

# Xpressions<sup>®</sup>

## News Magazine

E - FLIP PAGE FORMAT

SPRING 2020 EDITION



**ONE mission...**  
**ONE life**  
**at a time**

## The Founders' Frontier

### Welcome to the Spring Edition of Xpressions E-News Magazine.

Greetings,

WHAT A TIME THIS HAS BEEN! For the past couple of weeks, we've endured the unimaginable... truly this is a time of great uncertainty for some and also a time of massive change and hope for others. Some might feel as though the '50s and '60s era has returned. However, a deeper look allows us to recognize "***Something is Different this Time***" as per the title of The Write Life creator, Alvin Garrett's new song. This new song title appears to be the soundtrack of the moment.

2020 has presented a unique set of challenges...COVID-19; and, now, the need for this country to take an honest look at itself about race and how it has applied double standards to it's Black and Brown brothers and sisters. It appears that this time, this moment, this generation, is unwilling to allow this spirit of division, hate, enmity, and death to continue and have decided that this is our fight to win.

The Dannon Project has a diverse staff. We serve diverse participants. We see color, unlike most rhetoric you hear, however, we see people who need our support and love daily, regardless of their color. We embrace the fact that God has allowed us to serve as dream makers for our participants. To be the soldier's on this battlefield of life. ***While we watch the world change, we too must change for the better.***

We are the solution to our participant's problems. Yes, we are! At the Dannon Project, we respect all, we give second chances to those who need it most. **That's always been our position, and that won't change because I believe every life has value!**



**The Dannon Project, Inc.**  
**since 1999**  
Jeh-Jeh and Kerri Pruitt, founders

Click here to listen to  
***Something is Different this Time***"

*Thank you for your interest in our  
programs and our progress.  
We value you as a friend  
and a supporter of our  
vision - to be the change  
that makes a real difference.*

*Kerri Pruitt, MBA  
co-founder & executive director  
of The Dannon Project*



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*A not for profit 501(c) 3 organization providing re-entry services to non-violent formerly incarcerated individuals and their families as well as crime prevention services to at-risk youth in Jefferson, Walker, Clarke, Calhoun and Montgomery Counties in Alabama and in Florence, South Carolina*

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<http://www.dannonproject.org>  
or email us at [acer@dannonproject.org](mailto:acer@dannonproject.org)

# IN THEIR

# VOICES

## *Songwriting Therapy Program*

*with*



# ALVIN GARRETT

"The Write Life" is a songwriting therapy program developed by Grammy-Nominated songwriter, Alvin Garrett. Garrett uses his own innovative songwriting techniques to teach and develop life management skills, effective communication, and emotional expression. This program offers a non-threatening and unpolluted environment for collaboration and community building while preparing our participants to compete in the game of life!

On May 21, 2020, The Dannon Project and The Write Life hosted the Songwriting Competition Finale between the North Stars and The Riders. Both teams were able to use their voices to write and record original songs under Garrett's direction. Together, in just 10 days, both songs received more than 300,000 plays on SoundCloud. Even more amazing, the teams were responsible for their own promotion! Both teams were announced as winners for their commitment to the process, and neither song contained any vulgarity or profane lyrics...which is a victory in and of itself!

We are so excited about our participants having such an amazing opportunity to use their voices with Alvin Garrett and The Write Life!

# SONG WRITING COMPETITION

**2** TEAMS

**2** SONGS

My Reflections

*featuring* **The North Stars**

Ride it Out

*featuring* **The Riders**

Play Now

Play Now

Listen to both songs for yourself. **Trust us, you won't be disappointed!**

Our Executive Director, Kerri Pruitt, speaks with such pride as she summarizes "The Write Life" Song Competition Finale which was hosted at The Dannon Project Purpose Center. "The Write Life" is a songwriting therapy program developed by Grammy-Nominated songwriter, Alvin Garrett, who has partnered with us to provide this innovative program to our participants. To learn more, visit: @TheWriteLifeWithAG on Facebook and Instagram.

#TheWriteLifeWithAG  
#TheDannonProject  
#AlvinGarrett  
#SongCompetition  
#SecondChance

Watch Now!

THE DANNON PROJECT'S  
**PARTNER SPOTLIGHT**

# Engaging Partners Have great rewards

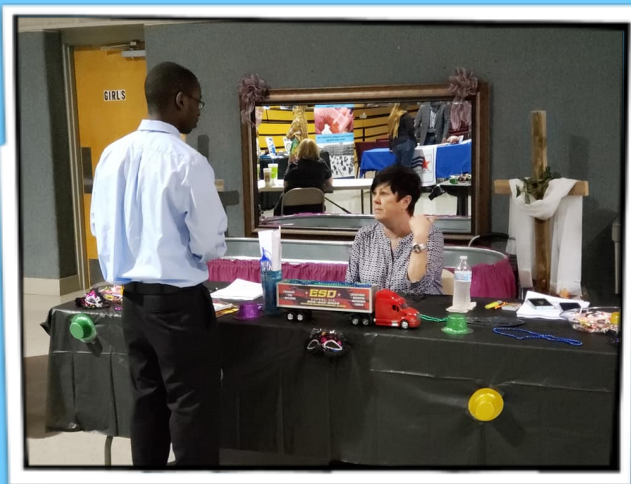
## Highlighting our Partnership with Food Ingredients Technology Co LLC (FITCO)

FITCO produces chicken and several food ingredients from poultry. Since last September HR Director, Sharon Osborne, has continued to visit our Anniston location weekly until the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. During her weekly visits, she would provide tips and tools on how to properly interview, how to overcome negative situations such as being fired due to attendance, and what to do if you lost a ride to work.

Ms. Osborne also conducted interview training and mock interviews. She even interviewed a number of participants for available FITCO positions.

**We would like to thank FITCO and Ms. Osborne for their partnership!**

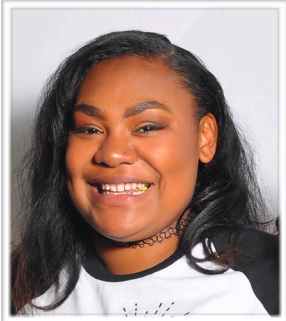
*[ Partners Helping to Change Lives ]*



**Many thanks to all of our valued partners.**

## THE SECOND CHANCE

# S p o t l i g h t



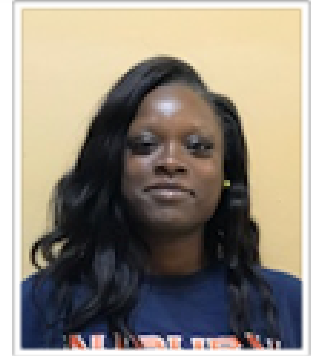
**Sierra** is a 22-year-old resident of Anniston, Alabama. She was referred to the Re-entry Project (RP) program last year after connecting with TDP's Mentor Coordinator, Terry Mosley. Sierra enrolled in the program determined and committed to make the most of this new opportunity. Although Sierra was excited about the program, she had to discontinue her participation for maternity leave.

When she returned, she was fully re-engaged with the program. Sierra completed a Career Scope and the Interview Success Formula. The Interview Success Formula is a career counseling training platform designed to help build customized interview responses for individuals based on various assessments. While attending the Success Lab Sierra gained a career interest in Customer Service. She began training for her certification and obtained employment at a local restaurant. On April 29, 2020, she attained her Customer Service Certification!

Sierra attended and completed a mock interview and our required restorative justice classes prior to the pandemic. The career-guided activities she participated in were used for job interview training purposes. Sierra then finished all of her essential skills classes virtually due to the global risk of the COVID-19. Once local and statewide COVID-19 guidelines have been lifted she will participate in the next TDP graduation.

Sierra stated, **"The Dannon Project has been supportive of me as I was on maternity leave. They showed me they really care and want better for me and my family."**

**De'Asia** is a resident of Birmingham, AL. She graduated from high school and came to the Dannon Project Out of School Youth Program through the JCWIOA referral process. De'Asia first heard about our program through the young mother's program at the University of Alabama Birmingham.



**Youth Careers Participant**

De'Asia began occupational training at the end of last year. She recently received her Certified Nursing Assistant certification after completing clinical at Cherry Hill nursing home. De'Asia not only completed her clinical at Cherry Hill Nursing Home she was offered a position! Her hard work, dedication, and great attitude truly paid off.

De'Asia has successfully completed 90% of her ISP goals and will participate in annual youth graduation. Graduation will look a little different this year, but we cannot wait to celebrate De'Asia and all of our Participants taking steps towards their second chance.

De'Asia stated, **"The Dannon Project has provided me the opportunity to have a career! I have obtained a CNA certification and gained full time employment to support my family!"**

De'Asia we are so proud of you. As you continue to make your dreams come true know we are supporting you every step of the way!

*The Re-entry Program for Young Adults  
is funded by The Department of Labor -ETA*

*The Youth Careers Training Program  
is funded by the Central Alabama Partnership  
for Training and Employment*

# THE DANNON PROJECT

## The Out of School Youth Program

A handful of slots **MUST** be filled by July 30!

Youth can receive training and career certification for a rewarding career to become a...

- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Certified Patient Care Technician
- Certified Network Cabling Specialist
- Welding Specialist

### OSY Eligibility

- 18 -24 years of age
- Out of school at least 6 months
- Living in the following Alabama counties:
  - Jefferson
  - Walker
  - Shelby
  - Blount
  - St. Clair

**To Apply, Contact US!**

### Additional Information

- May be low income
- May have literacy barriers
- May be homeless
- May be pregnant or parenting
- May have been in conflict with the law
- My have alcohol or substance abuse
- Classroom and online training available
- Paid internships available to eligible students and childcare assistance provided through established vendors
- All instructional materials provided at **NO COST** to you
- Training sites are conveniently located and near bus routes



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