



Two Gateway Center | Suite 348  
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Take a look inside to see how your support is helping our work make the grade.



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A personal look at what it takes to succeed in school and life.

Dear Friends,

Welcome to your first issue of Extra Mile Education Foundation's PROfiles. This is our newsletter designed to carry stories of success and "what it takes" for our students to succeed in school, in life, and in their professional careers. We look at all of our students as future professionals and successful adults no matter what their area of study is now or in the future. Our goal is to get them there with confidence and the tools to succeed.

Your support is greatly appreciated and indispensable to this journey. Many of you have been with us from the start, almost 29 years ago. Your investments in our students and their schools are paying significant dividends. We thank you!

In this issue of PROfiles, we share our recent news as well as feature profiles of two alumni. Sharing their success is part of a yearlong commitment to identifying and recognizing outstanding graduates of Extra Mile-supported schools.

I hope you enjoy this first issue and we look forward to sharing more good news in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

Suzanne M. Vertosick  
Executive Director, Extra Mile Education Foundation



PROfiles:  
Welcome to your first issue of PROfiles: an intimate look at the work and impact of the Extra Mile Education Foundation.



**NEW SCHOOL - NEW COMMUNITY**

Northside Catholic Assumption Academy joined the ranks of Extra Mile operationally supported schools with the start of school year 2018. This represents a merger of Assumption Academy in Bellevue and Northside Catholic in Brighton Heights, and is located at the Brighton Heights site.

We have long supported scholars at Northside Catholic, so our North Side presence isn't really new. But operational support for Northside is new and the time was right for



our expansion. We have lowered tuition rates and are gradually adding new programming, including full-day three-year old preschool and four-year old pre-kindergarten. Enrollment is already up and we look forward to building a deeper relationship.

**NEW TEAM MEMBER**

Shannon Monaghan has joined Extra Mile as the Assistant for Development and Programs. Shannon brings an outstanding set of skills and a passion for the mission of Extra Mile. Welcome, Shannon!



**PROfiles IN FOCUS**

Our team is working with writers in our community to help track down and record stories of Extra Mile alumni and their professional success stories for PROfiles. We invite you to enjoy two alumni profiles in this issue, with more to come. If you know of an alumni story you'd like to share, please email [profiles@extramilefdn.org](mailto:profiles@extramilefdn.org).

**SAVE THE DATE**

Join us for the 12 Hours of Givemas, a giving day on 12/12 to engage 1,200 donors. Check back at [extramilefdn.org](http://extramilefdn.org) or on Facebook for more details!

# ALUMNI PROfiles: Personal stories of how your support results in real success in school and life.

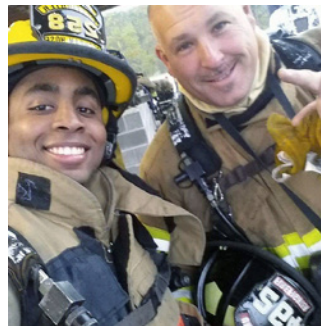
## Andre Green

### EDUCATION + FAMILY SUPPORT

My mom and dad were tough on me from a young age – always encouraging me to work harder, do better, and work for everything you have. My mom works as a teacher's aide in the public schools. Being a black educator matters so much and she helped me throughout my education. Extra Mile played a very pivotal role in my middle school and high school career. Any kind of resources I needed, they were very willing to help both me and my brother. They even helped me to pay for my last year in college.

*Andre Green graduated from St. Agnes in 2007. He went on to attend Sewickley Academy and Allegheny College, where he graduated in 2015 with a degree in psychology. In addition to working full-time as an IT recruiter, Andre serves as a volunteer firefighter in Sewickley.*

One thing I really gained from going to a Catholic school was the life lessons you learn from religion class. The teachers actually followed up on what they taught. Teachers would drive kids to school, drive them to basketball practice, make food for kids—they were great examples of doing the right thing.



### MEASURE OF SUCCESS

As an IT recruiter and firefighter, I'm doing a lot now that African-American kids don't really see; they only see entertainers and athletes on TV. But you can do so much more than play football or basketball - you can help the community, you can give back. I coached basketball in high school, and there's no amount of money that can give you that feeling of changing someone's life. In college I worked for a lot of the summer camps in the city. I always find ways to give back to my community.

Hopefully in the next ten years, I'd be captain of the fire department. Everyone wants to be an astronaut or firefighter or cowboy when they're a kid, but I guess I was actually able to fulfill that childhood dream. I'm just looking to make the world a better place in any way I can.

### WHAT IT TAKES

Extra Mile has been with me through every stage of my life. They've given me opportunities to meet people I never thought I would meet, to make speeches I never thought I'd give. I even gave a speech to Mike Tomlin in 2007. A lot of kids grow up where I grew up and never received chances like that.



## Jessica Ruffin

### EDUCATION + FAMILY SUPPORT

Going to St. Benedict was also my first lesson in diversity and inclusion. My family's not Catholic, we're African Methodist Episcopal, and my mom's actually a pastor. But having to engage and participate in someone else's religious practices taught me about honoring other folks' traditions, and recognizing that there's not just one way to go about things.

*Jessica Ruffin graduated from St. Benedict the Moor School in 1996. After attending the Ellis School, she earned a bachelor's degree in urban studies from the University of Pittsburgh and an MBA from Chatham University. Jessica currently serves as Senior Leader of Equity and Inclusion in the Allegheny County Department of Human Services.*

I started at St. Benedict in second grade, and that was the first time I really started to understand and explore my role as a leader. Sister Ernestine came to me and said, "I trust you, and I'm gonna ask you to become a library aide." I became the youngest aide, and that turned into becoming a safety officer, and then president of the student council. Going to St. Benedict, which at the time was probably 99% African-American students, helped me to gain a level of pride in my race and my background. It was a safe space for me to try some things out and explore what leadership looked like, and I've carried those lessons throughout my life.

### MEASURE OF SUCCESS

At St. Benedict, we had really authentic conversations, and our teachers always pushed us to learn about Black History figures you don't typically hear of in history books. There was a really deliberate focus on African-American history, especially once I got into the upper grades, and I really appreciated that because it fueled my career interests as well. Transferring to Ellis was more of a challenge, but they did a good job about acknowledging the difficult transition and I had Extra Mile behind me.

### WHAT IT TAKES

My niece is an eighth grader now at St. Benedict, and I hope she walks away with the confidence and pride in herself and heritage that I did. I think the way St. Benedict coached and trained and supported us, there was an acknowledgment that the world wasn't necessarily built or designed for us, but there was also this oomph, this push that let everybody know that we can still figure things out, that we've got this. I hope my niece still walks away with that.



## — What a Toast to Extra Mile —

Our sixth annual Taste! event on September 14 welcomed over 220 wine enthusiasts and Extra Mile supporters to taste 8 different wines paired with fabulous hors d'oeuvres in the beautiful reception area of Reed Smith.

Funds raised totaling over \$118,000 through Taste! will support educational opportunities

for students whose life and education choices are often limited.

Thank you to all who joined us in support of Extra Mile and a big thanks to our generous sponsors as well as our host, Kevin McClatchy, and our wine expert, Jonathan Newman.

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!**



## — We Make it Count —

We know that your donation to Extra Mile is only one of many choices you have when supporting charitable, community and education programs.

Our team is committed to tracking and sharing the impact that is made through your support. We could not do this work without you!

- 2,000 eighth-grade graduates
- 96% high-school graduation rate
- 88% go on to college, vocational training or the military
- 95% daily student attendance
- All parents pay at least a portion of the school's \$2,000 tuition, and all attend parent/teacher conferences

Help Support Future Successes

— by calling —

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— or visit —

extramilefdn.org