Three years ago, we had a bright idea, “Let’s invite Open Doors Academy students to develop the annual report with us.” After all, no one knows their story better than they do. Every year, their insight and enthusiasm for the project humbles us. The annual you have in your hands is no exception. This year we asked the kids to tell us about the choices they have in life, big and small. It started with interviewing each other and it grew from there; the results of which you’ll see over the next few pages. We hope you’ll enjoy it.
Devon Doleznin

Central Middle School

12 7th

Open Doors Academy has taught me:
when and not to joke around

Between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. my friends are:

A) with me at Open Doors Academy
B) at home sitting on the couch
C) hanging out with kids I don’t trust
D) getting into trouble

When I grow up, I want to be:

Football player

I will graduate high school.

True  False
Name: Blue McDaniel

School: Roxboro Jr High

Age: Thirteen Grade: Eight

Because of Open Doors Academy:
I understand myself

Leading is difficult because:
Not everyone is going to agree with you decide.

What’s your favorite band?
A) The Misfits
B) Green Day
C) The Beatles
D) A + B

I want to go to college.
True False
Name: Courtney Herrod

School: Central

Age: 12  Grade: 7th

Open Doors Academy is:
A) A place I go after school.
B) A club I’m proud to belong to.
C) A family.
D) Both B and C.

Are you afraid of the dark?
Sometimes.

Success is:
reaching a goal and being happy with the goal completed.

What is one thing you can’t live without?
Family

The Voice is better than American Idol.
True  False
Name: Bennetta Trobel

School: Forest Park Middle School

Age: 12  Grade: 7th

Because of Open Doors Academy:

I learned to be a leader.

When you grow up, you are going to be:

A lawyer, baker and/or Head chef

My grades are:

A) A source of pride
B) Let’s not talk about it
C) Really, I’m trying
D) Much better than last year

My favorite type of movie is:

A) Sci-Fi
B) Documentary
C) Drama
D) Romantic comedy
My favorite part of Open Doors Academy is:

Bonding as an Open Doors family and the Harlem trip.

My favorite subject is:

A) Math
B) English
C) Science
D) Lunch

Because of Open Doors Academy:

I have matured, I have become more humble, and I have learned to become a leader.
Name: Sara Morgan
School: Forest Park
Age: 13  Grade: 8

I love: my hamster

I want to go to college for: psychiatrist/acting

Most days:
A) I’m hopeful.
B) I’m smiling.
C) I’m sad.
D) I’m lonely.

Because of Open Doors Academy:
I improved as a person.

Open Doors Academy is:
A) A place I go after school.
B) A club I’m proud to belong to.
C) A family.
D) Both B and C.
Name: Yidiyah Box
School: Wiley
Age: 12
Grade: 7th

What is one thing you can’t live without?

my family

Favorite rapper:
A) Kanye West
B) Kid Cudi
C) 2 Chainz
D) Rick Ross

When I grow up:

I want to be a real estate agent

My grades are:
A) better after joining ODA.
B) worse after joining ODA.
Name: Josue O’Neal
School: Wiley Middle School
Age: 12  Grade: 7th

If I wasn’t in ODA from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. I’d be:

Most days:
A) I’m hopeful.
B) I’m smiling.
C) I’m sad.
D) I’m lonely.

My favorite part of Open Doors Academy is:
Homework Group or Enrichment Time.

I live with:
A) my parents
B) my mom
C) my dad
D) someone else

My favorite color is: Blue.
Name: Timmya Cunningham
School: Miles Park
Age: 12  Grade: 7th

What do you want to do with your life?
I want to be a singer/dancer or an R&B.

Is the sun going to come up tomorrow?
Yes

My grades are:
A) better after joining ODA.
B) worse after joining ODA.

Open Doors Academy is:
A) A place I go after school.
B) A club I’m proud to belong to.
C) A family.
D) Both B and C.

I want to go to college.
True  False
NOW YOU HAVE A CHOICE:
SELECT FIVE STUDENTS WHO WON’T GRADUATE OR WRITE A CHECK TO OPEN DOORS ACADEMY AND HELP THEM ALL SUCCEED.

Nearly 50% of Cleveland’s high school students will not graduate.
100% of ODA students graduate from high school.
Thankfully, not all of our students have such a dramatic choice to make. But all of them have choices to make. Some could change their life in a very positive way. Some could send them down a path none of us would ever wish for them.

It’s a fact, juvenile crime rates peak between the hours of 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. But that’s not the only crime. Sometimes it’s loneliness, the wasted opportunity of another afternoon spent on the couch watching television, or the challenge of being both a kid and a babysitter for young siblings.

We create an environment where kids can feel comfortable and safe. We teach them skills that help them succeed in school and life.

We offer them opportunities they never thought they’d have. We create leaders, doers, and supporters of the right way to get things done. Our kids give back. They value community and they respect each other.

When you ask them “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Rarely are they at a loss for an answer. They know they’ll graduate high school. And they believe the future will be bright.

So you have a choice. Will you support our good work? Will you help us reach even more children in need? Please donate now. Even a small donation makes a huge difference.
OPEN DOORS ACADEMY WORKS TO NURTURE, PROTECT, INSPIRE AND CHALLENGE ADOLESCENTS TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL THROUGH THE PROVISION OF MEANINGFUL OUT-OF-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMMING IN A SAFE AND STRUCTURED ENVIRONMENT.
In Cleveland, only 52% of students who enter the ninth grade graduate from high school. Of those, only 23% will go to college and only 7% will graduate from college in six years. ODA’s program boasts a lifetime 100% high school graduation rate since its incorporation in 2002. Of its graduates, 88% have continued onward to college or a post-secondary education program, and its first class of three graduated in the Spring of 2012.

7+ years of continuous engagement from middle school through high school. ODA is the only program in Northeast Ohio that offers this support.

★ ★ ★

**ODA named a 2012 Top-Rated Children and Families Nonprofit by GreatNonprofits**

The leading provider of reviews and ratings of nonprofit organizations throughout the U.S.

2011-12 Alumni program transformed

It was the start of a more in-depth, structured program for our Alumni students, giving ODA the ability to provide support for its high school students in Cleveland, Euclid and Cleveland Heights-University Heights school systems.

Annemarie Grassi, ODA’s CEO, caught the crowd’s attention at Cleveland Social Venture Partner’s 2011 bigBANG! Conference held at CSU last fall. After hearing seven electrifying “Fast Pitch” presentations, the crowd chose ODA as the nonprofit they would most like to donate to.

Two donors supported ODA this year by providing two beautiful multifunction school activity (MFSAB) buses that allow us to transport students to special events. For example, during summer programming this year kids explored the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and these buses were used for transportation, making the experience possible.

The Afterschool Alliance (the largest and strongest afterschool network and advocacy organization in the country) selected ODA as one of the organizations that it will be using as a model program in its national resource on afterschool impact.

---

1. Forest Park Middle School, Euclid
2. Miles Park Elementary School, Cleveland
3. Roxboro Middle School at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Cleveland Heights
4. Wiley Middle School, University Heights
5. Euclid Central Middle School, Euclid

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Cupid’s Frolic, ODA’s 10 year anniversary celebration at the historic Tudor Arms Hotel honored St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Elizabeth Patterson, and Martha Young for their vision, leadership, and service to Open Doors Academy and Greater Cleveland’s youth. Miles Walker, a third-year engineering student at Ohio State and Carla Bailey, his mother, spoke about the impact ODA had on their lives.

“We are a local foundation that has supported Open Doors Academy for the past four years. We love the comprehensive, personalized nature of the after school model that Annemarie Grassi, the founder, designed and are consistently impressed with ODA’s success rates. Annemarie is an exceptional young leader and, along with ODA’s engaged, committed Board of Trustees, the sky is the limit as to what they can achieve. We are grateful for their nurturing and development of our community’s youth.”
—Deaconess Foundation

55 middle school students graduated from eighth grade and will move into ODA’s high school program this next year.

The Arts Showcase in August gave students the opportunity to display their artwork and to perform and share with an audience what they learned during the summer.

Daysha began the school year with a failing grade in math (based on previous school year grades). By the end of the second quarter in ODA’s program, she made the merit role at her school, and by the third quarter, she had a place on the honor role. On a parent survey, her mother wrote that ODA not only helped boost her daughter’s grades, but also increased her self-esteem and showed her that she was able to succeed.

20 different camps were offered during the eight weeks of summer camp. ODA kids created beautiful pieces of art, constructed raised vegetable gardens, rode bikes and trains while exploring the Cleveland Metroparks, built and programmed robots, worked in photoshop, baked calzones and pizzas, rode horses, played tennis, and so much more.
3,318
HOURS VOLUNTEERED AT LOCAL NONPROFITS BY ODA’S HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
High School Alumni Program formalized
ODA provided weekly tutoring sessions and apprenticeship workshops that taught students 21st century skills to prepare them to be successful in high school, college, and the workplace. One workshop taught students presentation and public speaking skills using the Prezi online software; another taught students creative and college essay writing.

ODA partnered with businesses on paid internship program
41 of our High School juniors and seniors were placed at organizations such as Shaker Lakes Nature Center, MetroHealth, Cleveland Clinic, Willoughby Hills Animal Hospital, Cleveland Heights Recreation Center, Case Western Reserve University, and Community Shares. In order to qualify for a paid internship, students were required to complete 75 hours of community service.

Michelle Williams, a Cleveland Heights alumni who this year is a Senior at Wickliffe High School, loves animals and caring for them. ODA secured a paid internship for Michelle at the Willoughby Hills Animal Hospital this summer. Her hopes for the future include going to Ohio State and becoming a veterinarian. She did a great job this summer and because of her efforts, she was offered a part-time job there during the school year.

Road Trip!
Alumni had the opportunity to go on two college tours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OHIO</th>
<th>ILLINOIS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1: The University of Findlay</td>
<td>4: Northwestern University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2: Ohio State University</td>
<td>5: Loyola University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3: Toledo University</td>
<td>6: DePaul University</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Happy Holidays!
Over 700 members of the Open Doors Academy family attended the 10th Annual Holiday Dinner at Euclid Manor. Santa Claus made a surprise appearance, bringing stockings filled with gloves, socks, and toothbrushes. ODA families ate and danced until the final song was played.

99% ODA parents completed their service requirement, contributing over 4,186 hours throughout the program year in 2011-12.

18 parent workshops were offered in each community with topics ranging from Know your Learning Style to Stress Management to Financial Literacy—all geared to meet the needs of our parents.

68 families were adopted by local businesses, individuals and churches as part of ODA’s Holiday Adopt-a-Family Program, which provides families with warm clothes and basic needs during the holiday season.
OF PARENTS COMPLETED 16 HOURS OF FAMILY PROGRAMMING, OVER 4,186 HOURS IN THEIR CHILDREN’S EDUCATION

88% College/Post-Secondary Education Rate*

110 High School and College Alumni Served

200 Middle School Students Served

*8% of ODA students have special needs that limit their ability to pursue higher education.
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

100%
## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

### Revenue and Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donations and Grants</td>
<td>582,712</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Service Revenue</td>
<td>54,259</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue and Support</strong></td>
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### Expenses

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<th>Category</th>
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<td>Enrichment Programs</td>
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<td>Management &amp; General</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Net Surplus (Deficit)</td>
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### Donations & Grants

<table>
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<th>Source</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Individual</td>
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<td>In-Kind</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>$582,712</strong></td>
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The Annual 2011-12 Financial Audit was conducted by Pease & Associates, Inc., and is available upon request.
PROVIDING INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION TO EACH CHILD IS IMPERATIVE TO HIS OR HER SUCCESS
2011/2012 STAFF

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Chief Executive Director

Ashlie Dyer, M.Ed. (2010-12)
Community Director

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Lennon Taylor, CPA (2011-12)
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Euclid Central Middle School

Jonathan Stone
Program Site Coordinator

Suzanne Cooper (2009-12)
Mentoring Coach

Sara Thomas
Mentoring Coach

Forest Park Middle School

Jerod Johnson
Program Site Coordinator

Sonya McNeil
Mentoring Coach

Brandon Sheil
Mentoring Coach

Wiley Middle School

Tenille Threatt
Program Site Coordinator

LaShon McKnight (2011-12)
Mentoring Coach

Cliff Sweeney (2005-12)
Mentoring Coach

CHUH Alumni Program

TaRhonda Ward
Alumni Coordinator

Cliff Sweeney (2005-12)
Cleveland Heights Alumni Coach

Steve Walker
Cleveland Heights Alumni Coach

Miles Park Elementary School

Ronnie Bryant, LSW
Program Site Coordinator

Felicia Haney
Mentoring Coach

David Ramos
Mentoring Coach

ODA Cleveland Alumni Program

David Ramos
Cleveland Alumni Coach

Euclid Alumni Program

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Roxboro/St. Paul’s Episcopal Church

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Artis Farmer
Mentoring Coach

Steve Walker
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James Reid
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Lucile Weingartner
Lisa & Allen Wiant
Geoffrey Williams
Kelley Williams
Beverly Wilson
Loyal & Margaret Wilson
Anne S. Wise
Martha & Brent Young

Tributes

In Honor of EB and Greg Donley and our grandchildren Drew and Gwen Donley
*Rita and William Bruce*

In Honor of Elizabeth Patterson, M.D.
*Deb & Les Nash*

In Honor of Deanna Rankin
*Mark & Sue Chambers
Elizabeth Morris*

In Honor of Alyssa Spall & Jack Insana
*Steve Spall*

In Honor of Louise Westfall
*Kurt Barrett*

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Laura Ambro, The Owens Group
Anne Ames
Cindy Ames
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Sally Bosley
Dan and Melissa Campbell
(with kids Leslie and Madeline)
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Lerner Research Institute, Cleveland
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and Lilly)
Jennifer Hartz
Jill Hawkins
Tawana Hills
Sarah Johnson, Case Western
Reserve University, University and
Marketing Communications
Abbey Jones
Gerald and Janet Jordan
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Karen Kelly (with Sally, Kristin, Stacey, and Karen)
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Marilyn Kempf
Mark and Mary Anne LaRose
Lauren Leblanc
Pat LoPresti
Tim Meyer, Hyatt Regency Cleveland
Julia Mitchener
Jonida Morrelli
Andrew Morris
Anita Murphy, Euclid Schools
Tusiime Ndyajunwoha
Patty North
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Paul Sobota
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Virgina Taylor
Nicki Turco
Catherine Veres, Cornerstone Family Office
Lyn Weber
Cindy Zawadski
**IN-KIND DONATIONS**

**Programming Sites**

- Miles Park Elementary School/ Cleveland Metropolitan School District
- Forest Park Middle School/ Euclid City School District
- Central Middle School/ Euclid City School District
- Euclid High School/ Euclid City School District
- Wiley Middle School/ Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District
- St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Cleveland Heights
- Cleveland Heights-University Heights Library

**Middle school students receive a meal each day from**

The Cleveland Foodbank

---

**The following local businesses & individuals contributed items and services**

- Abstract A Hair Salon
- African Safari Wildlife Park
- ARC Creative Group
- Benihana, Inc.
- BD’s Mongolian Barbeque
- Ellen Berglund
- Bialy’s Bagels
- Bradford Renaissance Portraits
- Bruegger's
- Charles Scott West
- Cinemark Valley View
- Cleveland Browns
- Cleveland Clinic
- Cleveland Cinemas
- Cleveland City Dance
- Cleveland Improv Comedy Club & Restaurant
- Cleveland Marriott
- Downtown at Key Center
- Cleveland Museum of Art
- Cleveland Orchestra
- Cleveland Zoological Society
- Community Connection
- The Corner Alley
- Costco
Open Doors Academy gratefully acknowledges our generous donors. We apologize for any errors or omissions as we strive for excellence in all donor reporting. Please call our Development team at 216-229-1900, to report any inaccuracies. We would like to thank Little Jacket and Paul Sobota Photography for donating a significant portion of their services for our annual report. We would not have been able to provide such a beautiful representation of our organization without their talent and generosity.

David Rankin Watercolors  Sandra Ledyard  Ten Thousand Villages
Dewey's Pizza  Luna Bakery  Tommy’s
Doubletree by Hilton Cleveland Downtown-Lakeside  Melt Bar and Grilled  Tudor Arms Hotel, DoubleTree by Hilton
Ensemble Theatre  Mitchell’s Fish Market  United Skates of America
The Fairmount Martini and Wine Bar  Nationwide Insurance (Tim Khayat)  Valhalla Garden Design’s Inc.
Famous Footwear Employees  Nicola, Gudbranson & Cooper (Rick Cooper)  Richard S. Wesorick, Esq., Tarolli, Sundheim, Covell & Tummino LLP
Fun ‘N’ Stuff  On the Rise  Wonder Bar
Good Greens  Phoenix Coffee  YMCA-Hillcrest Branch
Heights Family Health  Punderson Manor State Park
Hoggy’s Restaurant and Catering  Rascal House Pizza, University Heights
Jared’s The Galleria of Jewelry  Regal Entertainmen Group/Richmond Town Square
Jeff Harrell  Shaker Square Popcorn Shop
Joan Horowitz  Silver Lake Wellness (Dr. Richard Silver)
John Carroll University, Center for Service & Social Action  Stir Crazy Restaurant
Lake Erie Monsters  Studio Taylor on Fairmount
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Class of 2012
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Northwood University
Phylicia Delic
Northwood University

Class of 2013
Samantha Adkins
Valdosta State
Megan McCoy
Cornell University
Taylor Smith
Ohio University
Avery Tucker
Ohio University
Miles Walker
Ohio State University
Grace Walters
Cleveland State University
Chelsea Williams
University of Cincinnati

Class of 2014
Adria Adams
University of Toledo
Mason Adkins
Cleveland State University
Tatiana Butler
Harvard University
Liam Corrigan
Ohio State University
Lydia Craddock
Armstrong Atlantic State University
Ashley Grimes
Emory University
Emily King
Oberlin College
Alexandra Miller
Columbia University
Marcus Primes
Purdue University
Taylor Reynolds
Kent State University
Rienna Scott
Bowling Green University
Donald Thomas
University of Louisville
Lache Thomas
Lincoln University
Dwight Williams
University of Akron
Corbyn Wright
Spelman University

Class of 2015
Ericka Alexander
University of Toledo
Ciaran Cohen
Cleveland State University
Marcel Dear
University of Akron
Michael Mackie-Kwist
Hogeschool Van Amsterdam
Ajia Mason
Bowling Green State University
Charlie McCoy
Cleveland State University
Francine Parsons
University of Toledo
Kareen Sanders
Moody Bible Institute
Lorin Smith
Brown University
Carvellus St. Cyr
Cleveland State University
Erik Taylor
Cuyahoga Community College

Class of 2016
Trent Bailey
University of Iowa
Will Walters
Ohio State University
Courtney Martin
Americorp, North Carolina
Habitat for Humanity
Josh Dear
United States Air Force
Since my first year at Open Doors in 2002, I have seen how the program has influenced all of its students and how it has expanded to better benefit its clients. As a sixth-grader, I was very shy and introverted, but throughout my middle school years ODA helped me to cultivate my leadership skills and learn how to make my thoughts heard and respected by my peers. I continued to profit from ODA programming during high school as we travelled to Harlan, KY to build homes each summer, and I took advantage of each opportunity to reunite with my middle school friends and the ODA staff. I am now entering my senior year of college, and I am beginning my second summer in a row working for ODA as a summer program assistant. Because of my continuous involvement with this program, I can personally vouch for the good it brings to the Greater Cleveland community. ODA has helped me in several areas of my life, and I honestly believe that I have benefitted academically, professionally, and personally from my engagement with the program. ODA provides such wonderful opportunities to all of its students, and I can only hope that it will continue to expand and reach an even wider portion of the Greater Cleveland community.

Megan McCoy, ODA Alumni
Thanks to the 2011/2012 annual report camp participants. They spent a week learning the art of storytelling at Little Jacket this summer and all contributed significantly to this year’s report.

*Top:* Yidiayah Box • Benetta Trobel • Steve Walker (Staff) • Timmya Cunningham • Xavier O’Neil • Devon Devezin

*Bottom:* Yazmyne White • Courtney Herrod • Blue McDaniel • Sarah Morgan • Gabriel Pewu (Not pictured)

**Design:** Little Jacket  |  **Photography:** Paul Sobota