

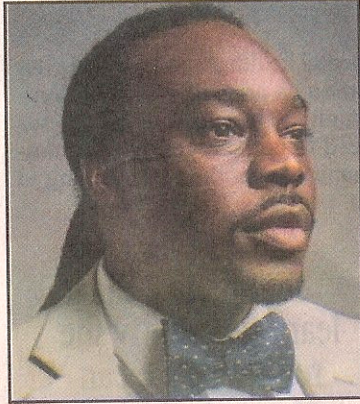
Three Ways to Support the Shalom Park Freedom School This Spring

Spring Fundraiser May 3 Featuring Educator James E. Ford

Join the Shalom Park Freedom School for its spring fundraiser Tuesday, May 3 at 7 PM featuring James E. Ford, 2014-15 N.C. Teacher of the Year and program director at the Public School Forum of North Carolina. Ford will discuss the role education can play in young people's lives and his experiences as a teacher and mentor.

Before deciding to become a teacher, Ford worked as a truancy intervention specialist in high schools and as director of a teen center that provided educational and after-school activities for youth at risk of dropping out of school. He began teaching World History at Garinger High School in Charlotte in 2010 and helped lead the school's peer mentoring program. A graduate of Illinois State University, Ford has a master's degree in teaching from Rockford University and a school administration license from Wingate University. He has been recognized as Charlotte Magazine's Charlottean of the Year as well as the National Alliance of Black School Educators' Teacher of the Year. As a N.C. Teacher of the Year, he traveled the state as an ambassador for teachers and served as an adviser to the State Board of Education.

Ford's passion for making a difference is evident when he talks of his profession. "I was always told how difficult the students were to teach, but never told just how much they would teach me," he says. "If my students have learned nothing else from me, my hope is that they now understand the value they all carry and the life-changing potential of a quality education." Ford is a perfect speaker for SPFS' annual



James E. Ford

fundraiser, as the mission of the program is to educate and empower children to succeed in school and life. Shalom Park Freedom School is a collaboration of eight Shalom Park agencies working together to help close the academic achievement gap by providing a six-week literacy, character-building summer program to 80 economically disadvantaged children attending Sterling Elementary and Huntingtowne Farms Elementary schools, the two schools in faith-based partnerships with Temple Beth El and Temple Israel.

The fundraiser will be held at the Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts. Tickets are \$10 and are on sale at the LJCC front desk. For more information or to get involved, visit www.spfreedom-school.org or contact Event Chairs Katrina Nichols at kbu11215@gmail.com or Camille Kanofsky at camille@rsdiv.com. **Donate Swimsuits and Towels in April and May**

Scholars at SPFS enjoy swimming lessons twice a week. To help with this, swimsuits and towels will be collected April 4-May 8. Grab a beach ball from the display at LJCC and help make a

splash for our scholars this summer.

Book Drive: 6 Weeks - 6 Books

Doing some spring cleaning? SPFS needs easy readers and chapter books for elementary school kids (no board books please), educational workbooks, and adult and parenting books.

The book drive allows each scholar to take home a book to keep each week during camp and serves the parents of scholars. Books can be dropped off at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library. For more information, contact Debby Block at DBlock@shalomcharlotte.org. ☆

