sher** for sponsoring our request.) A much-needed walk-in cooler is being made possible by the **John Allan Love Charitable Foundation** and **Regional Business Council's Small Change-Big Impact** grants. A grant from **Nestlé Purina Trust Fund** will support the Academy's Remedial Literacy Program, Literacy Connection.

Gifts from **St. Louis Sports Hall Of Fame, Parkway North High School** and **St. Louis District Tennis Association** will allow Lift For Life Academy to have boys and girls soccer and competitive tennis teams. The generosity of **Mark Mestemacher** will enable the wrestling team to continue.

Students at **Parkway North High School** sold tickets, held a raffle and raised \$1,321 at the Nov. 22 St. Louis Ambush soccer game at St. Charles Family Arena. It was a tremendous effort to help start a new soccer team for our girls.

A big thank you goes out to **Stealth Soccer** for donating team uniforms as well as Ambush Account Executive **Lance Lahey**, PNHS soccer coaches **Wendy Freebersyser, Jeff Church, Jessica Wheeler** and **Patrick Troy**.



The recent check presentation to LFLA from Sign of the Arrow included Holly Thomas, President of Sign of the Arrow, Jennifer Bush, LFLA Development Manager, and Linda Sher, LFLA's Pi Beta Phi sponsor.



St. Louis Sports Hall Of Fame From left to right: Myron Holtzman, Marshall Cohen, Greg Marecek, Tim Moore and Charles Schneider.



Student athletes from LFLA and Parkway North High School spend some time with Bushwhacker, the mascot of the St. Louis Ambush indoor soccer team.

Girls soccer practice will begin in March and games will be played in April.

We are extraordinarily grateful for this support and for helping give Academy students a brighter future.

Kids helping kids

Students hold drives for school and sports supplies for LFLA

(left) Andy and Caleb Pultman deliver school supplies that Caleb collected.



(right) Sam Spirn with some of our students and the sports equipment he donated.



We want to thank **Caleb Pultman** and **Sam Spirn** for taking the time to collect and deliver school supplies and sports equipment for our students to use.

This is the second year Caleb, a freshman at Mary Institute and St. Louis Country Day School, has successfully completed this project. Previously, he collected school supplies for LFLA as his Bar Mitzvah project. The good news is he plans on spearheading another school supply drive this summer.

Sam also chose LFLA as his Bar Mitzvah project. The baseball equipment, tennis shoes and racquets, soccer balls, golf clubs and skates he collected will help our students compete athletically. Sam is a student at Ladue Middle School.

Thank you, Caleb and Sam, for your hard work and generous donations!

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You can help assure that Lift For Life Academy receives the resources to educate St. Louis city students for years to come by remembering us in your will or making the Academy the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. Learn more by calling us at 314-588-0007.

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Volunteer Spotlight



Marilyn Lipman has volunteered for three years at LFLA.

From 9 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Marilyn Lipman helps the students in Alison Owens' math classes.

"When you explain something and he or she has got it, that's what makes it worth it," said Marilyn Lipman, who has helped students "get it" for three years. She wasn't a math major in college – her degree is in elementary school education – and freely admits that she "listens along with the students when Ms. Owens gives the instruction."

"Then I just walk around the classroom and help them get started. Sometimes I go to the library with a few students to proctor a test," she said "It's really very fluid what I'm doing."

"Ms. Owens is such a joy to work for. Pleasant doesn't begin to say it, either," she said. "She is always so welcoming to me and her students."

Marilyn became involved with LFLA at the suggestion of her friend Lois Frank, a former LFLA volunteer.

"This is a school that is certainly concerned with the whole child," she said. "Their nutrition, they're picked up and brought to school, there's extra help available if they need it. The kids are well taken care of here and they know it."

When she's not volunteering, Marilyn plays bridge and keeps up with current issues through Washington University's Lifelong Learning Institute. There, she co-facilitates a weekly discussion class called "Reading *The Wall Street Journal*." She also participates in a "Biology and Beyond" study group at the institute.

Thank you, Marilyn Lipman, for being a LFLA volunteer!

3 ways to give without giving and help LFLA



1. Target REDcard

HOW: Register your current REDcard at target.com/tcoe and designate LFLA as your donation school. It takes less than three minutes. If you go with the debit option, it will link straight to your bank account.

WHAT LFLA GETS: When you use your REDcard, Target will donate 1% of each sale to LFLA.

WHAT YOU GET: Use your Target credit or debit card and knock 5% off your purchase.

2. eBoxTops

HOW: Register at boxtopsforeducation.com, designate LFLA as your donation school. Go to "Shop & Earn" and click on a store and shop as usual. By starting here, you'll automatically earn BoxTops for LFLA with every purchase.



WHAT LFLA GETS: Similar to paper Box Tops, eBoxTops are worth 10 cents each, but eBoxTops add up quicker.

PAPER BOX TOPS: This continues to be a great way for our school to raise money. When you have paper Box Tops, drop them off at the front desk.

3. Schnucks eScrip

HOW: Call or email Jackie Parker in the LFLA Development Office at 314-402-8269 or jparker@liftforlife.org and she will mail one to you or pick one up at Schnucks. Register your card and designate LFLA as your donation school, then use the eScrip card when you're shopping at Schnucks.

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It's back! Bikes, brains and brawn
rule this fun obstacle course ride
around St. Louis.



High School Graduation
6 p.m. Wednesday, May 14, at
Harris-Stowe State University,
3026 Laclede Ave.

