

# THE AKOYA

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2024

Norfolk Pearls Foundation of Virginia, Incorporated Newsletter

**Norfolk Pearls  
Foundation of Virginia  
P.O. Box 2734  
Norfolk, VA 23501  
npfv.org  
Carla Perry, Chairman**



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## Chairman's Message

Greetings!

We, the philanthropic arm of Iota Omega Chapter, are excited to share the incredible work that we do in the Norfolk community. Our purpose is to support the Iota Omega Chapter's community service and scholarship programs. The year 2024 brings to the community its new board of directors of Norfolk Pearls Foundation of Virginia (NPFV).

Enjoy this edition as we meet the board members, spotlight our 2024 scholarship recipients, and meet community partners.

In the season of generosity, the act of giving can fill us up with warmth. Thank you to our donors and sponsors. When you partner with NPFV, you effect change in our community and ensure our success in the future. Visit our website at [www.npfv.org](http://www.npfv.org) to view our activities and to donate.

Carla Perry, Chairman  
[chairman@npfv.org](mailto:chairman@npfv.org)



*"When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed." – Maya Angelou*

## Inquiring Minds...

What is philanthropy/philanthropic?

'(of a person or organization) the desire to promote the welfare of others, normally through the generous donation of money to good causes; generous and benevolent'

## Meet The 2024 Board

 WELCOME BOARD MEMBER Carla Perry Chairman	 WELCOME BOARD MEMBER JaNaé Taylor, PhD Vice Chairman	 WELCOME BOARD MEMBER Melanie Patterson, PhD Secretary	 WELCOME BOARD MEMBER Allison Davis Treasurer	 WELCOME BOARD MEMBER Chenequa Hayden Assistant Treasurer
 WELCOME BOARD MEMBER Ashley Yelity At-Large Director	 WELCOME BOARD MEMBER Tamara Cornick, PhD Iota Omega Chapter President Ex-Officio Director	 WELCOME BOARD MEMBER Demetrius Fowlkes Iota Omega Chapter Vice President Ex-Officio Director	 WELCOME BOARD MEMBER Lisa Bishop Iota Omega Treasurer Ex-Officio Director	 WELCOME BOARD MEMBER Anordia Weatherly Former Iota Omega Chapter President Ex-Officio Director



## Congratulations 2024 NPFV Scholarship Recipients!

### Ms. Cierra Weaver 2024 Hermione Williams Jackson HBCU Scholarship

The Norfolk Pearls Foundation of Virginia, Inc., shines a light on Ms. Cierra Weaver. Cierra is a graduate of Granby High School. She will attend Spellman College, majoring in mathematics. She states in her scholarship application essay, "I imagine myself participating in Spelman's traditional ceremonies, receiving a quality education, and being inspired to pursue new opportunities and interests by Atlanta's culture. I visualize myself becoming the person that I want to be; opportunistic, intelligent, and outgoing. This scholarship will allow me to pursue this goal and in the process decrease my worry about finances."



### Ms. MaKendra Crosby 2024 Laura Gray Brown Kappa Gamma Undergraduate Scholarship

The Norfolk Pearls Foundation of Virginia, Inc., shines a light on Ms. MaKendra Crosby. She is currently matriculating full-time at Old Dominion University. MaKendra is a Computer Science major, with a minor in Actuarial Math and Cybersecurity. She states in her scholarship application essay, "This scholarship also perfectly aligns with my core values of academic excellence, leadership, and community involvement, ideals that I am dedicated to upholding throughout my educational and professional journey. If granted this opportunity, I am determined to honor the legacy of Laura Gray Brown by making meaningful contributions to both my academic pursuits and the community." She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated-Kappa Gamma Chapter.



**Ms. Christina Greggs (Not Pictured)**

**2024 Iota Omega Chapter Norfolk High School Scholarship**

The Norfolk Pearls Foundation of Virginia, Inc., shines a light on Ms. Christina Greggs. Christina is a graduate of Norview High School. She will attend Virginia Tech to study Food Science and Technology. She states in her scholarship application essay, "I chose this major and intend to pursue this career path so that I can bring back my knowledge and help curate healthy and sustainable food options for my family, who have numerous dietary restrictions, and my Norfolk and Hampton Roads communities, who deserve the chance to improve their diets and overall quality of life." My other main reason for pursuing this career is so that I can advocate for diversity in the STEM community, especially having more women in STEM."



NPFV Vice Chairman JaNaè Taylor, Treasurer Allison Davis, Iota Omega Chapter President Tamara Cornick and Vice-President Demetrius Fowlkes, Members Phyllis Clark Freeman and Garyn Moody participated in the scholarship presentations. The Norfolk Pearls Foundation of Virginia (NPFV) and the Scholarship Committee met with the recipients to award mock checks and gifts cards. These students are outstanding scholars who have excelled academically in their schools, participated in multiple extracurricular activities and served in the community. These scholars are our future leaders! Congratulations! We are proud of you!





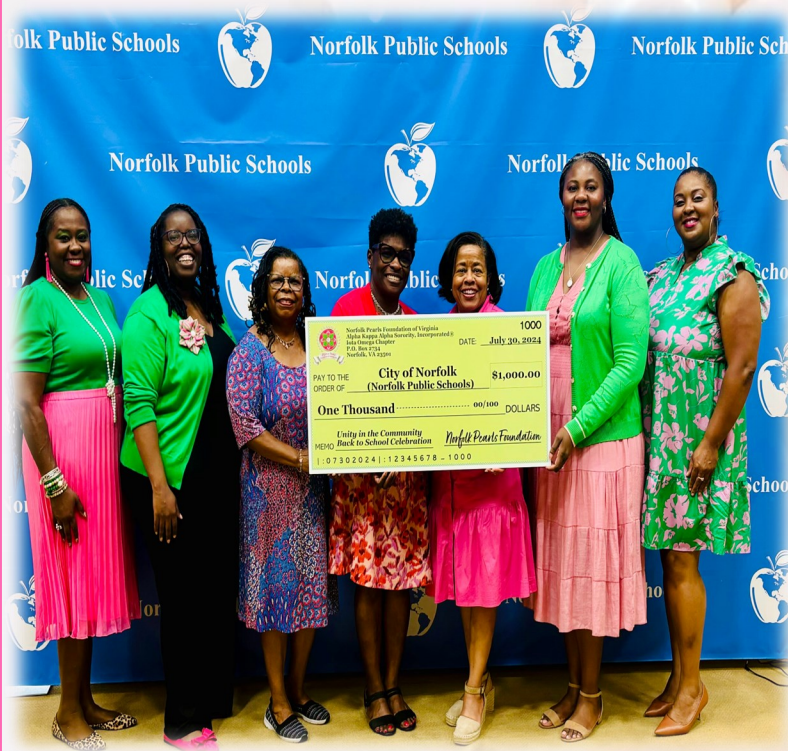
Your organization will be listed in the ACT-SO Talent Showcase program and announced as one of our valued

## Community Engagement

### Unity In the Community

### Back 2 School Celebration

NPFV board members Davis, Taylor, Perry, Cornick and Fowlkes present \$1000.00 to Norfolk Public Schools —LaEunice Brown and Kimberley Pierce. Board members and members of Iota Omega also volunteered at the event on August 10, 2024 by assisting with registration and handing out school backpacks and supplies.



### NAACP ACT-SO Talent Showcase

NPFV partners with Area II NAACP ACT-SO (Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics) by becoming a Silver level sponsorship donor. Board members attended the ACT-SO Talent Showcase program held at the WHRO Teleconference Center on Friday June 28, 2024. The youth from the Hampton Roads area presented their talents in various disciplines to include the performing arts, visual arts, and STEM. This showcase was a dress rehearsal in preparation for the 47th NAACP National ACT-SO Competition held in Las Vegas, Nevada from July 11-15.

# How To Become a Philanthropist

Watch With Daniel Ally

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8vWb-GLtc3k>

Give to Those Who Appreciate

Diversify

Know Where Your Money Goes

Give Without Expectation

Give Generously

Give Your Time



Save  
the  
Date



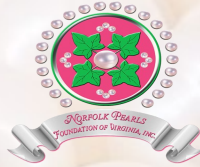


## Upcoming Events

**NPFV Board Meeting  
October 21, 2024**

**Renaissance Pink in the Night  
November 9, 2024**

**Donate to NPFV  
Anytime  
[www.npfv.org](http://www.npfv.org)**



## Our Mission

The mission of the Norfolk Pearls Foundation of Virginia, Incorporated, is to be a leader in Hampton Roads in addressing the social and emotional needs of families, while encouraging continued education by extending scholarships to students in need in the city of Norfolk.

The Foundation does not discriminate or request information to make award decisions based on ethnicity, national origin, gender, identity, sexual orientation, disability, religion or age. The Norfolk Pearls Foundation of Virginia, Inc., underwrites the scholarship program of the Iota Omega Chapter in the City of Norfolk. Recipients of our scholarships are unaffiliated with the Foundation and the Iota Omega Chapter.