



PURPOSEFUL NEWSLETTER

330-794-5412



STUDENTS WITH A GOAL.COM



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Student Spotlight

Congratulations to APS Students Jania Knaff and Stephawn Muhammad for their amazing courage and dedication to our program. They represented SWAG and our community with confidence and purpose, speaking on our behalf during an interview with Channel 5 News.

OUR IMPACT & NEWS

In The News

Students With A Goal Was featured in the Kent Stater, Akron Beacon Journal, Signal Akron and Channel 5 news all May - August 2025

2025 Numbers

52 youth enrolled in Spring Semester
45 youth enrolled in Summer programs
20 individuals engaged through Spring workshops with EAST CLC
10 adults/parents supported through family programming
50+ youth & community members engaged through service and community-based projects
Plus an undocumented number of families reached through programming and community needs



Academic Spotlight

Grow, Thrive, and Empower! 117 YOUTH SERVED

Akron's youth are on the rise — and SWAG (Students With A Goal) is fueling that momentum. What started as a small afterschool program more than a decade ago has transformed into a movement where students are growing with purpose, thriving through opportunity, and empowering not only themselves but their entire community.



Community in Action!

Our SWAG students are learning firsthand the importance of community engagement and service through food distribution with People Feeding People. This partnership not only provides meals but also teaches our youth the value of giving back and being present for their neighbors. We extend our heartfelt thanks, opening the door and allowing our students the opportunity to serve, connect, and grow as leaders in Akron. Together, we are building a generation that knows the power of giving.

Message from the Executive Director

As we look ahead to the 2025/26 school year, SWAG remains committed to building safe spaces, reducing youth violence, and empowering our students with purpose-driven opportunities. Over the past decade, we've celebrated youth who are now thriving in college and career pathways. This year, our focus is on expanding our clubs and strengthening partnerships so more Akron students can succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. Together, we will continue to prove that Purpose is Within Me.

-RICHARD GIBSON, RICHARD@SWAGAKRON.ORG



Student Showcase

A Change Maker in Akron

Stephawn Bradley-Muhammad, a student at Buchtel CLC and active member of SWAG (Students With A Goal), has transformed early academic struggles into a story of resilience and leadership. Beyond academics, Stephawn's passions for cooking, art, music, and entrepreneurship fuel his dream of becoming a chef and business owner. His leadership emerged in middle school when he launched the Revive Prentiss Park Project, winning the APS Changemaker Challenge and \$4,000 for revitalization efforts. Since then, he has organized cleanups, spoken at competitions, represented youth at the NAACP Conference, and mentored younger students.

Recognized with SWAG's Trailblazer Award and Most Improved Award, as well as honors at the Diversity Center's Humanitarian Awards, Stephawn embodies SWAG's mission to grow, thrive, and empower. His journey is not about being saved, but about claiming his purpose and inspiring others.

Stephawn Muhammad is more than a student — he is a role model, changemaker, and proof that Akron's youth are ready to lead today.

Photos From The Summer



Charles Craig, senior vice president of culinary for Seasons Drive-In, talks to young people in the group Students With A Goal on Thursday, July 17, at Grace Memorial Church in Akron's Kermore neighborhood. (Bryan Lowe / Signal Akron)



Students at a community event. In the foreground, a student is being interviewed by a reporter. In the background, a student is being interviewed by a reporter. (Bryan Lowe / Signal Akron)

OUR MISSION

IS TO CULTIVATE OUR STUDENT'S GOD-GIVEN POTENTIAL BY INSTILLING IN THEM A SENSE OF PURPOSE THAT WILL ENABLE THEM TO BECOME SUCCESSFUL LEADERS IN THEIR COMMUNITY.

VISION STATEMENT

SWAG ENVISIONS A FUTURE WHERE EVERY YOUNG PERSON, REGARDLESS OF BACKGROUND, HAS THE RESOURCES, ENCOURAGEMENT, AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SUCCEED. WE STRIVE TO REDUCE BARRIERS FOR AKRON'S YOUTH, EMPOWER THEM TO EMBRACE THEIR PURPOSE, AND INSPIRE THEM TO BECOME CHANGEMAKERS WHO TRANSFORM THEIR COMMUNITIES FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

Fall 2025 Excitement!

- Expansion To East Akron – Joy Park
- Creative Excellence Programs: Culinary, Technology and, Arts & Poetry .
- Preventative Education – Partnering with Hope & Healing, Akron Police Department, and Peter James Behavioral Health to address consent, boundaries, violence prevention, and mental wellness.
- College & Career Readiness – Monthly Kickbacks with Kent State University and University of Akron, exposing students to campus life and career pathways.

Join The Movement!

HELP US REACH OUR \$50,000 FUNDRAISING GOAL BY YEAR-END TO CONTINUE SERVING AKRON'S YOUTH.



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