

“YES WE CAN AND YES WE DID!”

On February 27, 2008, **“If I were president”** was the opening theme from our Kindergarteners at the African American Heritage Program presented that evening. Who would have thought in our lifetime, that we, our children, our grandchildren, or even our great grandchildren would legitimately aspire to the highest office of this country? And then on January 20, 2009 we inaugurated the first African American President, Mr. Barack Obama. This is fact: “we hold in our children the grandest possibilities of all as they aspire to ‘be all they can be’ and we must challenge them to dream and dream big.” These are no longer clichés, but realities as these young people will attain greatness in any and every endeavor they attempt.

And to that end, we here at Union County TEAMS. Charter School, have taken on the responsibility of making it happen through a renewed five year charter and expansion from Kindergarten through High School. Yes, we did! The Commissioner, Lucille E. Davy under the seal of Governor Jon S. Corzine has approved our charter through 2013 - 2014 *“based on the school’s academic progress, the school’s ongoing examination of its results to guide improvements and the commitment exhibited by the school’s administration and board.”* These words seal our goal for the next five years to provide exceptional educational opportunities for students in all grades beginning with 20 new sixth graders in the coming year and moving our eighth graders into a ninth grade high school program.

Parents and Family members, we have an obligation to support and preserve the dreams of our young people. Education is a tool, yet it is the greatest tool we have to combat ignorance and reach mountains of greatness. As stated once before, UC TEAMS Charter school provides many learning opportunities for our children in this learning community. Technology is a tool for the 21st century and we must continue to become technologically astute. Architecture and engineering are not far fetched goals when students know and love math and science. Eighth grade parents, join us as we validate the hopes and dreams of your children in the new millennium. Our goal of one to one technology will be a reality in 2009—2010. We will ensure that every high school student has a computer to be used as a distance learning instrument and provide access to a worldwide network of information (safety filters and other safeguards provided). New high school standards have been adopted by the New Jersey Department of Education and we are ready to administer them in our course of study outline for our high school program. ([See Curriculum](#))

Many of you took a chance with us at the inception of UC TEAMS, in September 2005, now we seek your support as we launch out again into the deep. We challenge you, to allow us, to take your young people from Kindergarten through high school graduation ensuring that they will attend the college of their choice and pledge to follow them until completion as they become the new professionals, movers and shakers of this new millennium. If we lock arms together, we will continue to prove **‘We Are Community Builders’** and nothing will be impossible. **YES WE CAN!**

Yours in Making Dreams Realities,

Sheila L. Thorpe

Executive Director/Founder