



*Pride Academy Charter School  
15th Anniversary Gala*

**'BUILDING A LEGACY OF GREATNESS'**

Thursday, April 6 at 7pm - 10pm  
Morris Museum  
Morristown, New Jersey

*Join the Friends of Pride Academy Charter School  
Foundation as they celebrate Pride Academy and  
their 15 years of greatness.*

*Cocktail Attire*

*Pride Academy Charter School  
15th Anniversary Gala  
Celebrating 15 years of Greatness*

*Special Honoree and Pride Legacy Award Recipient*

*Terry A. Smith*

*Pastor of The Life Christian Church and longtime supporter of Pride Academy*



*"It has been so exciting to watch the vision of Pride Academy become actuality and to see that actuality impact so many lives in such positive ways over the last fifteen years. I am honored to be associated with the incredible work and legacy of Pride Academy."*

Terry A. Smith is the Lead Pastor of The Life Christian Church in West Orange, New Jersey. Over the past 30 years, TLCC has grown from 54 members to a church family approaching 3,000 people. A non-denominational faith community, TLCC is known for its vibrant diversity and robust leadership culture.

The Life Christian Church has been invested in Pride Academy Charter School's success even before our doors ever opened. Through his leadership, Pastor Terry rallied his members to help us prepare for our first day of school by helping us move classroom furniture to our empty classroom, separated teacher supplies and delivered them to classroom, and even helped with maintenance needs before our custodial staff had been hired. And the continued support has not wavered over the past 15 years! They have donated water fountains when our building had none and initiated and led mentoring groups that met with our scholars during lunch. Members of the church also worked side-by-side with Pride teachers and families when they were part of our big Playground Build Day. Pride Academy has also been the beneficiary of TLCC service events including providing some of our families in need with Thanksgiving Baskets and even painting murals in our school's Common Room.

Pastor Terry honored Pride Academy by including our school in the first chapter of his Amazon best seller "*Live 10: Jumpstart the Best Version of Your Life*" (Thomas Nelson). He's gone on to publish "*The Hospitable Leader*" (Bethany House) and his most recent book is "*The Lord Bless You*" (Chosen/ Baker Publishing).

Pride Academy Charter School has most certainly been blessed to have Pastor Terry Smith as a champion for our scholars, teachers, and families. As we celebrate our 15th anniversary, we want to show our appreciation for his support and encouragement by selecting him as our honoree.

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*Legend Award Recipients*



*Dr. Chike Akua*

Dr. Akua is a professor of Educational Leadership at Clark Atlanta University and a leading authority on increasing the achievement of today's students. He has over 25 years of combined experience in education as a public school teacher, curriculum developer, professional development provider, leadership consultant, policy analyst, and university professor. Dr. Akua has been instrumental in supporting our efforts at Pride Academy as we grow in our knowledge and practice of culture and diversity to bring forth an optimal learning experience to our scholars. Through his work and partnership with our school over the years, we have been able to more boldly manifest the words of our mission statement, "embolden our students to harness their power and shape their world."

*Bertha Griffin-Lowery*

What started out as a simple business relationship with a local printer has blossomed into a true friendship and alliance. After many years in corporate America, she became co-owner of Newark Signs and Installation. Through her role there, Bertha has been a supporter of Pride Academy for over 10 years and took Pride on as her personal client. During that time, she has not only worked to meet the schools financial limitations and unique needs, but she's also donated materials and services that has helped Pride Academy to serve it's scholars and families.





## FRIENDS OF PRIDE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

Friends of Pride Academy Charter School, Inc is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting Pride Academy Charter School in its mission of educating, empowering, and shaping young lives. Through its development efforts with the community, Friends of Pride Academy helps the charter school to sustain a safe learning environment dedicated to academic achievement and the core values of peace, respect, integrity, determination, and empathy.



*Patrice Ward, President*  
Friends of Pride Academy  
Pride Class of 2015

*"On behalf of the Board of Friends of Pride Academy Charter School Foundation, we are proud to host this evening to honor Pride Academy for 15 years of GREATNESS. During my time at Pride, the teachers and staff poured so much into me. Their love and commitment to my education laid the foundation to the woman that I am today. I want to pour back into this life-changing school and invite you to do the same."*

## *Friends of Pride Academy Charter School, Inc* *Board of Trustees*

*President - Patrice Ward*  
*Pride Academy Alumni Class of 2015*

*Vice President - Shanna Lafleur*  
*Parent of Pride Class of 2017 and 2024*

*Sherri Hedgeman*  
*Parent of Pride Class of 2020 and 2021*

*Patricia Ward*  
*Pride Academy Alumni Class of 2015*

*David White*  
*Founding Sponsor of Annual Pride Golf Classic*

# Pride Academy Charter School

## Celebrating 15 years of Greatness

### OUR MISSION

*Pride Academy Charter School endeavors to ignite success in middle school students of all abilities through a curriculum rooted in the values of peace, respect, integrity, determination, and empathy. By establishing a community dedicated to academic achievement, mastery of fundamental skills, positive leadership, and active service, Pride Academy Charter School strives to embolden its students to harness their own power to shape their futures and the world.*

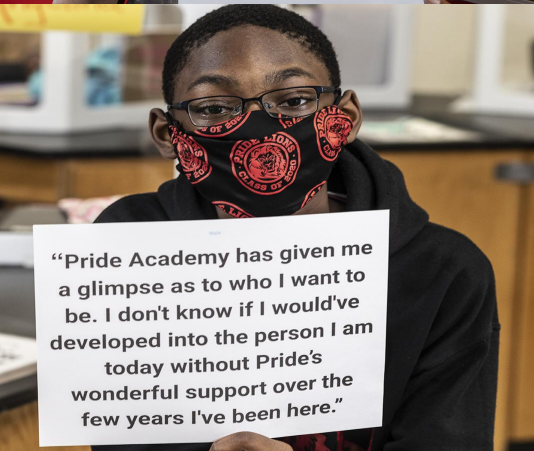
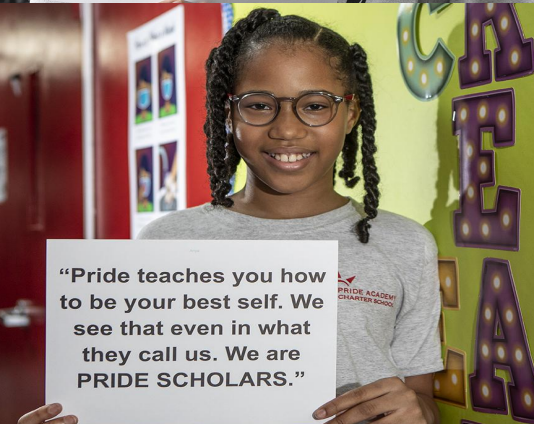
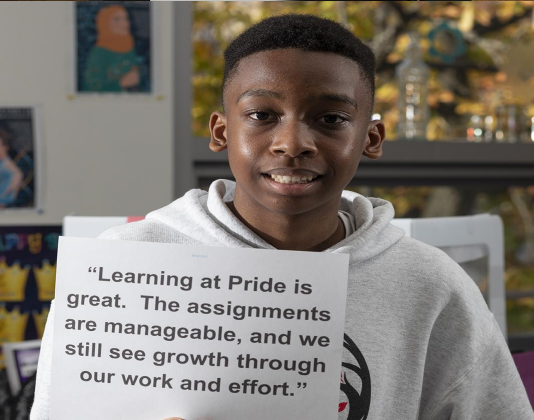
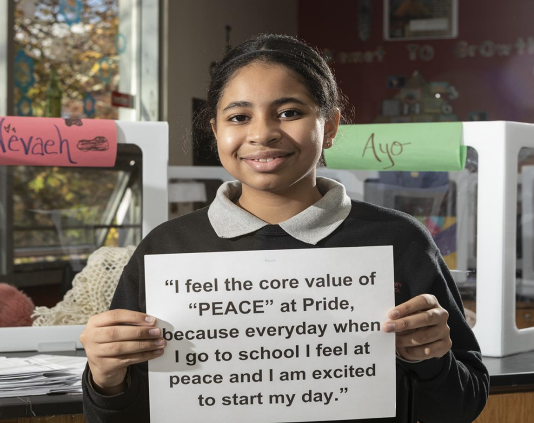
◆ According to the NJ Student Learning Assessments taken over the past 5 years, Pride Academy scholars outperform the East Orange, Orange, and Newark districts that they serve by an average of 27%. Additionally, Pride Academy scholars continue to demonstrate growth in spite of the typical learning loss experienced by students nationwide during the pandemic.

◆ Pride Academy 8th graders are among the 25% of 8th graders in the state of New Jersey who takes Algebra. The average passing rate of New Jersey 7th - 10th graders that take the NJSLA is 28%. Pride Scholars taking Algebra have an 86% passing rate.

◆ The mission-driven goals of positive leadership and active service are being achieved through ongoing service projects that are developed and implemented by Pride Scholars through Project Pride. Service Projects include the Penny Wars community competition that raised over \$1,800 for the Isaiah House Shelter and the Class of 2023 Anti-Smoking Campaign and Healthy Kids Walk invited community organizations to share information and resources about the dangers of smoking, vaping and marijuana.

◆ With a 9 to 1 teacher to student ratio, Pride Scholars are provided with the small group instruction and individualized attention that children need to grow academically and socially in preparation for high school, college, and beyond.

◆ Pride Academy Charter School prepares scholars for great futures in high school college and beyond. In addition to local district and magnet schools, Pride graduates are thriving in high schools such as DePaul Catholic, Lawrenceville, the Peddie School, Seton Hall Prep, and Newark Academy. They're also attending colleges and universities including Howard University, Spelman College, Temple University, University of Pennsylvania and more.



# *Build on Pride Academy's Legacy of Greatness! Become a Sponsor!*

Fill out the form below or go to: <https://prideacs.org/the-gala/sponsor-ad-form/>

## **PREMIER SPONSOR - \$5,000**

- ◆ 10 Tickets
- ◆ A Full-page ad on the cover of the Ad Journal and Program
- ◆ Corporate Name and logo on all advertisement
- ◆ Sponsorship recognition on running video presentation at the event
- ◆ Prominent recognition on social media and website

## **PLATINUM SPONSOR - \$3,000**

- ◆ 8 Tickets to the event
- ◆ A Full-page ad in the Ad Journal and Program
- ◆ Corporate name and logo on all advertisement
- ◆ Sponsorship recognition on a running video presentation at the event
- ◆ Prominent recognition on social media and website

## **GOLD SPONSOR - \$2,000**

- ◆ 6 Tickets to the event
- ◆ A Half-page ad in the Ad Journal and Program
- ◆ Corporate name and logo on all advertisement
- ◆ Sponsorship recognition on a running electronic presentation at the event
- ◆ Prominent recognition in all press releases, our website, and social media.

## **SILVER SPONSOR - \$1,000**

- ◆ 4 Tickets to the event
- ◆ A Quarter-page ad in the Ad Journal and Program
- ◆ Corporate name and logo on all advertisement
- ◆ Sponsorship recognition on a running electronic presentation at the event
- ◆ Prominent recognition in all press releases, our website, and social media.

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Company / Supporter Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsorship Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

*\* Please make all checks payable to Friends of Pride Academy Charter School, which is a tax-exempt non-profit organization that supports Pride Academy and its mission. Friends of Pride Academy is under section 501(c) 3 and your contribution is fully tax-deductible.*

**Send Sponsorship Request form and check to:**

Friends of Pride Academy Charter School ◆ 117 Elmwood Avenue, East Orange, NJ 07018  
or become a sponsor online from [www.prideacs.org](http://www.prideacs.org)

*Pride Academy Charter School*  
*Celebrating 15 years of Greatness*

Fill out the form below or go to: <https://prideacs.org/the-gala/sponsor-ad-form/>

Support Pride Academy Charter School's programs and continued success by purchasing an advertisement in the 15th Anniversary Celebration Program Book.

- ◆ Full Page Ad \$300
- ◆ Half Page Ad \$150
- ◆ Quarter Page Ad \$75
- ◆ One Eighth (Business Card size) \$40

Please submit your ad message and artwork or corporate logo to [rdumenigo@prideacs.org](mailto:rdumenigo@prideacs.org)

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_  
Company / Supporter Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

\* Please make all checks payable to **Friends of Pride Academy Charter School**, which is a tax-exempt non-profit organization that supports Pride Academy and its mission. Friends of Pride Academy is under section 501(c) 3 and your contribution is fully tax-deductible.

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117 Elmwood Ave.

East Orange, New Jersey 07018

or purchase an ad online from [www.prideacs.org](http://www.prideacs.org)