



# PROFILES

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## Tasia Price

By Michelle Puckett

Tasia Price is a determined high school student who has dreams of working with children.

She was born in Virginia and raised in Jenkins, Ky. But her mother got a job in Lexington and moved Tasia and her two sisters. Tasia, the youngest, was 3 years old.

She doesn't regret being the youngest child. "I love it because I get what I want and both of my sisters hate it," she said and laughed. Her mother has raised the children alone.

And that is why Tasia, 17 and a senior at Henry Clay High School, Lexington, says her mother is her role model. Tasia said that family and God are more important to her than anything else.

At school she contributes to the Future Educators Of America, Black Achievers, Students Against Drunk Driving, and Harambee, a club that promotes black history. She loves to write poetry in her spare time.

When Tasia was



younger, she had dreams of becoming a broadcaster for television. Her new dream is to become a pediatrician. Her love for children shows up because she talks a great deal about her sisters and 3-year-old niece Saniah. When asked why she changed her mind about being a broadcaster she said, "I saw how hard it would be and how much traveling I would have to do!"

She already has begun the journey to becoming a pediatrician. Next year she plans on going to a camp for students interested in the medical field, which will help get into Clark Atlanta University.

She hopes to practice medicine where the children are less fortunate.

Though Tasia's life has included many challenges, she still has big dreams.

## Tiesha Hankerson

By Janae Tillman

Tiesha Hankerson, a 16-year-old from Cincinnati, dreams of pursuing a career in journalism.

Her childhood was interesting because of numerous family outings with her six sisters and five brothers. But it could not have been possible without the love and encouragement from her mother and grandmother.

She said proudly, "If it weren't for my grandmother I wouldn't be doing this (journalism) today." Her grandmother told her to work hard and to become a great person.

Tiesha plans to graduate from Hughes Center where she was on the honor roll in her freshman year for two quarters and in her sophomore year for three quarters. Her record enabled her to attend a conference marking the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision that ordered the desegregation of schools



in the United States. There she was able to express her opinion on how wrong school segregation was.

She plans to attend Howard University in Washington, D.C.

While there she will major in pre-med for four years and hopes to attend medical school for two more years. She wants to be a pediatrician. "I love children," she said.

Writing has always been a passion of Tiesha's. "Being able to express yourself and not worrying about what other people think is success to me," Tiesha explained.

She has advice to others who wants to pursue a career in journalism. "Pay attention in English class, don't be afraid to express yourself in front of other people, try to have good communication skills."

## Cyra Irving

By Banetta Stenson

Family and friends think that Cyra Irving is spoiled because she is the youngest of three children, but she begs to differ. Cyra likes to think that she is a fortunate child. "I wouldn't necessarily say that I am spoiled, but I do get more than my brothers and sister did when they were my age."

Cyra, 17, likes to play basketball; her position is point guard or shooting guard. She also likes to rap. She is trying to earn a college scholarship in basketball.

Cyra defines success as reaching your goals. "Everybody's definition is going to be different because everyone's goals are different," she said. Cyra also likes to think that education is the key to life. She wants to finish high school with honors and college as valedictorian.

Cyra wants many things in life. She works hard and she already has the number one goal in mind: education. Values also are important in Cyra's life. She was instilled with values



of respect, family, friends, honesty and religion.

Cyra looks up to her sister Camilla and wants to be like her when she grows up. She wants to be like Camilla because she did everything that she had to do when she was in school and now is a successful woman. Cyra is following in her footsteps.

Cyra is an active person. She has worked hard to achieve her goal to be an honor roll student. She also reached her goal to be in the National Honor Society at Moore Traditional High School, Louisville. She likes to keep busy with extracurricular activities, including drama, track and cross-country. Cyra likes to think of her personality as "outgoing."

Cyra is a determined young woman who knows where she wants to be and how to get there.

## Tahnee Taylor

By Brittany Hughes

Tahnee Taylor describes her life as a journey unfolding with many obstacles that she is trying to jump over daily.

"I don't think I'm the typical girl next door," said the young girl from across the globe. Tahnee was born in Panama. She was fifth in line behind two older brothers and two older sisters. She moved to Mississippi when she was 2 and relocated to Kentucky at age 12.

The high school senior faced heartache at a young age. Her parents divorced when she was 2. She lived through struggles of a single-parent home with her mother and siblings. Ten years later, her mother died. "It's something that I'll never truly get over," said the 17-year-old. But even though she experienced a traumatic childhood, she is still a family-oriented daughter.

The teenager treasures her religion and her education. She goes to a Baptist church and attends Mason County High School in Maysville. She saves the fun for last in order to



maintain her 4.0 GPA. Her dream is achievement and knowing that she made the most of her life. "I won't settle for less," Tahnee explained. When she is not addressing her grades, she is dancing or running track. She also likes to style hair in her free time.

Tahnee is well-rounded and doesn't limit herself. Driven by the thought of success, the calm student wants to one day make an impact on somebody's life. She wishes to be a role model to a person who's been through as much as she has.

This athlete's definition of success is being mentally stable and following her dreams to fulfill her goals. She believes in organizing her priorities. Her main weakness is her tendency to procrastinate. However, Tahnee is focused because she is looking to prove her strength not only to herself but to everyone she meets.

"It's been difficult for me, but I'm always going to keep going," Tahnee said.

## Samantha Pointer

By Patrick Easley

Samantha Pointer, a 16-year-old native of Cincinnati, attends the Hughes Center.

There she participated in volleyball for three weeks until injuring her left knee. She also participated in the Yoga Club throughout her 10th grade year. Her favorite color is purple, and her favorite foods are chicken and collard greens.

But she doesn't like Cincinnati -- strongly dislikes it -- for a variety of reasons.

"There is a lot of 'he says, she says' mess going on that I don't care to take part in. There is also a lot of violence that takes place where I live," she added.

"I have many different personalities whereas I can adapt to any given situation," she said. "I consider myself to be a pretty outgoing person and tend to be very goofy at times."

She wants to attend Clark Atlanta University to major in business and minor in journalism. Samantha enjoys reading, writing, going to the mall, and hanging out with friends. "I have a strong passion for business/ administration as well as writing and producing various movies,



songs, and play scripts."

She attends True Holiness Covenant of Peace Assembly of Walnut Hills Church, where she is involved in many programs and organizations such as The Convention Choir, Young People's Service Night and a sign language presentation group that she and her best friend established in May 2004.

Samantha said her number one goal is to move to New York. "I want to rent my own apartment where I can view the skyline of New York City." She hopes to live an easy and outgoing life filled with the pleasures of success.

Samantha was excited that she has received her temporary driver's permit and has a job at Paramount's Kings Island.

One thought that carries her is "Be true to yourself."

## Janae Tillman

By Tiesha Hankerson

When you're the oldest of 11 children, there is never a dull moment. It's not the easiest way to grow up, but Janae Tillman has been successful at everything she has touched.

One particular thing that kept her successful was advice from her parents. As a child they told her, "Do better than we did." She took what they said and ran with it. Her parents are the biggest influence in her life because they taught her to do her best. They told her, "Go and do what you can to have a good life."

Her definition of success is being able to overcome trials and tribulations and to achieve what she worked hard for.

She has overcome many obstacles by not caring what others think. She overcame these obstacles by staying away from people who talk about her and who cause trouble.

Janae, 17, has achieved a lot. She achieved her goal of being on the honor roll and being a member of the National Honor Society



at Holmes High School in Covington, Ky. She also has been working hard so that she will be eligible for a college scholarship. Another thing that she wants to happen is to earn some of her college credits early. She has accomplished some of that already by participating in the International Baccalaureate Program.

One obstacle that she thinks she will never overcome is mathematics, which is her worst subject. She said she has worked hard to improve her understanding of it. It's hard for her, but she will keep trying. She also inspires others to do the same.

Janae wants to be remembered as a dedicated person when it comes to her work, a nice, helpful, and outgoing person, and a good person to talk to. She will be remembered as just that.

## Norma Solis

By Faith Clark

Norma Solis has always had a strong interest in writing. When Norma was 10 years old, she realized how much she admired writing. Then she started writing poetry.

"I've always been drawn to creative writing and poetry," Norma said. "Writing is one of the topics in the world that allows me to let go and really express my emotions."

Norma was born in Miami, Fla. She lived there until she was

7. Then she, her mother and her sister moved to Charlotte, N.C. Norma, 17, attends Zebulon B. Vance High School, where she is a member of the Dead Poets' Society, Spanish Club and Yearbook. She plays lacrosse and is interested in photography.

Norma has two special women in her life -- her mother, after whom she is named, and her older sister, Gaby, 27. They instilled in her a work ethic and determination, which Norma said helped her to discover writing.

Norma has three basic goals

in life. She wants to be in a rock band, write a movie script and publish a novel.

"I love to read novels, so I think that it would be totally awesome to write a novel of my own," she said.

Norma's other interests include automobiles. She really enjoys learning about them. "They are more than just a body and engine," she said. "I like how they look, and it just interests me in how they function." In the future Norma plans to attend Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C., where

she wants to major in journalism and minor in communications.

Norma wants to become a newspaper columnist as well as write for magazines such as Rolling Stone, Alternative Press or AMP.

"I love to write songs, and I love writing for the newspaper," she said. "If I could write for a music magazine, then it would be the perfect combination of both. Writing about something I really love helps me stay on top of my writing skills and it keeps me sharp."

