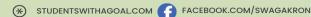
PURPOSEFUL NEWSLETTER

330-794-5412





PAGE 01



Student Spotlight

Congradulations 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

* 2025 Numbers

20 individuals engaged through Spring

50+ youth & community members



Academic Spotlight

Grow, Thrive, and **Empower!**

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 arowing with 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

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

ISSUE 01 / SEPT 2025 PAGE 02

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 vounger 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



wensons Drive-In, talks to young people in the group Students With A Goal on Thursday, July 17, at Goss



OUR MISSION

IS TO CULTIVATE OUR STUDENT'S GOD-GIVEN POTENTIAL BY TO BECOME SUCCESSFUL

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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