

# The Tiger Express

## The Extra Mile Club of the Lowcountry

### Extra Mile Club of the Lowcountry

#### Our Motto:

Faith, Family, Education and Sports

#### Our Mission:

To promote academics, leadership, discipline, self-esteem and sportsmanship in a safe, healthy and enjoyable environment while serving God and our community.

Chris Dantzler  
Founder

Gaynelle J. Dantzler, MPH  
Executive Director

Carol Smalls-Jenkins  
Board Chair

### Inside this issue:

Thank You - Mt. Carmel & St. Paul	2
Grant Funding - 100+Women	2
PBTG - Shine Bright Virtual Summit	2
Eamon Smalls - D1 Offer, USC	3
John Paul II - Scholarships Awarded	3
Strength & Conditioning during the Pandemic	3
2020 Youth Football Season	4

In July, 2019, Dr. Phillip Lockhart, the National Literacy Consultant for KIPP Schools conducted a writing and basketball camp at Beaufort High School for twenty young men in the Extra Mile Club. His goal was to encourage the students to think of themselves as writers and to take their writing seriously. He gave the students the skills to express their important thoughts and celebrate the fact that their stories and ideas matter and are worth expressing. The camp was such a success, the EMC and Dr. Lockhart decided to make the camp an annual event. However, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, they had to make some adjustments. Therefore, on July 20-25, 2020, Dr. Lockhart conducted a writing workshop via Zoom. The young men and women

who participated in the workshop ranged in age from 14-17. The workshops were conducted using teams of two. Each team spent part of a day with Dr. Lockhart reviewing their assignments and improving their work product. The workshops were from 10:00 am every day until 2:00 pm in 30 minute intervals. This virtual



format allowed the students to express their thoughts and ideas clearly and creatively, and to find joy in the process. In just

one week, the students developed positive attitudes about writing and progressed as writers. Dr. Lockhart provided objective and supportive feedback about the students writing skills. The students welcomed the feedback and used it to improve their overall writing technique.

Dr. Lockhart will be available to attendees throughout the year.

*"The class was thought provoking and gave me a different insight on some things I could do better",* says Richard Parker, a senior at Whale Branch Early College High School.

Daryl Depass, a sophomore at Beaufort High School, says, *"The class will definitely help me with my writing skills as I prepare for the upcoming school year."*

## EMC Partners with Professionals Beyond the Game (PBTG)

The Extra Mile Club is fortunate to have partnered with Professionals Beyond the Game (PBTG). PBTG is a nonprofit organization out of Fort Mill, SC. PBTG's founder and CEO, Juon-tonio Pinckney is a native of Seabrook, SC and a 1996 graduate of Battery Creek High School. As many of the young men in the EMC Elite 25 Pro-

gram have the desire to play professional sports, only about 0.09 percent of high school seniors make it to the pros. Therefore, the goal of the partnership is to expand the EMC Elite 25 Program by mentoring our student-athletes as they progress to and through college and into a career based on their talents and interests. PBTG

allows athletic contributors from around the world to work towards growing a network offering a powerful support system for success beyond sports. The EMC and PBTG want to keep student-athletes academically challenged, while building character and fostering leadership skills so they can reach their highest potential.

## Thanks Go to Mt. Carmel Baptist & St. Paul Baptist Churches



Mt. Carmel Baptist Church  
Seabrook, SC



Senior Pastor, Rev. James E. Moore of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Seabrook, SC, and Senior Pastor, Rev. Donald Goodwine of St. Paul Baptist Church in Beaufort, SC, have been lifelong supporters of the Extra Mile Club (EMC). They have allowed the EMC to use their churches for youth conferences, pledge breakfasts, meetings, and camps. Additionally, they have been a support system for the youth in the program, and they continuously make financial contributions to fund the efforts of the organization.

Due to Covid-19, the EMC had to

cancel our annual Pledge Breakfast fundraiser. This is the largest fundraiser for the organization. In spite of the cancellation, the EMC is still being blessed. Mt. Carmel makes a substantial annual donation and St. Paul makes a monthly donation to the organization. The EMC is grateful to Mt. Carmel and St. Paul for always being there when we need them. It is because of the commitment and dedication of churches like Mt. Carmel and St. Paul that EMC can provide needed services for the children in our community.

The leadership of both churches

saw early on, the value of what the EMC is doing for the children in the organization. They understand that financial support is needed to foster the mental, physical, educational, spiritual, and social needs of at-risk youth. Mt. Carmel and St. Paul have partnered with the EMC to foster a community of productive young citizens.

Other churches in the community that support the efforts of the EMC are Pine Grove Baptist Church, New Hope Christian Church, St. Peter's Catholic Church, and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Beaufort.

## Grant Funding Provided by 100+ Women Who Care

*"Be humble and grateful for what you have and the universe will reward your gratitude."*  
-Joe Sacco

100+ Women Who Care is a group of women who gather four times a year for a one-hour meeting, learn about local charities, and each donate a \$100 to a deserving and qualified 501.3c. During their July 2020 meeting, the Beaufort Chapter selected the EMC to receive their quarterly funding. The EMC is truly respectful of what this outstanding group does for the children in the Beaufort community.

The late Karen Dunigan of Jackson, Michigan founded the first 100+ Women Who Care Chapter

in 2006. Her group of 100 women raised over \$10,000 at its first meeting to purchase 300 new



baby cribs for a local nonprofit agency. Since then, over 600 international chapters have formed across North America and

beyond in a like-minded effort to make a positive difference on a local level. "The EMC is grateful to be one of the many organizations that have benefited from the generous donations from the women of 100+ Women Who Care.

"At a time when there is so much unrest and uncertainty, and as we try to work around the unknowns, the thoughtfulness and commitment to make a positive difference in our community is very much appreciated!" said EMC's Exec. Director, Gaynelle Dantzier.

## PBTG Conducts "Shine Bright" Virtual Summit



On June 20, 2020, the young men of the EMC Elite Program attended a virtual summit hosted by Professionals Beyond the Game. Originally scheduled to be a face to face, for over one hundred attendees, the summit moved to a Zoom platform. The panelist consisted of five executive professionals passionate about empowering high school

varsity athletes, collegiate level athletes, and athlete development specialists (parents, coaches, trainers, etc.) Each speaker was a thought leader in key elements of wellness (Career, Community, Financial, Physical, Network, and Spiritual).

The speakers shared their experiences, inspiring attendees to

not only achieve their personal and professional goals but commit to creating positive change in the communities in which they live. The attendees were also given an opportunity to ask questions about different careers and gain insights on how to prepare for life after direct involvement in collegiate and professional sports.

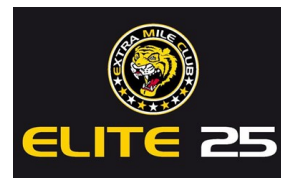
## Eamon Smalls Receives First Division One Offer from the University of South Carolina

At six feet-two inches and 327 pounds, Eamon Smalls received his first D1 scholarship offer from the University of South Carolina. Eamon is a sophomore at Beaufort High School. He has been playing football since he was nine years old. He began his career with the EMC's youth football league, The EMC Tigers, for youth ages 6-12. When he was no longer eligible to play in the youth league, he became a part of the EMC Elite 25. This singular group of young men are ages 13-18. The young men in the EMC Elite 25



Program maintain a 3.0 GPA and accept the responsibility of being role models for their peers. They must develop the desire to succeed and the ability to inspire others, and cultivate a clear set of values that includes: a commitment to the community, selflessness and acceptance of others. And, lastly demonstrate the ability to overcome obstacles.

EMC is proud of Eamon and all of the members of the Elite 25 program who are putting in the work on and off the field. Their hard work is clearly paying off.



## John Paul II Catholic School Awards Scholarships to EMC Members

The Extra Mile Club's (EMC) Dontray Lewis and Alexander Mercer, Jr. are recipients of two Promise Scholarships from John Paul II Catholic School in Okatie, SC. Students enrolled in the school are in grades 7 through 12. Thanks to a generous donor, Dontray and Alex are enrolled this year as 7th graders.

The Promise Scholarship provides students with a full tuition scholarship for six years. Dontray, has been a member of the Extra Mile Club since he was nine years old and his mother, Kerri Lewis, has been a dedicated volunteer. Alex

and his mother, Felicia Mercer, are new to EMC the family. According to Kerri and Felicia, "Dontray and Alexander are adapting well academically, athletically, and socially at John Paul II."

John McCarthy, Principal at John Paul II says "We are so blessed to have Dontray and Alex join John Paul II Catholic School this year as our first two Promise Scholars." "We are thrilled to be able to partner with the EMC to make this happen."



Principal John McCarthy w/Dontray and Alexander

*"Excellence is to do a common thing in an uncommon way."*

*-Booker T. Washington*

## Strength and Conditioning Continues during the Pandemic

Covid 19 has sadly effected our various EMC activities. We made an extremely difficult decision to focus our efforts where we knew Covid guidelines could be strictly followed. Unfortunately our younger members are on pause until things change.

Our EMC Elite members, (ages 13-18) continued in their efforts



to perfect their skills in the midst of the challenges. The EMC Elite members participated in strength and conditioning activities three days a week. In addition, they also had the opportunity to participate in five combines/showcases, in SC, NC, and Georgia, where they were evaluated by college recruiters. These young men are determined to be great!





Extra Mile Club of the Lowcountry  
Post Office Box 1915  
Beaufort, SC 29901  
Phone: 843-812-2056  
E-mail: extramiletigers@gmail.com

### Faith, Family, Education & Sports

We're on the web!

[www.theextramileclub.org](http://www.theextramileclub.org)

[www.facebook.com/extramile2008](https://www.facebook.com/extramile2008)

*The foundation of mentoring is rooted in the idea that if caring positive adults are available to young people, they are more likely to become successful adults themselves. Whether through an organization or on their own, many people have the capabilities to mentor a young person.*

*Since 2008, the Extra Mile Club of the Lowcountry (EMC) has devoted its energy to passionately mentoring and advocating for the youth in our community.*

*We are grateful for the visionary, Chris Dantzler, the founder of the EMC, who has invested the last twelve years of his life pouring into the youth in our community. Because of his passion, dedication and commitment to the youth in EMC, there are many successful adults among us.*

## 2020 Youth Football Season Cancelled

Disappointed is an understatement!

We have talked about the impact of the Pandemic, on our younger Extra Mile Club Tigers. No 2020 youth football season. Impacted are our youth, ages 6-12, the football players and the cheerleaders. We started their youth football and cheerleading program in 2014. This is the first time that the Tigers had to forgo their season. Normally it is one of the most exciting times for our organization. For many of the kids, this is the first of many new experiences. First time playing football or cheerleading, the first time wearing a football/cheer uniform, the first time traveling out of town to play football or cheerleading, the first time wearing a football

or cheerleading uniform, the first time traveling out of town to play football or cheer, the first time competing in state competitions, the first time playing in all-star games, the first time playing in showcase games, the first time visiting a college campus, etc.

The youth football and cheerleading program is where it all begins for our youth. It is at this point that they begin building skills such as teamwork, leadership, and responsibility as they learn to work with others to achieve a common goal.

As disappointed as everyone is, the EMC is using this time to re-group, re-charge, and plan for the next season. The coaching staff and mentors are working on a plan to spend some addi-

tional instructional time with the kids without putting anyone's health at risk.

