



starfish initiative™

SPRING/SUMMER 2020  
**ASTEROIDEA**  
Third Edition

**MENTORING  
FOR IMPACT**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### Letter from Kimberly

#### After Match Night

Scholar and Mentor | We Gradually Became Friends

#### Asteroidea - Starfish

Scholars and Alum Lead an Important Discussion

#### Our Mentors

Taking Time to Highlight Starfish Mentors

#### Reflecting on 2020

Introducing Jordan Coleman  
Thoughts from the Program Team  
2020 Event Calendar

#### Call to Action

You Make the Difference



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starfish initiative™

**KIMBERLY BOSTIC**  
President & CEO



Dear Friends of Starfish

In recent months, our city, along with the entire nation, has experienced the greatest health and economic pandemic of our lifetime. My thoughts and prayers go out to all of the families that have been negatively affected by COVID-19.

As Starfish Initiative braced for the impact of COVID-19, our team seamlessly transitioned to a virtual atmosphere to ensure our scholars and their families had the support they needed during this unprecedented time. Thanks to our 2 Gen Initiative, "Starfish Generation+", participating scholars and their families have been connected to wraparound services and resources needed to achieve their educational and career goals. This in turn led to even better support of the scholars and helping them to achieve their educational, career/employment goals.

Simultaneous with a global health pandemic, our nation is in the midst of a national movement fighting for civil rights and social justice for ALL people, particularly for the rights of our black and brown Americans.

I could not be more proud of our Starfish Scholars and Alumni as they

prepared and led a live moderated discussion, "Beyond the Violence". This virtual discussion provided a platform for transparent conversation and constructive dialogue to address the death of George Floyd and the impact of the systems that oppress black and brown communities.

In this edition of Asteroidea, you will read stories of perseverance and triumph, resilience and determination and most importantly courage. We at Starfish cannot solve these issues by ourselves but we can provide help to those we can reach one scholar at a time. We hope that you will join us. Volunteer, Be a Mentor.

"Help one young person succeed by teaching them about a better world that holds promise for you and the next generation."

Mike Feeney, Co Founder of Starfish Initiative.

Respectfully

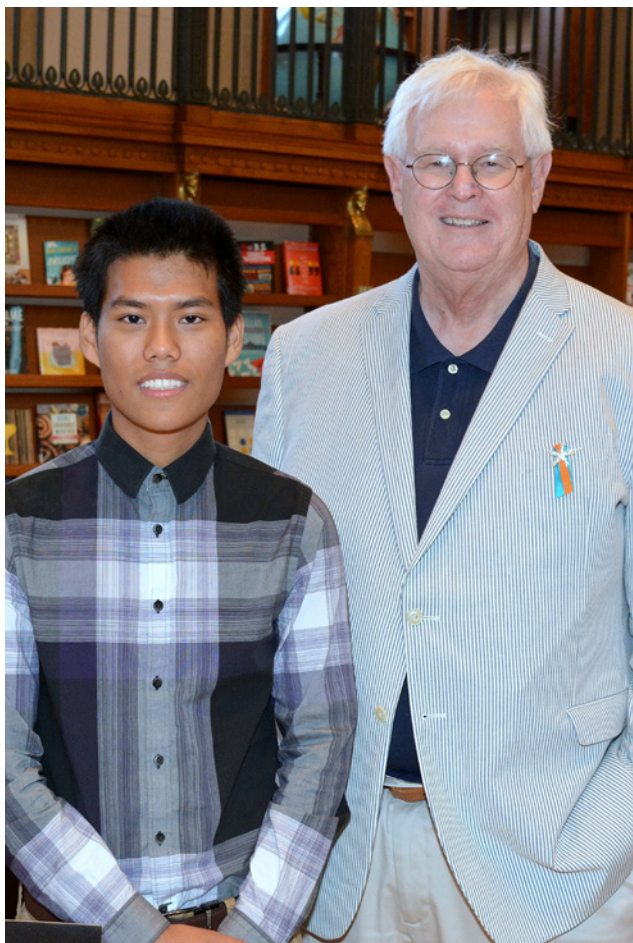
*Kimberly*  
Kimberly N. Bostic, CFRE, MPA  
President and CEO  
Starfish Initiative

After Match Night

## Scholar And Mentor: We Gradually Became Friends

### ▶▶ Scholar Robert and Mentor Tom

Their first meeting was at Match Night, an event hosted by Starfish that echoes excitement, anticipation, nervousness, and sometimes the awkward silence that comes with the first interaction between Scholars and Mentors. For Mentor Tom and Scholar Robert, the first meeting was built on a desire to develop a mentoring relationship that would support Robert through high



Robert, a member of Perry Meridian High School's Class of 2020, will attend Indiana University Bloomington, College of Arts and Science where he will major in Biology.

“My Starfish experience taught me a lot about connections. I have so many friends from Starfish.”

school, but it became much more during their 4-year Scholar-Mentor relationship

“I have had the honor of mentoring Robert, I have watched him thrive academically, expand culturally, grow spiritually, and perform beautifully as a first chair oboist in high school orchestra.”

“My life has been broadened by Robert sharing his culture in Myanmar. I would not have known this without the Starfish mentoring relationship.”

Tom does not shy away from how richly he has been impacted through the friendship that has developed during his four years as Robert's Mentor.

Like most successful relationships, theirs started with developing a trust through a mutual respect for their differences and the willingness to learn more about each other by experiencing the cultures that shaped their personal journeys.

A private person with a tremendous amount of maturity for a burgeoning young adult, Robert unwaveringly held to

“When I was very young, my parents made the decision that our family should leave Myanmar, where there was much poverty and oppression. They wanted our family to enjoy the freedom and opportunities which America offered.

- Robert  
Class of 2020

those things that were important to him and his family: faith, education, and hard work.

Robert will attend Indiana University in the fall as a freshman in the College of Arts and Science. This multi-scholarship recipient will major in biology, with plans to eventually enroll in medical school.

A new citizen, Robert is still proud of one of his earliest accomplishments, winning a bicycle in the 4th grade for being the best reader. Ranked #12 in his graduating class, Robert, with the continued friendship of Tom will go on to greater things, a shining example of all that is good in Starfish Initiative. Tom would go on to say, “The world is Robert's oyster now.”

# Beyond the VIOLENCE

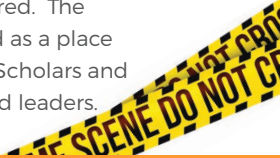
INSPIRE | ENCOURAGE | PREPARE



On June 25th, Starfish Scholars and Alumni participated in a student led and moderated discussion following the events that have led to recent protests regarding social injustice.

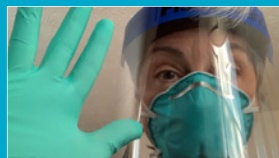
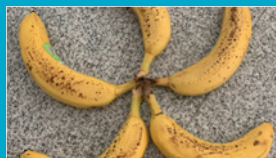
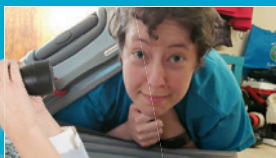
"Beyond the Violence: Inspire

| Encourage | Prepare" was a platform created to allow Starfish teens and young adults the opportunity to ask the questions they needed answered. The platform also served as a place to provide tools for Scholars and Alum to be informed leaders.



## Dr. Martin Luther King

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."



## MENTOR SPOTLIGHT

### Starfish Mentors Make a Difference



Norma

It's been my pleasure to be a mentor to an amazing young Scholar. If my scholar knows there is another person in her corner, someone to provide encouragement, guidance, or simply listen, then my time as a Mentor is successful. We have talented young people in our community. I am thankful to be a mentor for an organization committed to nurturing this talent and making a difference in the lives of their families.



Donna

Donna is a member of the Regional Service Line Marketing & Communications team at Indiana University Health Suburban Indianapolis Region, serving IU Health North, Saxony, Tipton & West Hospitals



Julie

"I have been fortunate to have had some amazing mentors in my life, and I am thrilled to be able to give back in this very personal capacity. Being a part of Emily's life for the last year and a half and watching her navigate high school is among the most rewarding things I have ever done. I love Emily's enthusiasm for going out in the city and trying new things. We have a lot of common interests, and we always have a lot of fun. I can't wait to see what the next three years bring to Emily - her future is so bright! I'm grateful to Starfish for this opportunity that truly allows me to get even more than I give."



Brittany

IU Health - A "Hero" mentors a Starfish Scholar. Brittany helped start q new COVID ICU.



Andrew

Andrew has been a Starfish Mentor for 3 years.



Greg

"When I first began as a Mentor through Starfish Initiative, I wasn't sure what to expect. I was matched with Elvin in August 2019, and we quickly connected over soccer, tortillas, and to my pleasant surprise, coffee! Elvin is a fantastic student and Scholar, who is inquisitive and curious about topics about which he is passionate, such as STEM. He has a bright future ahead of him, and I look forward to supporting him in any way I can!"



Edward

Corteva Agriscience - Human Health Risk Assessor



**New Development Director**  
Jordan Coleman

My name is Jordan Coleman and I am honored to be named the Development Director for Starfish Initiative. I am excited to combine my education, Master's of Public Administration, and my corporate experience in Public Affairs to further the mission at Starfish. In my short time here, I have had the opportunity to connect with some of you through our new virtual world and I look forward to building more connections and relationships. COVID-19 has created a level of uncertainty for many families, but our mission of inspiring scholars with unearned adversities is more important than ever. I am honored to be able to support our scholars not just during this time, but throughout their high school career. I believe mentorship is an intricate piece of the foundation to success.



If anything you do is too easy it means you're not growing. Take some challenges in your life so that there are places for you to grow. In the end, life is too short so enjoy the moments while you're challenging yourself.

- Peng Thang, Match Specialist



During 2020, I have learned that our scholars are a fiercely resilient bunch. In conversations with them, they have found uniquely creative ways to manage their time and cope with the stressors that this year has presented. Many have also stepped up and have taken on more responsibilities at home with taking care of siblings and ensuring that the household thrives. They have displayed a strength and optimism at times that is not always easy to have, and they have largely spent a great deal of time educating themselves and reflecting on major social and political events that have occurred. Even though this year has not gone as planned, they have been incredibly adaptive to new situations and have learned to thrive through adversity.

- Austin Elliott, Match Specialist



# 2020 CALENDAR

Accepting nominations for the 2020 Mentor of the Year Award

Asteroidia :: June 2020



During 2020, our Scholars have had to deal with an unprecedented amount of obstacles on top of their unearned adversities. Even in the face of these hardships, our scholars continue to flourish. When Indianapolis schools switched to on-line learning, our Scholars maintained academic excellence. When faced with the racial unrest brought on by police brutality, our Scholars become motivated to get involved by taking part in difficult conversations with their mentors and families and participating in peaceful protests. In 2020, Starfish Scholars stood as an example of the power of persistence, passion, and purpose.

One Scholar that impacted me a great deal in 2020 was Andrea. Her mother came to the US from Honduras so that her children could have a chance at a better life. While only speaking Spanish, unable to read or write, and having a third grade education, Andrea's mother knew the importance of education and pushed her daughter to take advantage of all opportunities. Andrea grew up as a voracious reader and became the first high school graduate in her family. This fall, she will attend Indiana University. Andrea is motivated by the sacrifices her mother made for her.

- Lauren Reminih  
Director of Programs



**Freshmen Orientation**  
July 24 - 25, 2020

**Match Night**  
TBD 2020

**Back to School Kick-Off**  
(A virtual event)  
August 8, 2020

**Leadership Camp**  
September 11-13, 2020

**Shining Star Celebration**  
(A virtual event)  
October 8, 2020

**College & Career Fair**  
October 2020  
(Rescheduled)



Why we challenged ourselves to

# MAKE A DIFFERENCE



In spite of the challenges, our youth must have the support and resources needed to help them become future leaders and decision makers.

Let's face it, 2020 has dropped challenges in our laps that many of us have never experienced.

Through local news, national news and social media, we have witnessed the best and the worst of us. The responses have been varied, a reflection of diverse thoughts and ideologies. New champions have been birthed and existing champions have been encouraged to continue the journey. Starfish's success is a direct result of the Champions who have invested in the mission and continue to wave the banner "to make a difference for that

One" for more than 17 years. Starfish is also a place where new Champions, those that are now looking for a way to uplift and encourage can find a place to serve unconditionally but benefit immensely.

Starfish has committed to continuing to support Scholars, Alumni, and families by developing resource networks that create equity, and by offering tools including our one-on-one mentoring program to support those most at risk of accomplishing goals. Our hope

is that now, more than ever, you will see the importance of your partnership with Starfish Initiative. Your financial support

makes it possible for us to deliver in-person and virtual programming to equip Scholars, Alumni, Mentors and families in their journey.

THANK YOU for all you have sacrificed and we are grateful for your continued partnership and support, "to inspire, encourage, and prepare, academically-promising teens facing unearned adversity for college and career success.

- Jennifer McCloud  
SVP & Chief Advancement Officer

**"Non nobis solum nati sumus."**  
(Not for ourselves alone are we born.)  
- Marcus Tullius Cicero

**We ask you to accept a "Call to Action".**  
**Become a Donor. Become a Mentor. Change a Life.**



# 2020 MATCHING GIFT CAMPAIGN

## Your gift can support Scholar Programming

- ▶ A gift of \$1,500 supports 1 scholar for a full year
- ▶ A gift of \$500 helps provide bus transportation to College Mega Visit
- ▶ A gift of \$150 sends 1 scholar to Leadership Camp
- ▶ A gift of \$100 sends 1 scholar to Freshman Orientation

## Make your donation today.

- ▶ Donate on-line at [www.starfishinitiative.org](http://www.starfishinitiative.org)
- ▶ Mail your donation to:  
Starfish Initiative  
2955 N. Meridian St., Suite 101  
Indianapolis, IN 46208
- ▶ Make your gift of stock or include Starfish in your planned giving. Contact us for more info.

Starfish Initiative is a United Way Agency



## INTERESTED IN MENTORING?

Doubling the Impact does not stop there. Serving more high school students means there is also a need to increase the number of mentors. The best recruiters for mentors is YOU! Partner with us by helping us recruit more mentors.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Refer a friend
- Invite us to make a presentation to your organization or employer
- Invite a friend to a future Starfish event

## FOLLOW US

Follow Starfish on social media and share with friends, followers or groups.

- [Facebook.com/StarfishInitiative](https://Facebook.com/StarfishInitiative)
- [Twitter.com/starfish\\_in](https://Twitter.com/starfish_in)
- [LinkedIn.com/company/starfish-initiative](https://LinkedIn.com/company/starfish-initiative)
- [Instagram.com/starfish\\_in](https://Instagram.com/starfish_in)
- [Youtube.com/StarfishInitiative](https://Youtube.com/StarfishInitiative)

For additional information, contact us at 317.588.6300

**Thank you for supporting STARFISH!**



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