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## Student Spotlight 2015

### **Ky'mier Bowie**

Fruitful Ground Christian Education Development Center  
Montgomery, AL



"As a parent, your first concern is your child and his or her well-being," Kristie Davis says of why she was seeking a different academic environment for her child, Ky'mier Bowie. "I noticed an immediate change in my son when he started attending his assigned school in Montgomery County, Alabama." Kristie, a single parent knows all too well the challenges of putting her child first while struggling in a difficult environment, but she never wavered from striving not just to survive but to find ways for Ky'mier to succeed.

Kristie saw that her son was struggling in his assigned school, his grades were low and he was unhappy. "My child had a distinct look in his eyes that displayed low self-esteem and fear," she says. "I wanted to follow the rules and the procedures given as far as talking to the teachers and school administrators about my son and this sudden change." However, after many efforts, she realized that the school was not a good fit for her child and she needed to find another option to better serve his needs. As an engaged parent, Kristie knew that she needed help to bridge the access gap to a high quality education. Then she found Fruitful Ground Christian Education Development Center and AAA Scholarship Foundation.

"Before I started attending Fruitful Ground, my family was constantly leaving work to come up to my assigned school because I was frequently getting into fights," admits Ky'mier. Kristie was relieved to find support from the teachers and principal at Fruitful Ground. After hearing her concerns about Ky'mier and his previous experience, they discussed with her plans of action to make sure his needs were met in the new environment. Often, when a scholarship student transfers from to a new school they are below grade level, struggling and frustrated, and it takes time to adjust to the new setting and expectations. Ky'mier proudly declares, "Ever since I have come to Fruitful Ground, I have not been in a single fight."

Expectations of success and thriving were a new concept for Ky'mier at school. Before, he had just hoped that he survived each day. In a short time he did a complete turnaround. Now Kristie says Ky'mier has high self-esteem, making her perseverance worth the effort to find the change that would help her son. "I sometimes struggle to pay my bills, but thanks to the AAA Scholarship, I know my child is safe in the school that will help him succeed in his future," she says. "AAA Scholarship Foundation has been a blessing. This organization helps in many ways that I didn't know they would! Assistance paying with tuition, books and other fees make his attendance possible for us."

Fruitful Ground Principal Annetta Tate has worked with students and parents for years. "The tremendous transformation that I have seen in Ky'mier's character, social development, and academics is a spotlight in my mind," she says. "He is now a student that interacts with his teachers and peers. He has gone from being academically behind to being inducted in our school's newly formed senior chapter of The National Beta Club."

Kristie sees the effect of participation every day, saying “The most important and best outcome of the AAA Scholarship program is my son, Ky'mier. He is happy and he loves school. Today he initiates the conversation about his day before I even ask. Thanks to Fruitful Ground he enjoys learning now and his grades are excellent.”

Annetta says she sees “the great impact the school is able to have on the students’ lives when the financial burden is lifted for those most in need of assistance and access through the AAA Scholarships.” She has seen time and time again that financial barriers do not indicate the parent doesn’t know what the child needs or that they don’t care what they need; it simply means they are not able to financially provide for the learning environment they so desperately know their child needs. Once opportunities are provided, the parents will go to great lengths to grasp the “hand up, not hand out” to access the perfect school that will enable academic achievement for their child.

Kristie glows with pride for her son’s accomplishments in such a short amount of time relaying, “AAA Scholarships are everything a parent could ask for and I am very thankful and appreciative of them and the donors that make the scholarships possible. From my heart, thank you!” While Ky'mier adds, “I am grateful for the opportunities ahead of me.”

#### **About Fruitful Ground Christian Education Development Center**

Located in Montgomery, Ala., Fruitful Ground commits to provide a safe and caring environment that is conducive for each child's growth and development in grades 1-12. The school is accredited through A Beka Academy, and serves 40 students – 10 of whom are AAA Scholarship recipients. Fruitful Ground uses the SAT to assess student achievement. Their program strives to ensure one-on-one attention that adapts to the individual and unique personalities of their students, while encouraging them to excel in their academics.

#### **About AAA Scholarship Foundation**

The typical AAA Scholarship student is an ethnic minority living with a struggling single parent/caregiver in a high crime community. The average household income of families accepted to receive scholarships is \$23,559 for a family of four. Many children are either below grade level, failing at their previous school or both when they receive a scholarship. Parents, who find their children in these circumstances and care about their future, look for viable options. They seek an atmosphere that challenges their child to reverse inadequate learning and/or social patterns and the potential lifelong negative impact. They wish to change their child's learning environment, acquaintances, and the unfortunate predictable outcomes associated with school failure.

AAA Scholarships are funded in Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia and Pennsylvania by corporations that redirect a portion of their state tax liability to the AAA Scholarship Foundation in exchange for a tax credit (dollar for dollar in Alabama, Arizona, Florida and Georgia and up to 90 percent in Pennsylvania). The AAA Scholarship Foundation is one of the only approved Scholarship 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organizations exclusively serving qualifying low-income, disabled and/or displaced students through these Scholarship Tax Credit programs. AAA Scholarship Foundation provides your company with the convenience and efficiency of a single-solution for participating in multiple state tax credit scholarship programs. For more information or to learn how your corporation can participate in the program, visit [www.AAAScholarships.org](http://www.AAAScholarships.org), or contact Kerri Vaughan at [kerri@aaascholarships.org](mailto:kerri@aaascholarships.org) or 888 707-2465 ext. 730.