



The Homework Club at Emerald City Commons always tries to have a weekly hands-on project for the kids. It is all part of a comprehensive approach to address the children's educational, social-emotional and physical needs.

Anaelle, an intern, has been faithful in providing these projects - from building catapults to constructing Rube Goldberg contraptions (those are the ones that trigger a series of actions after each other.) Who knew working with erupting lemons could be so fun? You had to be there.

The staff and volunteers could see the individual connections to the kids made during the projects - which seemed to reach the younger and older students alike.

During the reflection time, the kids shared how they felt engaging in these activities and about all the interesting things they noticed and learned. These times of learning are so important for these kids, and you make that possible. Thank you!

SHARK WEEK - Ready, Set, Pitch!

The Economic Development Team recently wrapped up a robust week helping start-up entrepreneurs prepare their presentations in preparation for the big event.

The big event was the last step of the Sharks at the Beach 12-week program. Over the past 12-weeks, the staff, coaches and mentors worked with the entrepreneurs, helping them create business plans to build sustainable enterprises and connect them to the financial resources required to take their business to the next level. They took their learnings and pitched their businesses to a panel of judges at the annual Pitch Event. The energy from the pitches and sharing of personal stories was inspiring.

One of the participants was Najaala Pierce, founder and creator of Spa on Wheels. Her business journey started seven years ago when she overcame homelessness. Being an entrepreneur was the answer for her to prevent falling back into an unstable living situation and financial struggles. She took her passion and gift for applying eyelash extensions and turned it into a side hustle. Her young daughter was her key motivation for being so dedicated in growing as a business owner and to build generational wealth.

Najaala diligently worked through the Sharks program and gained valuable knowledge in business fundamentals in order to equip and sustain her business.

Her hard work paid off at the Sharks at the Beach Pitch Event where she won the Social Impact Award which came with a prize of \$2,500.

(continue on next page)



Najaala Pierce, founder of Spa on Wheels, making her pitch at the Sharks at the Beach Pitch Event.

"This means so much to me that my daughter and son can watch me grow as an entrepreneur and go through the steps. My children can learn from watching me that there is something you can create for yourself and ultimately can give to your family."

Did you know that more than 64% of Americans don't have a will? Estate Planning may not be top of mind, but having your financial affairs in order is a great gift to your family and loved ones.

August is National Make-A-Will month and we encourage you to make a will if you don't already have one. If you are interested in including Urban Impact in your Estate Plan, we will love to talk with you and answer any questions you might have.

For more details, contact Leslie Perkins at 206.722.2052 x213



URBANIMPACT

MY GIFT TOWARDS GOD'S WORK IN SOUTH SEATTLE!

YES, Steve! I want to make sure that every person in South Seattle has access to the programs and services they need.

\$30

\$150

\$75

\$_____ to provide as much help as possible

SHARKS AT THE BEACH ANNUAL PITCH EVENT



Entrepreneurs, staff, volunteers and judges striking a pose after the event.

The money she won will go towards acquiring and transforming a small “beauty bus” that will come to the customer’s location for on-board personal spa and beauty services such as waxing, facials, and lash extensions. She plans to differentiate her business through offering this as a more convenient and comfortable solution versus a storefront that customers have to commute to.

She is working to raise her startup capital and hopes to soon have her pink bus for a pampered experience in neighborhoods across Washington!

(To support past entrepreneurs, go to our Business Directory at: urbanimpactseattle.org/business-directory.)

GAINING CONFIDENCE ONE PUSHUP AT A TIME

In March, Rainier Health & Fitness celebrated its 18th year in their commitment to a healthy community.

"It has been an honor to serve the Rainier Valley neighborhood and come alongside so many people in their fitness journey. It is these relationships that drive us each day".

- RHF Director Alicia Haskins.

One such relationship is with Teara, who has been coming to the gym as part of RHF's partnership with the Seattle Department of Services for the Blind.

For four months, Teara worked out weekly with the other students on functional movements that they can do on their own at home or at the gym. She recently finished her last class in April and her hard work and progress is awesome.

When she first came to us, Teara she wasn't able to do one push up, now she can do 20! Her determination to use the stair climber machine in order to improve her confidence with climbing stairs was inspiring - she gradually overcame her fear, completing longer amounts of time on it each week.

Alicia and her team are excited to meet a new group of students next month!



RHF trainer Marla with Teara and RHF Trainer Abbie.



We wanted to take a moment and thank the Sharks at the Beach event sponsors. Many have sponsored this event for several years.

Thank you for encouraging young entrepreneurs to be change agents in their communities. Seattle Credit Union, Guild Mortgage, US Bank, Chase Bank, Wells Fargo, Molly Moon's, PJ Hummel & Co., Campbell Auto Group, Liberty Road Foundation, Engaging Virtual Meetings, Bethany Community Church, Key Bank and Washington State Microenterprise Association.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



September 30th - Noon-3:00pm

Thrive is Back! Amazing food, live music, great raffle items and an insiders look at the work you make possible and so much more!

You can also come catch up with Harvey before he retires in December. Come say hi and grab a selfie with the Founder/President of Urban Impact.

When Communities Thrive, People Thrive

When People Thrive, Communities Thrive