



# PEARLS OF THE IVY FOUNDATION, INC.®



Quarterly Newsletter

September 1, 2024



*Executive Director*  
**Cynthia Lewis**

The Pearls of the Ivy Foundation, Inc.® is a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization, which funds scholarships, community empowerment programs and activities while providing volunteers and assistance to other non-profit organizations.

The purpose/mission of the Pearls of the Ivy Foundation is to provide scholarships to exemplary high school students who are accepted by an accredited college or university, assist students in college with demonstrated financial need, fund the programs and activities identified as community service needs of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® Upsilon Lambda Omega Chapter, and provide volunteers and assistance to other non-profit organizations.

**“The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team.”** - Phil Jackson.

I am honored to be the newly elected Pearls of The Ivy Foundation Executive Director. I would like to personally thank each and every member for believing and entrusting in my ability to lead a strong group of women.

The newly elected **PIF Board of Directors** are ready to learn their newly appointed positions, and the entire board is eager to continue planning FUNdraising activities that will raise money for scholarships and fund community programs. The other newly elected board members are Cheryl Sims, Secretary; Penny Levy King Financial Secretary; Shanna Hines, Assistant Financial Secretary; Michelle Carter-Pope, Funding Development Manager and Barbretta Baker, Treasurer.



Cheryl Sims



Penny Levy King



Shanna Hines



Michelle Carter-Pope



Barbretta Baker

The 3rd Quarter Pearls of the Ivy Foundation General Membership Meeting will be held on **Saturday, September 14, 2024**, following Upsilon Lambda Omega Chapter Meeting.

If you donated to The **20/20 Vision Campaign**, please be on the lookout for an email detailing important information you will need to respond to. Previous donors to the 20/20 Vision Campaign, will be advised of the foundation’s intent to dissolve the 20/20 Vision Fund and utilize previous donations to establish a scholarship endowment with the Educational Advancement Foundation. 20/20 Vision Campaign Donors will be provided with alternate options for the donation they made. If you have any questions, please contact Pearls of the Ivy **Endowment Chairman, Yasmin Barnes Jones**.

Sisterly,

Cynthia Lewis  
Executive Director  
Pearls of the Ivy Foundation



2024 Bags for Grads

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Our Fall Fundraiser **Bags for Grads**, an afternoon of BINGO and FUNdraising, will be held Sunday, October 13, 2024 at Unique Visions Event Center from 3:00 - 6:00 PM. **Doors will open at 1:30 PM** and all Pearls of the Ivy Foundation members are asked to arrive at that time. PIF Members and guests can purchase tickets to this event thru Eventbrite <https://pif2024bagsforgrads.eventbrite.com/> During Bags for Grads, guests will have the opportunity to purchase additional bingo cards, signature drinks, designer handbag raffle tickets, and mystery gift boxes. Get your tickets today and don't forget to promote the event on social media, and with your families and friends!



**Sunday, October 13, 2024**  
**Unique Visions Event Center**

 **324 S. Hampton Road**  
**DeSoto, TX 75115**

**Doors open at 2:00 pm**  
**Bingo begins at 3:00 pm**

**ABOUT BAGS FOR GRADS**

The purpose of Bags for Grads is to raise money to fund the scholarships awarded by the Pearls of the Ivy Foundation on an annual basis.

Purchase of a Bags for Grads ticket includes: one (1) set of bingo sheets for 10 games, one (1) door prize ticket, complimentary soda bar and light snacks!

Net proceeds of this event will go toward funding the college scholarships awarded by the Pearls of the Ivy Foundation to deserving high school and college scholars. All donations are tax deductible and benefit Pearls of the Ivy Foundation, Inc. a 501(c)3 organization.

**MORE ABOUT BAGS FOR GRADS**

- Attendees must be 18 or older; no children**
- BYO (Bring Your Own) Bites**
- Arrive early for a chance to participate in various raffles and door prize drawings**

**TICKETS** ▼

**\$50 / Per Ticket**

- Bags for Grads tickets will be sold on Eventbrite.
- See any Pearls of the Ivy Foundation Member to purchase a designer purse raffle ticket (\$5/ticket).

For sponsorship and/or donation opportunities, contact Michelle Carter-Pope (Bags for Grads Chairman) at 972-467-0798 or via email at mopope75115@gmail.com.



If you would like to join the Bags for Grads Committee, please reach out the event Chairman and Co-Chairmen.

Sisterly,

**Michelle Carter-Pope, Chairman**

Penny Levy King, Co-Chairman

Jocelyn Jones, Co-Chairman



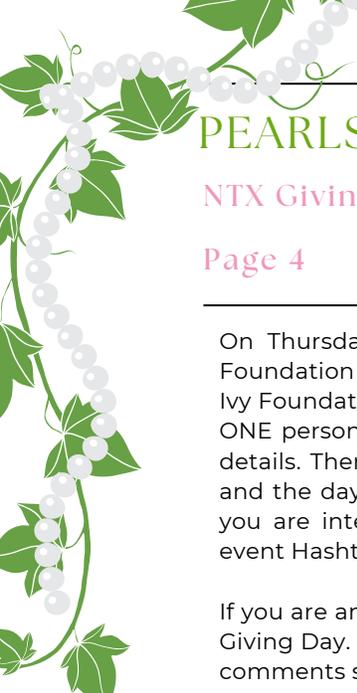
2024 Scholarships

**The Pearls of the Ivy Foundation awarded \$27K to 18 recipients in scholarships during 2024.** The Pearls of the Ivy Foundation Scholarship Committee emailed the **Scholarship Donor Acknowledgement Form** to all foundation members soliciting new scholarship donors, with a submission deadline of August 23, 2024. The month of August was the opportunity for members to submit new, named scholarships, and for current scholarship donors to make edits to their named scholarship. The Scholarship Committee, which is led by **Scholarship Chairman, Afi George**, will then review all new scholarship applications and present them to the board for review and approval. The committee will also revise any current scholarships, in preparation for the upcoming 2025 scholarship award season.



Please check out our 2024 Scholarship Recipients detailed below on our social media platforms or on the Pearls of the Ivy Foundation website.

- Jeffery Baker - Booker T. Washington School for the Performing and Visual Arts
- Noah Cathey - St. Mark's School of Texas
- Madisyn Moore - Duncanville High School
- Evan Beaty - Duncanville High School
- Victoria Myers - Townview School of Talented and Gifted
- Triniti Houston - Townview School of Talented and Gifted
- Kyren Davis - Creekview High School
- Trinity Dailey - DeSoto High School
- Mykah Randle - Desoto High School
- Chanstin Asberry - DeSoto High School
- Lauren Weaver - DeSoto High School
- Liyah King - Desoto High School
- Jaidyn Watts - Life High School Waxahachie
- Mychael Richardson - Life High School Waxahachie
- Camryn Malone - Life High School of Waxahachie
- Paige Oliver - Life School Oak Cliff
- Hope Wright - Prairie View A&M University
- Briana Merklelove - Baylor University



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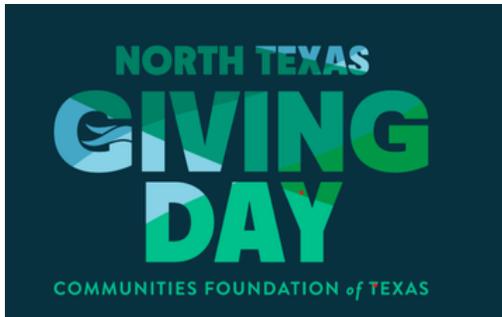
## NTX Giving Day / 71st Boule Community Service Project

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On Thursday, September 19, 2024, the Pearls of the Ivy Foundation is participating in the Communities Foundation of Texas' **North Texas (NTX) Giving Day**, a one-day online giving extravaganza. The Pearls of the Ivy Foundation's Fundraising Goal is \$5,000. Each Pearls of the Ivy Foundation Member is asked to reach out to ONE person and ask them to donate \$24 in 2024 to help us reach our fundraising goal. Stay tuned for more details. There will be social media posts we are asking all members to share prior to North Texas Giving Day and the day of the event. Please share the post to your personal pages and with your families and friends. If you are interested in being the chairman of this event, please email [pifexecutivedirector@gmail.com](mailto:pifexecutivedirector@gmail.com). The event Hashtag is #igave24dollarsin2024.

If you are an approved scholarship named donor you may solicit funds for your scholarship during North Texas Giving Day. Please ensure the donors add the name of the scholarship in which funds should be applied in the comments section of the donation.



The Pearls of the Ivy Foundation applied and received a Walmart grant in the amount of \$3,000 that assisted in the efforts of purchasing items for the **71st Boule Service Project**. Thank you to PIF Members Evelyn Canady, Donna Whitehead, Cynthia Lewis, Angela L. Davis Henry, Mary Diggs and Felicia Davis who assisted in getting the grant processed in a timely manner. Items purchased were sunscreen, toothbrushes and hand sanitizer wipes. The Boule Service Project (CHIPP and Hygiene Kit Packing) was led by **PIF Member Angela L. Davis Henry** as she served as the **71st Boule Community Service Project Chairman**. Thank you to all PIF Members who participated in the historical world breaking event.



# Thank You