

The 2Gethers Foundation's 2021 Highlights

The 2Gethers Foundation is a non-profit (501c3) organization. The organization was founded in January 2018 by Dr. Tiffany M. Gethers and David A. Gethers, on the strong belief that every student deserves a chance to go to college. Reflections from their personal experiences as first-generation students, they founded an organization dedicated to improving access to higher education, student success, and retention rates particularly among at risk student populations.

The organization's specific purpose is to address barriers that first-generation students face so that they can successfully persist through higher education and successfully attain a college degree. Students are classified as first-generation if they are the first in their families to attend college or if neither of their parent(s) or guardian(s) have obtained a bachelor's degree.

The 2Gethers Foundation provides a number of programs and services to address students' barriers and to

enhance first-generation students' academic, social, and career development such as:

- Scholarships to graduating first-generation high school seniors
- Mentorship program
- Free workshops and seminars on various topics for students and parents
- Pop-up food pantries on college campuses.

Impact

Since our inception in January 2018, we have served nearly 3,000 students through our Gateway 2 College and College success programs in the form of scholarships, snack pack giveaways, mentorship and leadership development. We are so grateful to all of our donors, volunteers and community partners.

Highlights from 2021

College Success. From February-May, 2021, we welcomed the first cohort of our pilot Defy the Odds Mentoring & Leadership Development. We had seven mentees to participate and

seven amazing mentors to answer the call to mentor!



The 2Gethers Foundation's 2021 Defy the Odds Mentoring & Leadership Development Program mentors

Ranging from high school juniors to college sophomores, our mentees participated in interactive virtual workshops on the 2nd Saturday of each month that focused on fostering their leadership development. In addition, their mentors met with them regularly to provide guidance and to help establish and achieve specific goals. Beautiful connections were made and we're ever so grateful!

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Don't GET Ready - STAY Ready!
Meet our panelists...



Stalynn Davis
Moderator, The 2Gethers Foundation Board member



Glori Bond, Esq.
Cook County Assistant States Attorney



Rachael Nicole Turner
Brand Architect Founder & Creative Director Rosemint Media & Radiant Thoms



Dr. Michelle Meeks
Family Physician

www.2gethersfoundation.org

Distinguished panelists from the group session focused on career development.

As a part of the program, a few mentees and mentors participated in a community service activity (in partnership with BAG Lady Outreach) at Daybreak Shelter in Joliet, Illinois. There, we cooked a delicious meal and served the residents at the shelter.

We are so grateful for Walmart's sponsorship of the Defy the Odds Mentoring & Leadership Development Program.



Mentees Ari Liggins (L) and Nikale Gandy (R) posing at Daybreak Shelter in Joliet, IL.



Mentee Ari Liggins (L) and mentor Dr. Pettigrew (R) preparing food to serve residents at Daybreak Shelter.

Community Partnerships. *"If you want to go fast - go alone. If you want to go far - go 2Gether!" - unknown*

In June, we partnered with Pretty Me Inc., Mentoring program by sponsoring their 1st annual Honoring Our Youth Awards (H.O.Y.A). This amazing event honored six youth who stood out amongst their peers in five categories: Academic Excellence, Humanitarian, Entrepreneurship, Rising Star, Honorable Mention.



H.O.Y.A.
Honoring Our Youth Awards
Congratulations
2021 Award Recipients

 Alyssa Edwards "Academic Excellence"	 Donald Buster Woods III "Philanthropy/ Community Engagement"	 Jada Moore "Performing Arts"
 Anthony Schmidt "Entrepreneurship"	 Zoey Lynn Bishop "Leadership"	 D'Licha Mustin "H.O.Y.A.S Choice"

2021 H.O.Y.A. Award Recipients

These scholars were recognized for their outstanding achievements during a virtual celebration. The keynote speakers included Richard Richardson, Former professional basketball player and ESPN Analyst; Val Warner, Emmy Award-Winning Host of Windy City Live; Kendal Gill, Former Professional Basketball Player

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and ESPN Analyst; and Sarah Kustok, ESPN & FOX News Reporter.

Community, education, leadership, and legacy are the four values that we stand on to help us achieve our mission. We were honored to partner with Pretty Me Inc., to recognize our future leaders.

Gateway 2 College. Thanks to our donors and sponsors, we were able to award a total of \$8,000 in scholarships to college bound first-generation scholars! This year, we personally delivered scholarship awards to our scholarship recipients. It was such a joy meeting them and celebrating with their families!

Below is just a few of our scholars who were hand-delivered their scholarships.



The 2Gethers Foundation Board members presenting the DOT FOODS Scholarship to first-generation scholar, Michael Armwood.



Co-Founder & President, Dr. Tiffany M. Gethers, presenting first-generation scholar, Katherine Ramos with The Mary & Elizabeth Trust Scholarship.



On Saturday, October 30th, high school and college scholars from across seven states joined us as we held “Scholarween!,” a virtual and interactive scholarship that

was facilitated by one of partners, Scholarship Momma.

During the workshop, scholars learned effective tips and strategies to find scholarships to help fund their college education. They were also provided a list of “active” scholarships accepting applications.

Recognitions

Awards. Every year since its inception, The 2Gethers Foundation has been recognized for its impact in the community. This year is no exception.

On November 20, 2021, Dr. Tiffany M. Gethers, Co-Founder & President was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Rising Star Award by her alma mater, Governors State University for her work with The 2Gethers Foundation. This award recognizes graduates from within the last five years for superior accomplishments.

Out of 143 nominations, Dr. Gethers was one of 23 total finalists, and 1 of 4 finalists in her category. We are grateful that she was the one that brought home the crystal!

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Contact Information

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Dr. Tiffany M. Gethers pictured with GSU President, Dr. Cheryl Green (R) and Dr. Colleen Sexton (L), Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs.



Dr. Tiffany M. Gethers giving her acceptance speech.