

F E B U A R Y 2 0 1 8



Fall 2017 In Review

BitterSweet

The Excellerate program not only raises up young adults aging out of the foster care system but we raise up next level leaders as well. J and Cory Toro were at the conception of our launch and operated as Excellerate National Directors for nearly 5 years. At the end of our spring 2017 class we said goodbye as God was calling them to Augusta Georgia to Pastor their own church. We are so grateful for their leadership and the dedication it took to get Excellerate off the ground. We miss them, we love them and we bless them on their new journey!



WELCOME TO CLASS

So much fun!!! So much food!!! Fall 2017 was a season of SO MUCH!!! We laughed, we cried, we grew. July class started out as usual. The new students came to class with the same looks on their faces as all other classes before them, the look of uncertainty, the walls up and no idea of what to expect. However, by class 2 they began to loosen up, become more trusting and started to courageously open up. By the end of our 16-week course these students were changed, transformed and excited about their future. Excellerate is more than mentors, we become a family and with each class our family grows.

SAVE THE DATE 2018

Jazz Brunch

Aug 18

Excellerates annual Jazz brunch with live music.

Graduation

May 17th

Be a part of the celebration as our students receive their diplomas.

Presentation

June 10th

Watch our students walk across the big stage and receive their keys!



GOLF CLASSIC

On October 21, 2017 Excellerate held its Golf Classic at the prestigious Plantation Bay Golf Club. There were games and prizes at every hole and delicious Chick Filet for everyone!

Sponsors

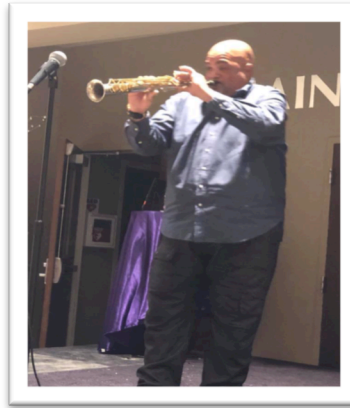
Our tournament would not have been as successful as it was without the incredible and generous support of our Golf Classic sponsors. We would like to again thank Chick Filet for the breakfast biscuits and chicken sandwiches they catered as well as Krispy Kreme Donuts for all the delicious glazed donuts we could eat!

**Prestigious, private,
gated and beautiful...**

Plantation Bay

There are few communities to offer the kind of abundance that has come to be expected at Plantation Bay Golf and Country Club. Miles of pristine natural beauty blends with mature landscaping to provide the backdrop for a sparkling array of amenities including 45 holes of championship golf, two full-service clubhouses, ten tennis courts, scenic pool pavilion, nature parks and miles of walking trails.





CHRISTMAS 2017 CANDY CANDY CANDY

Excellerates 2017 Christmas Party was at another level! From beginning to end it was SPECTACULAR! Founder and Pastor Allen Griffin always does Christmas BIG for our Excellerators and 2017 was no different! Every student from the past to the present was invited to come and celebrate and be celebrated. For our Willy Wonka themed Christmas party there was food, games, singing and best of all gifts! Chef Grego cooked delicious homemade Puerto Rican food, our former Director Pastor Jay Toro played Santa and National Director Pastor Steve Patton was Willy Wonka. The evening began with Reggie Dabbs on the horn followed by an inspirational, motivational and moving speech. We sang, we prayed, we gave thanks, we celebrated! Towards the close of the evening Santa Toro read the Christmas story to our students and then it was time to open the gifts! This year each and every one of our former and current students received an HP Chrombook! Christmas 2017 was a huge success and we give God all the glory for His provision and His faithfulness to our students, our leaders and the program year after year after year.



CHEF GREGO AND NICOLE Christmas Dinner Menu

Roasted Pork Shoulder
Chicken Breast in Creole Sauce
Rice with Pigeon Peas (Arroz con Gandules)
Fried Sweet Plantains (Madura's)
Beef Empanadas

GRADUATION

On November 9 the Excellerators officially completed the 16-week required course study. We watched proudly as they walked across the stage in their cap and gowns to receive their much-deserved diplomas. Many have returned to become leaders and mentors to our spring 2018 class. Excellerate leaders are training them up right! ☺



JAZZ BRUNCH

Each year Excellerate kicks off fundraising with a Jazz brunch. On September 23 we swooned to the sounds of famous saxophone player Joseph Arazashvili and dined on delicious food from Peach Valley café.



BAPTISM

With every class our students are presented with the opportunity to be baptized. We are incredibly humbled to report that each and every one of our fall semester students accepted Christ and chose to follow Him in baptism.



KEYS TO INDEPENDENCE

Nothing is more exciting than to watch our students drive away in their cars. Cierra received her 2008 Pontiac G5 at the end of the fall class. Today she is a successful barber and a student at Daytona State College studying business. We know that Cierra will Excellerate to great success!

Excellerating to their Next Level Where Are They Now

Elijah Hudson Spring Class 2014



From day one of meeting Elijah we knew he was going to do BIG things with the Lord. Elijah is a gentleman of high honor, integrity, dignity, and of exemplary character. A mighty man of God pursing his purpose in ministry. Elijah is currently attending Bethune Cookman University and is a straight A honor roll student. On Sundays he leads worship at his home church and is leading his peers by example as to what it means to live the Christian life. We couldn't be more proud!



OH.....By the way...you should know,

Excellerate makes sure our students eat. We feed them lunch on Sundays and dinner on Wednesdays. Popeys chicken in Daytona Beach supplied our fall semester students with dinner every 2 weeks. Leaders and students sat around a big dinner table in the Excellerate classroom and ate together each week and on Sundays our outreach department at Calvary Christian Center fed them amazing home cooked meals. Just. Like. Family.

Sea World in Orlando generously donates tickets every year to the Excellerate program. The leaders and students get to spend a full fun filled day at the park together. Some students have never experienced a theme park before and it's always a thrill to see their faces light up at the wonderment of all that Sea World has to offer.



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