



## Reflecting on the Challenges & Triumphs of the 2020-21 School Year, 2021 Summer, & Gearing up for an Excellent 2021-22 School Year!

### Fire @ AIM Teen Center Update

On June 12th, 2021, Aces In Motion's new Teen Center located in the Kiwanis Community Center at Oakview Park suffered a kitchen fire that rendered the building uninhabitable. In coordination with the City of Gainesville, AIM is working hard to recover and return back to normal operations as soon as possible. We are both humbled and full of gratitude for the outpouring of support following the fire. We are still awaiting the fire inspector report but will be sure to share news when we have an idea of when we'll be moving back and what our needs will be in the interim! We will rebuild & are pressing forward to continue partnering with our youth!

So many community partners have helped with our essential needs in this time of displacement!

- Thank you Trinity United Methodist Church for sharing your Sunday special offering with us!
- Thank you First United Methodist Church for hosting our temporary offices and our High School Conference!
- Thank you Westwood Middle School for hosting our inaugural Summer Camp activities!

If you would like to support us during this difficult time, we welcome your support. Thank you!

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# AIM Teen Center

In early spring, we moved into our new Teen Center at Oakview Park, which was made possible by the generosity of our many community partners such as Bosshardt Property Management, Gainesville Self Storage, USTA FL, and private donors .

Following Spring Break, we resumed our in-person after-school program in this brand-new, state of the art facility. One of our AIM students, Javon, said, "the new Teen Center is the best thing that has ever happened to AIM!"

Implemented programs included:

- \*Academic tutoring & support
- \*Fully equipped music production studio
- \*eSports/computer programming
- \*Mental health counseling
- \*Poetry classes with ARTSPEAKS!
- \*Recreational opportunities

We are all looking forward to getting the Teen Center operational again!

## End of Year Banquet

It was wonderful to celebrate our students' accomplishments with all our families this year at our Annual End of the Year Banquet!

Our students & families are why we do what we do.

Despite operating during a pandemic, we figured out the best way to partner with the community to meet the need while still remaining safe.

We had the largest class ever of seven graduating AIM Seniors! We hope they take all our T-love with them wherever they go and always know we're in their corner, cheering on their dreams!



## AIM Summer Camp

We had awesome inaugural summer camps this year! At the end of June, we held our camp combining Middle & High School students!

We always love enrichment time with our partners Mr. John Rollins from Motiv8U & Mr. Stanley Richardson from ARTSPEAKS!

We enjoyed our tennis clinic with our partners at GPD Heroes (check out the [video](#))!

Our academic time, yoga, field trips and water kickball were all a hit!

We enjoyed every bit of Summer Camp, and we look forward to adding new members to our AIM Family!



## High School Conference

We also had a wonderful camp, designed specifically for our students heading into High School for the 2021-22 school year!

We helped with resume building, elevator pitches, etiquette, study skills and academic tracking.

We also took field trips to the University of Central Florida, Santa Fe College and to Campus USA to learn about financial literacy!

We feel confident that with continued support and partnership, our students will be ready to jump any hurdles they encounter this year.

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## AIM in Forbes Magazine!

2020 was full of challenges for everyone.

We are so proud of our team for being nimble enough to customize our program to the online environment, known as AIM Virtual, and for providing space for students to do school online with our AIM Academy.

Our team is amazing, even Forbes Magazine took notice!

Check out the [Forbes story](#) featuring AIM, our intrepid Executive Director, Addison Staples, and the USTA Foundation, one of our major funders!



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## Staff Update: Join us in welcoming our new Program Director!

Shelley Rogers is the new Program Director for Aces In Motion (Coach Eric is currently pursuing a Masters in Mental Health Counseling). Prior to this position, Shelley provided consulting services and created media campaigns for nonprofit organizations for nearly fifteen years. Most of her work focused on amplifying the voices of food system stakeholders to humanize issues so that sharing knowledge can open pathways for understanding and collective action. She has a Bachelor's degree in Art History from Smith College and a Master's degree in Media, Culture & Communication from New York University. For the past 9 seasons, she has been a work-share Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) member of The Family Garden Organic & Food Justice Certified farm, located in East Gainesville. She also volunteers with other nonprofits in town, Grace Grows and Constellation Charter School. Shelley is excited to share her passion for non-profit work with the AIM Family.



[Staff Page](#)

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