



2025

IMPACT REPORT

Inspire Change is the NFL's initiative to reduce barriers to opportunity, particularly in underserved communities, showcasing how the NFL family is working together to create positive change. Inspire Change comes to life at all levels of the League - through the NFL and NFL Foundation, the work of current and former players, all 32 NFL teams and ownership.

The impact of Inspire Change [grant partners](#) can be captured in many ways—in numbers, in community impact, in systemic change. One of the clearest ways to tell the story of Inspire Change is through real-life individuals whose lives have been changed by the critical work of our 23 partners. Their *stories of change* put tangible faces and names to the ways that our partners transform lives through their programming, services, advocacy and so much more.

This year's Inspire Change Impact Report provides snapshots into the life-altering work of our partners, both through data points and by highlighting those impacted by the work and their personal stories of change.

The NFL Inspire Change initiative supports community organizations focused on **four key social justice issues:**

- 1 **EDUCATION,**
with a focus on mentorship
- 2 **ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT,**
with a focus on career pipelines and financial literacy
- 3 **POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS,**
with a focus on law enforcement-community collaboration and alternative crisis response programs
- 4 **CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM,**
with a focus on advocacy and transition support for the formerly incarcerated

After 8 years of grantmaking:

MORE THAN
\$460 MILLION CONTRIBUTED

- MORE THAN **\$68 MILLION**
in League-issued national social justice grants to more than 50 non-profits
- MORE THAN **\$380 MILLION**
in team/owner contributions
- MORE THAN **\$12.5 MILLION**
in NFL Foundation player social justice matching grants and team social justice grants

PLAYERS COALITION

One of the NFL's key grant recipients and Inspire Change resource partners is the **Players Coalition**, an entirely player-led, independent 501c3 nonprofit and 501c4 advocacy organization working with professional athletes, coaches, and owners across leagues to improve social justice and racial equality in our country. Since 2017, Players Coalition's impact extends to include:

30 **LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY WINS**
advancing racial and social justice across the country

133 op-eds and letters written
to elected officials

30 COLLEGES and
12 PROFESSIONAL LEAGUES
engaged with Players
Coalition collective action

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION



BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF AMERICA

Big Brothers Big Sisters of America's mission is to ignite the power of youth through one-to-one mentoring relationships. With the support of the NFL Inspire Change Initiative and the New Orleans Saints, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater New Orleans proudly reopened in early 2025—nearly twenty years after Hurricane Katrina forced its closure.

Angie, who was once a Little before Katrina, returned as a Big Sister when the agency relaunched. She was matched with Skye, a bright young student eager for guidance and support. What began as a school-based match soon grew into a community-based bond that continues to flourish.

Together, Angie and Skye have become ambassadors for BBBS of Greater New Orleans. Skye served as a Little Reporter during the Super Bowl in New Orleans, and the pair shared their story at the BBBS of Greater New Orleans cultivation event. Angie even introduced Skye to her own former Big.

Angie and Skye's story reflects the power of relationships to
REBUILD, INSPIRE, AND CREATE LIFELONG CONNECTIONS.

EVERFI

EVERFI's 306 free, digital course, funded in part by the NFL Foundation, is a tool for teaching Black and American history. During the 2024-2025 school year, **21,814** students took part in the course across **329** schools, and **44,000** hours of learning were completed.



44,000 HOURS OF LEARNING

IMPACT JUSTICE

Impact Justice is a national innovation and research center advancing safety, justice, and opportunity. One Impact Justice project that the Inspire Change grant helps fund is *California Justice Leaders* (CJL), the first AmeriCorps program designed for formerly incarcerated young adults who serve as “credible messenger” reentry coaches mentoring other justice-involved youth.

A Senior California Justice Leader in Fresno, Crystal mentored a young person preparing for release from a juvenile facility. She supported a young man as he planned for his discharge and continued her efforts after—helping him secure housing and benefits, guiding his steps toward college, and offering daily encouragement. Her impact was practical and deeply personal. Crystal offered patience, encouragement, and understanding from someone who knew the road to successful reentry firsthand.

Crystal explains: *“It truly is the CJL program that got me here. My education alone would not have done it. For the first time in a really long time, I felt included and believed in—and I learned how to believe in myself.”*



2.3 million students
turned to Get Schooled's
tech and AI-powered
advising tools

GET SCHOOLED

This year, with the help of Inspire Change funding, **2.3 million** students turned to **Get Schooled's** tech and AI-powered advising tools to explore postsecondary options, polish college application essays, find scholarships, build resumes, and practice for job interviews—with **97%** saying these tools were helpful in navigating the college application process and securing first jobs.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA

Since 2021, the NFL's Inspire Change initiative has supported **Boys & Girls Clubs of America's** *Think, Learn, Create Change* (TLC) model that teaches youth how to utilize their voice and become advocates to create positive change in their communities.

This summer, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston hosted a Youth Advocacy Town Hall where more than 120 teens came together – not just to listen, but to lead. Facilitated entirely by teens, the event gave youth the chance to elevate their voices on the issues that matter most to them: mental health, youth safety and out-of-school programming.

Through panel discussions and table talks, teens shared personal experiences and bold ideas for change. Local and federal government leaders joined in hearing directly from youth in a way that was both authentic and inspiring.

Teens left feeling empowered, leaders left with a deeper understanding, and a stronger commitment was built to act on the insights shared.

SECOND CHANCES

A NEW WAY OF LIFE

A New Way of Life Reentry Project's (ANWOL's) mission is to empower communities with opportunities where justice-impacted women heal, excel, and lead. With support from Inspire Change, ANWOL strengthened its core workforce development program while expanding opportunities for formerly incarcerated women, including those who might be susceptible to discrimination, through the Sisterhood Alliance for Freedom and Equality (SAFE) Housing Network. These resources help partners like Ardella's House equip individuals to overcome barriers to employment, a critical factor in preventing reincarceration.

One such individual is T, who came to Ardella's House after years of incarceration. T faced unique challenges in securing housing and employment due to the compounded discrimination of being a member of the LGBTQ+ community and formerly incarcerated. With the guidance of a case manager, T accessed vital employment readiness tools and support.

Through perseverance and tailored support, T secured employment as a Certified Peer Specialist. T's success demonstrates the transformative impact of holistic, healing-informed reentry services that empower people to rebuild their lives.



ATLANTA PAD INITIATIVE

The **Policing Alternatives & Diversion Initiative** (PAD) provides an alternative to police response and diversion from jail for people experiencing poverty, substance misuse, and/or mental health challenges across Atlanta. With Inspire Change support, PAD responds to community concerns, offering care and resources where people otherwise may have only encountered enforcement.

Tanesha, a veteran, connected with PAD during a time of crisis. *"I became homeless,"* she said. A building owner called the police when she was sleeping on the roof of a building. The officer called PAD. *"PAD listened to me. Next thing I know, I was set up in a hotel,"* Tanesha said. PAD supported her when she was going through domestic abuse. *"No matter where you are in life, PAD will meet you with no judgment."*

Today, Tanesha is settled in an apartment and has recently published a book. She is one of hundreds of people PAD serves. In the first half of 2025, PAD received 675 referrals through the ATL311 line and 70 law enforcement diversions.



"No matter where you are in life, PAD will meet you with no judgment."

NEIGHBORHOOD DEFENDER SERVICE

In 2024 and early 2025, clients entering **Neighborhood Defender Service** of Detroit's community intake program saw a **33%** higher dismissal rate for their criminal defense cases and accessed social work services **121%** more often than before receiving an Inspire Change grant. These wraparound services support housing, employment, and family stability, ensuring that legal defense is paired with the resources that individuals and their families need to move forward successfully.



CLIENTS IN THE COMMUNITY INTAKE PROGRAM SAW A 33% HIGHER DISMISSAL RATE

CENTER FOR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO) launched the Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) to provide advanced training and credentials to support justice-impacted job seekers on their journey to economic mobility. With Inspire Change funding, CEO has extended ELP training, allowing participants to earn 33% more in wages while accessing advanced credentials.

For David, the ELP marked his first formal job interview in more than 20 years. As a vocational intern in Sacramento, he supported CEO participants through intake, resume building, and mock interviews, all while earning 28 professional certificates. ELP helped David rebuild his confidence, apply his skills, and discover a passion for helping others. Today, he runs three small businesses, continues to pursue training, and has accepted a full-time position at CEO.

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FREE MINDS BOOK CLUB & WRITING WORKSHOP

Free Minds Book Club & Writing Workshop supports incarcerated and formerly incarcerated youth and adults, using the literary arts, workforce development, trauma healing, peer mentoring, and advocacy to achieve individual and community change.

With Inspire Change support, Free Minds provides intensive, individualized reentry support for youth like Milyk, who was 24 when he came home from prison. Free Minds Reentry Coaches worked closely with Milyk to explore his passions before suggesting he pursue a career in the electrical trade.

After years of working during the day and going to school at night, Milyk graduated and became an electrician journeyman. He now works full-time as a licensed electrician, and has just started his own company. Thanks to a stable career pathway, Milyk can realize his long-held goals of owning his own home and being able to provide for his beloved grandmother.

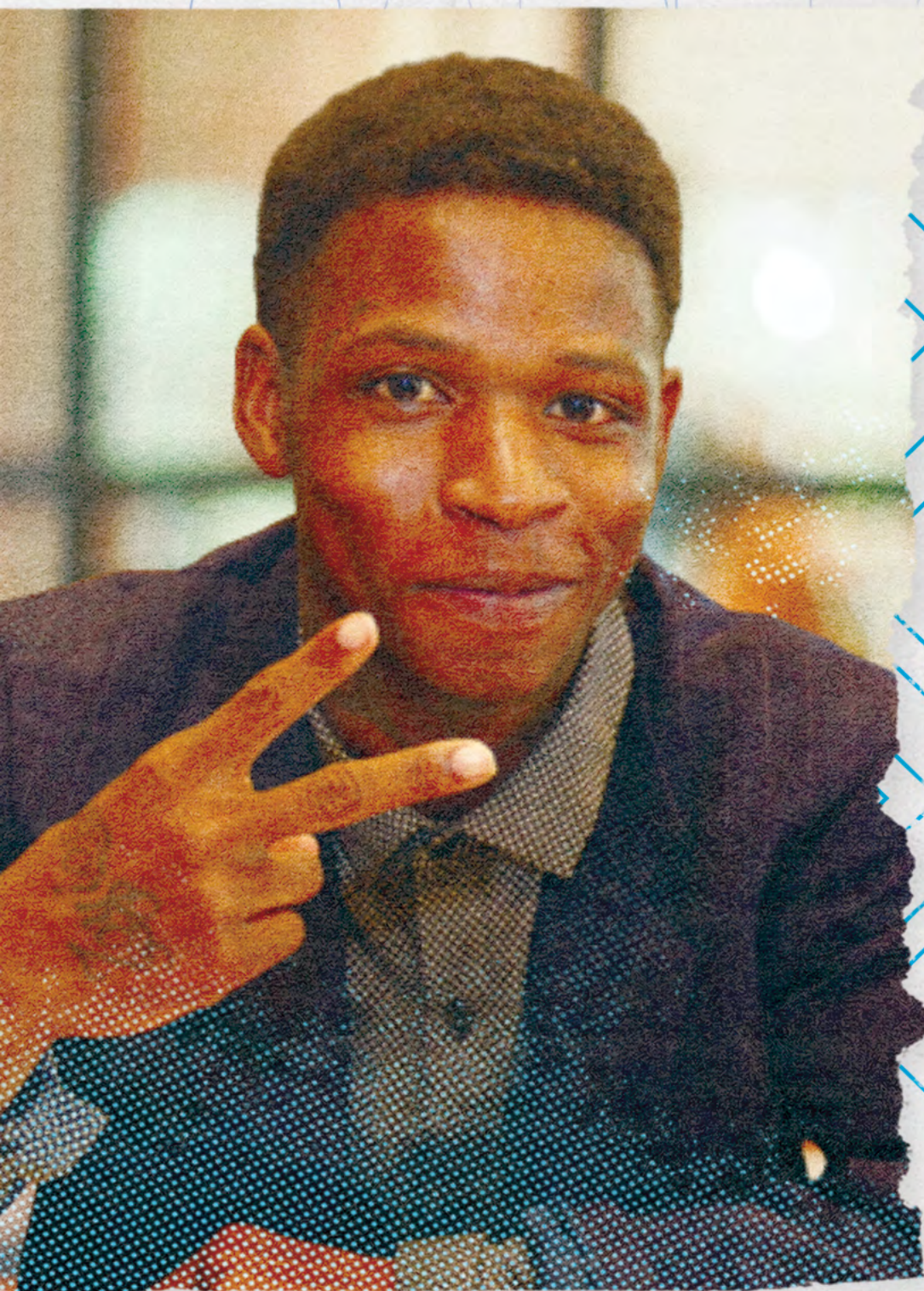
NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

Since its launch in October 2023, with the help of Inspire Change funding, the **National Urban League's** Urban Expungement Program has reached **2,529** people, securing expungements for **713** formerly incarcerated individuals. Expungements help remove barriers which prevent individuals from accessing employment, housing, and education opportunities, better allowing them to fully reintegrate into society.



SECURED EXPUNGEMENTS FOR
713 INDIVIDUALS

TRAUMA INFORMED CARE AND HEALING



PEACE FOR DC

Inspire Change funding supports [Peace For DC's HEAL DC](#) program which delivers a trauma-informed continuum of care to 18–24-year-olds in Washington, DC who face disproportionately high rates of gun violence. *HEAL* empowers these young men and their families to move beyond daily survival and toward long-term healing, stability, and economic mobility. By addressing trauma at its root, *HEAL* helps participants break free from cycles of violence and begin building futures filled with possibility.

One young man whose life has been transformed through *HEAL* is Kevin. When Kevin first joined the program, his words reflected deep pain and anger, but through consistent engagement, care, and encouragement, Kevin began to invest in his own growth. Today, he speaks with confidence, sees a promising future, and carries himself with pride. When he walks into Peace for DC's offices, he says he feels "like a boss."

LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION PARTNERSHIP

The [Law Enforcement Action Partnership's](#) (LEAP) new interactive [map](#), funded in part by an Inspire Change grant, highlights community responder programs that send trained, unarmed response teams to handle low-risk 911 calls in place of police. Launched in September 2025, the map features **89** programs nationwide. Together, these programs have responded to more than **200,000** calls per year, with **0** fatalities or serious injuries reported to date.



89 PROGRAMS NATIONWIDE RESPONDING TO OVER 200,000 CALLS PER YEAR

VERA INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

With Inspire Change funding, [Vera](#) is working with leaders of six cities—Albuquerque, Durham, New Orleans, Newark, Richmond, and Saint Paul—to collaboratively develop a blueprint for creating and sustaining public safety anchor institutions in local government. These institutions will manage alternative crisis responses and other initiatives that promote health-first and healing-oriented services, equity and accountability to communities, and reduced overreliance on policing and incarceration.



WORKING WITH LEADERS OF 6 CITIES

- ALBUQUERQUE, NM
- NEW ORLEANS, LA
- RICHMOND, CA
- DURHAM, NC
- NEWARK, NJ
- SAINT PAUL, MN

METROPOLITAN FAMILY SERVICES

[Metropolitan Family Services'](#) Peace Academy uses Inspire Change funding to help build a comprehensive and professional Community Violence Intervention (CVI) workforce. Last year, the Peace Academy graduated **124** individuals specializing in outreach work, case management, victims' services management and supervision.



124 INDIVIDUALS GRADUATED LAST YEAR



CHICAGO CARE PROGRAM

Available via 9-1-1, the [Crisis Assistance Response & Engagement \(CARE\) Program](#) seeks to ensure that individuals experiencing a mental health crisis are assisted by teams of behavioral health professionals. The Inspire Change grant has supported the program by providing supplies and equipment to address unmet health and social needs, as well as the professional development of the first responders.

Mr. Williams represented such a case, having refused all previous attempts at getting help. For the last few years, he could be found in his wheelchair surrounded by large piles of trash that had become a health hazard. Mr. Williams was chronically homeless with symptoms of untreated serious mental illness.

One of the CARE Crisis Clinicians built a rapport with Mr. Williams, and by coordinating with Fire, EMS, Police, and Family and Support Services, she was finally able to convince Mr. Williams to go to a nearby hospital. There it was discovered that he had a serious open wound and infection that was treated. Throughout the process, the CARE Clinician was there to provide emotional support and convince Mr. Williams to receive the help needed.

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GULF COAST JFCS CALL

Since receiving an Inspire Change NFL grant in August 2024, the [Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services Community Assistance and Life Liaison](#) (CALL) program has successfully responded to **97%** of live calls without the need for law enforcement involvement. The program has linked **85%** of CALL clients to services, and has diverted **98%** of clients from involuntary hospital admissions.

The CALL acronym stands for Community Assistance and Life Liaison.

98% of clients
diverted from
involuntary
hospital admissions



ECONOMIC MOBILITY

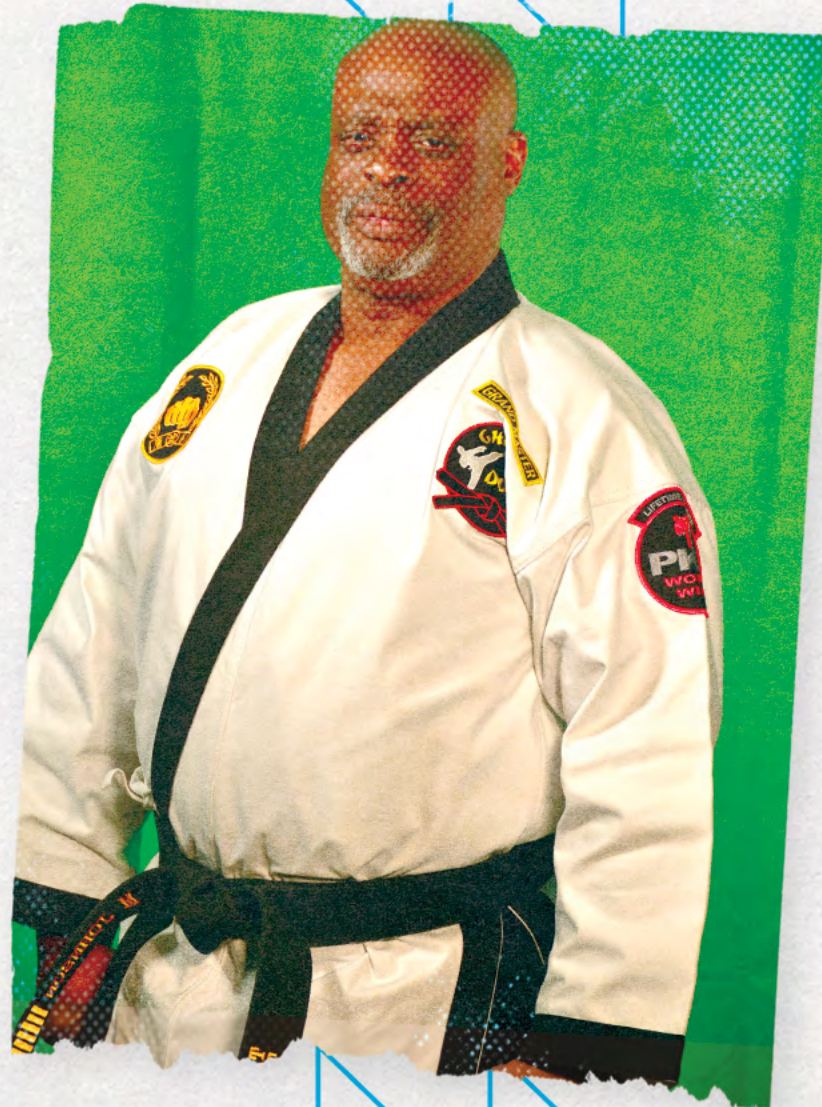
OPERATION HOPE

Dr. Monroe Johnson has always devoted his life to service. He had a strong vision for his nonprofit as a space where community members can come together to learn new skills, build confidence and develop positive relationships using martial arts and audiovisual/media technology to support the community. But he needed help to create a network of spaces where classes could be held on a reliable basis.

A longtime friend, [Operation HOPE](#) (OH) Coach Linden Jackson encouraged him to join Operation HOPE's [Small Business Development](#) program.

"I started going to different events and meeting new people, and when I shared my vision for the Institute, the community showed up," said Dr. Johnson. Through the assistance of Mr. Jackson and OH's Small Business Development Program, the Institute has received \$180,000 in county and federal grants. Today, the Institute serves 250 people per week, who fan out across the county to attend classes at senior centers, county recreation centers, and church multipurpose rooms.

Dr. Monroe doesn't know how he would have scaled the nonprofit if it weren't for his coach and the Small Business Development Program—funded in part by an Inspire Change grant.



HARLEM CHILDREN'S ZONE

[Harlem Children's Zone](#) provides communities nationwide with technical assistance and field-building support through its William Julius Wilson Institute (WJWI). As an example, in Maryland, WJWI serves as a lead technical assistance partner for **8** ENOUGH grantee community-based organizations, which collectively serve an estimated **28,500** children in neighborhoods across the state of Maryland. The [ENOUGH Act](#) is the first-in-the-nation statewide neighborhood-based legislation to end child poverty. Its passage was supported by the WJWI.

28,500 CHILDREN SERVED IN
NEIGHBORHOODS ACROSS MARYLAND

PER SCHOLAS

[Per Scholas](#) builds a tech workforce fueled by talent and opportunity, a vision made possible through Inspire Change. For Lennon, that vision became reality.

A lifelong tech enthusiast, Lennon served in the Army and became a father, but struggled to find steady work afterward. In October 2024, he enrolled in the first IT Support course at Per Scholas' Buffalo campus, receiving critical financial support from the Zero Percent Loan program. By February 2025, he had graduated, earned his CompTIA A+ certification, and launched his career as a Functional Support Analyst.

Now a father of four, Lennon is thriving in his new role and is excited to grow within his company.





YEAR UP UNITED

Year Up United (YUU) closes the Opportunity Divide by equipping young adults with the skills and experiences to launch meaningful careers. With NFL support, YUU empowered Micah, a 2024 graduate, to overcome barriers and pursue his passion.

After losing his college scholarship and facing housing instability, Micah joined YUU for training and guidance. He excelled in the program, secured an internship at E*TRADE from Morgan Stanley, where he discovered a love for finance. Today, he continues to grow his career as a Financial Services Representative at E*TRADE.



SMASH

SMASH is building a STEM ecosystem where every student can thrive in the global tech economy. With support from Inspire Change, SMASH offers free, immersive programming that equips young people with technical skills, confidence, and community.

This past June, Laila, a high school junior, joined the three-week residential program at Spelman College. She explored coding and game design tools, discovered a passion for artificial intelligence, and built lasting friendships. Alongside her love for STEM, Laila embraced creative writing as a space for honesty and expression.

Inspired by her experience, she now hopes to attend Spelman and carry forward the confidence and skills gained through SMASH. “Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this program that I probably wouldn’t have been able to experience if it wasn’t free,” she shared.

