



review



Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.

Youth Forum Participant One Of Only Two In The Miami Valley To Receive Bill Gates Millennium Scholarship

"I was yelling and screaming and jumping all over the place," exclaims Stephanie Rucker, a member of the DUL Youth Forum, referring to the day she found out she had been awarded the highly sought after Bill Gates Millennium Scholarship. One of only 13 in Ohio to receive the award, Gates Millennium Scholars receive funding to cover all costs related to the



Bill Gates Scholar Stephanie Rucker

scholar's undergraduate and graduate work at any school of the students choosing.

Rucker's journey to becoming a Bill Gates Scholar began in 2005. Her mother, Stephanie Draper, a member of the DUL Young Professionals, encouraged her daughter throughout the process. "I kept telling her she could do it." It was a long process, but Rucker received the official word in May 2006. Rucker, already a high achiever at her high school Colonel White School For the Arts, was primed and posi-

Millennium Scholarship cont'd on page 3

2006 Career/Job Fair—Huge Success

On Thursday July 13, the DUL building was filled to capacity as the 3rd Annual Professional Career/Job Fair was hosted by DUL and Indiana Wesleyan University with media support from Radio One.

The building was filled to capacity as 49 employers were kept busy supplying information and job applications to the hundreds of men and women who came seeking a chance at possible job opportunities. They came from near and far, from all backgrounds, races and religions. The job fair, which began at 10:00 a.m., had approximately 200 persons come through the doors by noon. By the end, nearly 430 people had come through the door, a 50% increase from 2004. What a great turnout! Even more phenomenal is that over 70 attendees were interviewed on the spot with some being hired on the spot!

On-site interviewing and hiring took place as well as the submission of numerous applications. The responses from the employers, as well as the participants, were that the Job Fair was an outstanding event - well planned, well attended and well worth the time and effort.

Anthony Long, DUL Employment Coordinator, and the DUL staff coordinated this event and we are hopeful that some lucky persons will hear the words "You're Hired."



Job Fair participants



Walgreen's Staff seeking Store Managers



Stuart Schramm - Talent Tree Staffing, Marge Mulberry-Bowser Morner and Anthony Long-DUL Employment Coordinator



State Highway Patrol recruits applicants

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Dayton Urban League's 59th Annual Dinner in Review

"Success Is" was the theme for this year's dinner as success was exhibited and witnessed. The capacity crowd of community corporate supporters, members and concerned citizens came out in abundance to support the annual dinner fundraiser. Al Wofford, Founder/CEO, CDO Technologies, Inc. served as the honorary chairperson.

As customary, a youth reception was held prior to the dinner. The DUL's future depends on the youth of today. Congratulations to the DUL scholarship recipients (see page 3 for information about the scholarship recipients).

The keynote speaker Gregory L. Moore, Editor of the Denver Post, shared his concerns about care for those in poverty and competitiveness in education; the global world and the fact that we have fallen further academically, and finding the courage to embrace your history. Moore shared this advice to the young people on the topic of success, "The single best piece of advice I've ever gotten is that success is about effort. I describe it by saying we need to be like a duck. A duck cruises effortlessly across the surface of the water, but underneath, he is paddling like mad."



A crowd of nearly 1,400 turnout for the Annual Dinner



DUL Chairperson, Sharon D. Howard with DUL Board member and membership chair, Dr. Karen M. R. Townsend announce the winner of the Dayton Dragon Skybox Giveaway sponsored by Dayton Power and Light



Douglas Franklin, President and CEO of Cox Ohio Publishing takes picture with Willie F. Walker, DUL President and CEO; Gregory L. Moore, Keynote Speaker; and Al Wofford, Honorary Dinner Chairperson



Urban Youth United performs for youth reception

Millennium Scholarship cont'd on page 1

tioned academically to achieve such a feat. Her time in Youth Forum gave her an opportunity to do a number of a community service projects. "I participated in fundraising activities to help purchase items for needy families. We also adopted a family at Christmas," Rucker recalls. She officially started her college career last week at Clemson University in South Carolina, where she will be studying Biomedical Engineering. Her career goal is to become a neurosurgeon, which is something she has dreamed of since she was 8 years old. "She would do brain surgery with her stuffed animals," her mother

"She would do brain surgery with her stuffed animals," her mother remembers.

remembers.

"We are proud of Stephanie and look forward to more Bill Gates Scholars coming out of the Youth Forum program," stated Charles Davis, Youth Forum advisor.

Rucker wants to encourage other young people to reach for their dreams, "You've got to take advantage of the opportunities around you. It doesn't matter what kind of

school you go to, where you were raised or the type of family you come from. If you have to a positive mindset, you can make it."

To learn more about the Bill Gates Millennium Scholarship, go to www.gmsp.org. For more information about Youth Forum, go to www.daytonurbanleague.org.

2005 Annual Dinner Speaker Becomes 2006 Annual Dinner Scholar

Aisha Richardson wowed the 2005 Annual Dinner crowd with her moving testimony of how the Dayton Urban League program Self Expression For Girls Only (SEFGO) and her mentor, Monica Walker-Floyd, Program Specialist of SEFGO, helped her find her voice and place in life. This year, she wowed the crowd again, when she, along with Barry Stiles, Jr., were awarded a

\$4,000 scholarship from WHIO Channel 7. Richardson, a 2006 graduate of Mound Street Academies program, plans to attend Central State University for Education and/or Business Administration in the Fall. Richardson credits much of her success to



WHIO Scholars Aisha Richardson and Barry Stiles, Jr. (centered) at the Youth Reception with WHIO TV Channel 7 General Manager, Harry Delaney (left) and DUL President and CEO, Willie Walker

the support of family, teachers, her mentor, Monica Walker-Floyd, Program Specialist of Self Expression and everything she learned while at the Dayton Urban League. To learn more about Self Expression For Girls Only, go to www.daytonurbanleague.org.

Walk the Walk and talk the talk DUL Board Recognized For Its Work In Diversity

The Dayton Urban League was highlighted in the June 16th edition of the Dayton Business Journal for its on-going efforts to diversify its 25 member board. Led by entrepreneur and national speaker, Burnette Clingman, the DUL Board Nomination Committee has been working diligently to ensure the Board is reflective of the community it serves in gender, age, race and culture. "By being culturally reflective of the community internally, our expectation is that the services delivered will be culturally sensitive to the clients we serve. It is something that every non-profit and for-profit, government and non-government should embrace and do," stated Willie Walker, president and CEO of the Dayton Urban League referring to the work of the nomination committee. The article has brought some much needed attention to the League, the work it does and its true commitment to diversity. But more importantly, we hope, it has encouraged others [organizations] to follow our lead. The essence of this is stated in the article by Sharon D. Howard, DUL Board chairman and executive director of WDTN-TV Channel 2, "There are other boards that will probably look at The Dayton Urban League and what we have done and what we have accomplished and mirror what we have done."

See the full article posted on the Dayton Urban League website – www.daytonurbanleague.org.



GE Scholars (from l to r) Cedric Riley, Desmond Wilson, Maria Ogletree, Donedra Montgomery, Tre Heflin-King and Lindsay Holloman.



Greg Pittman, VP of Multi-Client Service, GE Retail Sales Finance

Berry Company Awards Dayton Urban League Youth Program \$2,500

Nancy Lowe had never heard of the Dayton Urban League until she was asked to serve on the economic development committee of the Berry Company. "I was asked to find an organization to recommend for funding and a colleague suggested I check out the Dayton Urban League." She immediately went to her office, got on-line and located the League's

website. The information she gathered on the website led her to Yvette Kelly-Fields, Director of Development of the League, to gather more information. At the end of the conversation, Lowe encouraged Kelly-Fields to submit a proposal for the League's On-Target Youth Employment Program. Although it was Lowe's first time participating in the committee, she was successful in getting the

program funded. "We are happy to support such a valuable program and look forward to hearing about its successes!" exclaimed Heidi Picnich, Community Relations Specialist of the Berry Company.

For several years, the League has been the recipient of funds from Montgomery County Department of Jobs and Family Services to provide employment and academic assistance to youth ages 14 – 21. However, due to stringent eligibility guidelines, there were a number of youth who didn't qualify for the program. "This gift from the Berry Company will allow us to assist additional youth who don't qualify for the county funded program but are in desperate need of our services," said Leon Hardin, Director of Employment.

The On-Target Youth Employment Program is a 4-week program that provides employability skills, computer training and several off-site field trips.

CHARTING A PATH

The DUL Career Pathways is making great strides in preparing men and women to meet an employer's needs head-on. Just knowing what to expect, what to wear, how to act, what to say, and when and how to exhibit your interview manners is paying off for those persons enrolled in the Career Pathways program who are seeking an audience with Human Resource personnel.



Mayola Taylor

Victoria Lewis, the DUL Training Coordinator for the Career Pathways program, says it was through the collaboration with US Bank and its Human Resource manager, Mayola Taylor, that this program has progressed to another level. Says Taylor, "Too whom much is given, much is required, and I just wanted an opportunity to give back in appreciation for all the blessings that I have received." Taylor feels that if she can help just one person impress an employer enough to get hired then her work will not have been in vain. Says Taylor, "Job candidates may not be aware of all the positive things to do in an interview that will set them apart from the rest." The second week of the three-week Career Pathway program is spent with Taylor

sharing all of her human resource secrets of do's and don'ts.

US Bank, the sixth largest bank in the United States, went even further to fulfill its desire to reach out and help as it took a chance on one of the participants in the class who showed assertiveness, determination, interest, drive, ambition, and the desire to work by employing this person at one of its branch offices. Says Taylor, "To my knowledge, the young lady is working out just fine. It does my heart good to be able to share and make a dif-



The first graduating class of the Career Pathways Training Program - Fonda Florence, Darlene Bowman, Stephanie Ponder and Victoria Lewis, Training Manager. Not pictured is Noah White.

ference in someone's life. I vowed that if I ever got in a position to give back – that I would." Taylor extends an open invitation to other groups to use the skills and talents that she possesses in launching a career pathway for young adults. For more information about the Career Pathways Program, go to www.daytonurbanleague.org.

Article about Male Responsibility Program Garners Gift

Patricia Cashdollar (yes, that is her real name) had never heard of the Dayton Urban League until she saw an article about its Male Responsibility Program in the Dayton Daily News earlier this year. "I was so moved by the article that I just felt compelled to do something," stated Cashdollar. Determine to support the MRP, she made an unannounced visit to the League and gave a generous donation to the program. "I was floored. I couldn't believe it," Anthony Long, employment specialist for League said upon acceptance of the check. "Everyone was out of the office, so I was only one available to take the check. My

Cashdollar cont'd on page 11

Phoenix Project Youth Program Completes 2nd Successful Year

On July 7, the Phoenix Youth Employment Program graduated its second class of youth from its intensive 4 week employment training program. The Phoenix Program is a partnership of the Dayton Urban League, Unified Health Solutions and CityWide Development designed to help youth living in the area around Good Samaritan Hospital gain employment training skills and to address the issue of economically empowering youth. This program provided an intensive job readiness curriculum and a certified computer training piece. "100% of the students who participated in the program increased their employability skills by 75%. Most of the youth have entered into other training programs or employment," explained Dr. Dawn Morton, Phoenix Program Manager, "One young person has

actually been able to use his computer training to secure a position at a computer repair company." In addition to the training, youth were exposed to executive and management level professionals and participated in college campus and com-

pany/industry tours within the Dayton area. Each youth earned a stipend for their participation in the program and will receive up to six months of follow-up services including permanent placement in part-time employment.

From Tragedy to Triumph

"Please help me, my daughter needs this program," was the initial cry from Ms. Porothea Dennis registering one of her daughters for The Dayton Urban League Self-Expression for Girls Only Program two years ago. Anikka Barker is a 15 year old, freshman who will be attending Dunbar High School in the fall with dreams of becoming an OB/GYN.

At such a young age, Anikka has seen her share of ups and downs in her life. As a result, she would find comfort in running away from home to hang out in the streets. She would cut class, skip school and not do any homework. She thought that she could successfully take advantage of what the streets had to offer. The streets offered her much disappointment such as; seeing her friends being killed, being involved in fights, being introduced to drugs and alcohol, and escaping from aggravated assault.

She never knew why her mother, a registered nurse, would stay up late at night after working a late shift in the emergency room waiting by the door for her to come home, waiting by the phone to hear "I'm okay", and/or driving around town to see if she could see her on the streets to bring her home. It was not until Spring of 2005 that Anikka realized that she had to make a plan to make a difference within her life. She promised her uncle on his death bed that she would go to school, study hard, stay out of trouble and stay focused.

"I do not want to break ANY promis-

es," Anikka said. Anikka is honoring those promises and is making a complete turn around. She stated that it had been the support of the Self-Expression for Girls Only program, Monica Walker-Floyd, the Program Coordinator, and the program volunteers giving her words of encouragement and her family always being there for her to make a change for the better. She stated that, "my attitude is changing because I walked away from a confrontation at school and I am glad



Anikka Baker with her mother, Porothea Dennis

to be graduating from the 8th grade."

Ms. Pamela Wilson, a fourth year SEFGO volunteer, has worked with Anikka since she enrolled into the program and is so happy to see the progress Anikka has made because she was headed down the wrong path in life. "She has so much potential to be so successful in life."

Anikka's goal is to attend school every day, bring her grades up, stay away from people that will bring her down and take more initiative to be a leader among her peers to steer them away from what she has been through.

National Urban League Convention held in Atlanta

Thousands upon thousands of savvy and committed African-American professionals, emerging leaders and influencers, corporate, government and people from every strata of industry and academia from all over the country descended upon Atlanta in July for the National Urban League's 2006 Convention: Building Economic Power for Black America. Among those in attendance was a delegation of Dayton Urban League staff and board members as well as members from the DUL Young Professionals, the Guild and Youth Forum.

This power packed four day conference, with major support from Coca-Cola and UPS, was kicked off with a resounding keynote address from NUL President and CEO, Marc H. Morial who spoke of the victorious renewal of the Voting Rights

NUL cont'd on page 7

Second Chances

Kendall Thornton has experienced a lot in twenty years of life. At a very young age, Thornton, described by others as having been a lively sometimes mischievous little boy, was raised by his grandparents during his toddler years. As he grew, he quickly became more than they could handle, he was placed into foster care and began a life that he referred to as "being in the system". "I just went from home to home. One guy wanted to adopt me, but he died of a heart attack in the middle of the process." However, what could have been a tragedy turned into a blessing. "I was gathering my stuff to move and went down to my friends to say good bye. When my friend's mother saw me, she immediately decided to adopt me. She later told me she had a dream about adopting a boy. That boy was me!" Thornton's life went well for awhile, but adolescence and changes in his home life began causing problems. "My mom got married and things just began changing." He moved in with his sister, but her work schedule prevented her from being able to provide the kind of oversight a teenage boy needed. Back home, he ran into problems with his stepfather and his interest in school was at 0. He

dropped out of school and got his own place.

Again, things went well for a while, but his immaturity and the pressures of being on his own began to take its toll. "My girlfriend and I had a falling out and my finances were a wreck. I was spending more money than I was making." Soon he was looking at the prospect of homelessness and decided he quickly needed to make some decisions about his life.

While working a variety of odd jobs and trying to maintain a place to stay, he decided that he needed a more stable, better paying job. His sister suggested the Dayton Urban League where her husband had just received assistance in finding a job. This is where he met Phyllis Lovelace, DUL Targeted Community Based Collaborative (TCBC) Program Coordinator. "I told him he needed his GED before he could get any type of good job. After he explained about his living situation and family life, I worked with him to get him back on track." Kendall



Kendall Thornton, a DUL GED graduate received a \$500 Scholarship to attend Sinclair Community College from the 2006 Black Leadership Development Class

needed a stable place to live, so Lovelace encouraged his mother to let him move back home with the expectation he would get his GED. His mother agreed and within two months he had his GED.

"It was easy to work with Kendall," stated Lisa Enright. "He aced all of the practice tests the first day. He didn't need much help except in Math."

With his GED secured, Thornton has enrolled in Sinclair Community College's Automotive Technology Program. His efforts in the GED program also got him a \$500 college scholarship from the 2006 DUL Black Leadership Development Class. His dream is to own a dealership. While he is a "GM man", he is keeping his options open. He hopes to get a job at a dealership while working on his degree.

As Thornton reflects on his life, he is thankful for his second chance. "There comes a time in life where you have to make decisions. The key is not to wait too late in life to make those decisions."

LaShell Ammons, Using Her Pain To Heal Others

GED Graduate Overcomes Past To Move Into Future

With only a duffel bag and the \$10 left over from her paycheck, after purchasing a bus ticket to Dayton, LaShell Ammons left the scars of Chattanooga, Tennessee behind to face an uncertain future in Ohio. "I had just gotten into an argument with my roommate over something that seemed really major at the time and I just decided I had to go. I just



LaShell Ammons on graduation day

packed up my stuff and said 'I'm out'. I had relatives in Dayton and decided that was where I was heading." And she never looked back until this past June when she was delivering her graduation speech at the Montgomery County GED Graduation ceremony. It was during her preparation for the speech she began to reflect on how she got to that moment.

The product of a recent divorce, Ammons and her mother moved from Ohio to Chattanooga at the beginning of her high school years. "I was

feeling a lot a stress from the divorce and the move. I just couldn't get motivated to go to school. Then I had a stroke," Ammons stated reflecting on that day in 2000. What started out, as what Ammons described, as a "bad" headache turned out to be the beginning signs of a stroke. Within hours, the entire left side of her face had become paralyzed. She was rushed to the hospital and treated immediately. Although physically she survived, mentally and spiritually she was drained. "The disfiguration of my face made me turn inward. I didn't go anywhere for

Pain/Cont'd on page 10

One Change Made The Difference

Hearts of fire creates love desire

Take you high and higher to the world you belong

Hearts of fire creates love desire

High and higher to your place on the throne

Listening to the words of Earth, Wind and Fire's song "That's The Way of The World" immediately takes you back to the days of great music and good times, which can be good when your reminiscing but not when your trying to get a job. Crystal Wirts learned that when she attended a DUL employment training session led by Anthony Long, Employment Coordinator. Wirts had been working in the social service field for over ten years when she suddenly found herself without a job. Not one to waste time, Wirts immediately began her job hunt at the Dayton Urban League, where she met Anthony Long.

During the session, Long told the class to be careful about the kind of message they had on their answering machine

while looking for a job. "You don't want an employer to call you and hear something on your voicemail that may make them think twice about interviewing or hiring you," Long explained. Wirt's, a fan of Earth, Wind and Fire, had one of their songs on her machine. "It seemed harmless to me, but when I asked Tony about it directly, his eyes almost popped out of his head."

Long explained that the song may be harmless but it is not appropriate. Wirts went home and changed it. Within days, she had a job interview with Wright State University and was hired. "Tony said we could change the voice mail back after we get the job, but I never did." Since that time, Wirts has changed positions and is now working for Montgomery County as a County Champion. She credits her ability to secure promotions and better jobs to what she learned at the League.

She encourages everyone seeking a job to follow the advice of the employment

staff at DUL, "You never know who may call you. A sensible message makes a difference."

NUL Conference from page 5

Act, despite some resistance from what Morial called "a small group of interveners at best, obstructionist at worst" and the future of Black America.

Throughout the conference, attendees received knowledge, insight and expertise from business powerhouses Michael Eskew, Chairman and CEO of UPS, Herman J. Russell, Chairman of H. J. Russell and Company, Janice Bryant Howroyd, Chairman and CEO of the Act I Group of Companies and the Honorable Shirley Franklin, Mayor of the City of Atlanta. But the convention was not all work and no play; attendees had the opportunity to hear the soulful sounds of Angie Stone and Gladys Knight and to laugh with comedy kings D. L. Hughley and Earthquake. As always the conference stirred those in attendance from the Dayton Urban League to come back to this community and make a difference.

"One of the highlights of this year's national convention was having so many people representing the Dayton Urban League in attendance. To have people from the Board, Guild, Young Professionals and staff all benefiting from the workshops and networking can only make our organization much stronger!" commented Board Chairman Sharon D. Howard.

Next year's convention will be held in St. Louis, Missouri. To listen to the full speech of Marc Morial and others, go to www.nul.org and click on 2006 National Urban League Conference.

Practice Makes Passing

The expression, "if at first you don't succeed, try, and try again," is best exemplified by Rodney Benson, Dunbar High School 2006 graduate. The Dayton Urban League's Ohio Proficiency Test Preparation staff salutes this young man for his never give up attitude.

Rodney came to the DUL as a freshman needing to pass all five (5) parts of the 9th Grade Ohio Proficiency Test (OPT). To say he was not concerned about passing would be an understatement! He did not want to attend the classes but his mother, Francia Davis, insisted that he attend anyway. During the first couple of years, while here, he was a true "social butterfly." The summer prior to his senior year, it apparently hit him that he still needed to pass all five parts if he planned to graduate with his class. From that point on, he was a very serious young man and worked hard. While he did not pass all five parts during

the summer of 2005, he did pass the Reading and Citizenship sections. His real motivation for the fall session came when he saw his math and science scores increased by 20 points.

This story truly has a happy ending. Rodney passed the last three parts (Writing, Math and Science) of the OPT during the fall testing cycle. The beautiful and most inspirational part for Rodney and his mother was that his grade point average rose accordingly to over a 3.0 and he was finally able to play basketball.

Rodney ended his high school career on a positive note, even being allowed to play on Dunbar's state champion basketball team.

From the Dayton Urban League's staff, congratulations to Rodney and his mother who drug him (kicking and screaming) to success.

We are proud to salute all our graduates from the 2005 – 2006 program year.

Black Leadership Development Program

Erin L. Brigham Dynetta M. Brown
Annesa L. P. Cheek Matthew Cole
Donnielle M. Graham Leon Hardin
David K. Harris Timothy J. Jumper

Male Responsibility Program

Robert Gooden Desmond Henderson
O'Brien Johnson Ronald Manson
Marcus Wright

Targeted Community Based Collaborative and GED

LaShell Ammons
Anthony Best
Cornell Burch
Erika Crawford
John Debarker
Markita Dilliard
Shatonna Dominic
Vateema Frosh
Shaun Garrett
Michelle Gauling

Branden Hawley
Mario Jefferson
Harold Jones
Julie Knight
LaShelle Leonard
Jennifer Lynch
Nicole Maze
Dhana Morris
Samuel Rodgers
Kendall Thornton
LaToya Williams
Ebony Woodfork



The 2006 Black Leadership Development Class

Charta L. Lacey David E. Lawrence
Marcus L. Lea Jacquelyn L. McPherson
Willie L. Morris, III LaTonia J. Peak-Brown
Lisa A. Rucker Kenya K. Taylor
Celestine E. Taylor-Davis

Walker Hickman, III
Lesa Jones
Marvin Kennedy
Curtis Land
Amanda Lockard
Meagan Matheny
Kenyetta Monie
Phillip Richardson
Melissa Sanders
Angel Tillman
Arnesha Williams

Living Insights Future Education

Ashley Fayton Rhonda Fayton
Shannon Liddell

Construction Trades Technology Program in partnership with Sinclair Community College

Tischa Coates Tonya Jackson *
Alvin Merritt Victor Pate
Jerry Scott Manu Scott
Richard Scott

* Graduated with 4.0 GPA

Self Expressions For Girls Only

Aisha Richardson

Youth Forum

Ashley Fayton Rhonda Fayton
Stephanie Rucker ** Jerron Vinson

** Bill Gates Millennium Scholar

Introducing New Board Members

We are happy to welcome aboard the following members to the Dayton Urban League's Board of Directors:

Heather Martin, editor of the Dayton Business Journal, came to Dayton in 1998



Heather Martin

to assume the position of managing editor with the DBJ, a weekly paper dedicated solely to reporting local breaking business news and information.

She was named editor in 1999. Martin has an extensive academic background with a bachelor's degree in English from Wittenberg University and a master's degree from the MeDill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. Martin has been a professional journalist for 15 years starting her career as a reporter for the Centerville-Bellbrook Times. Her freelance work has been published in national and local newspapers and magazines in Louisville, Chicago and Northern Virginia/D.C.

Martin serves on numerous boards including the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce, WYSO 91.3 FM, the Food Bank, the Dayton Development Coalition and Wittenberg University. She is a member of the Dayton Rotary Club, an alumnus of the 2005 Leadership Dayton Program and is an actress at the Dayton Theatre Guild. Martin is also the honorary chair for Dayton Habitat for Humanity's 2006 Women build. She is wife of Brian and the mother of Simon.

Kevin R. McKinney is a Morehouse Man. Graduating cum laude from Morehouse College with a degree in finance, he is an innovative, assertive, and results-oriented professional with 15 years of financial management experience. McKinney possesses a financial savvy and has



Kevin R. McKinney

New members cont'd on page 11

Dayton Urban League Lifetime Members

In our last issue of the Review, we recognized all of the new Circle of Influence Members. In this issue, we want to highlight our many lifetime members. Since the inception of the COI

program, we have had number of people decide to become lifetime members and friends of the League. They are as follows:

Dr. Gideon Adegbile
AKA Sorority,
Eta Omega Chapter
Josephine Alexander
Pastor Dr. Robert E. Baines Jr.
and Daphene Baines

Elizabeth Banks
Robert S. Brown
Clinton Brown
Genya Bukh
Adolphus Butler
Jean Campbell
Maceo Clarke Jr.
William Clemmens
Burnette Clingman
Diane Cole
Corinthian Baptist Church



Lifemembers Pastor Dr. Robert E. Baines Jr. and Daphene Baines

Marva Cosby
Mayble Craig
Charles Davis, Jr.
Dayton Chapter Links
Dayton Public Schools
Del-Sigma Foundation,
Inc.
Delta Sigma Theta
Sorority, Inc.
Martine' Dunn
Roselle Ellis

Roberta Elston
John Finley
Dr. Connie Kennedy Galloway
Dr. John and
Carolyn Garland

*Lifemember
Dr. Victor
McCarley
with friends,
Yvette Kelly-Fields
and A. J. Casey*



Bernadette Gerren
Talbert Grooms &
Associates, Fenty Estate
Trent Grooms
Reverend Perry E. Henderson
Tanya Hopson
Mary Hugley
Alma Jackson
James E. Jones Jr.
Earl Kelly
Joe A. Lambright
John Langenbahn
LaFrancine Lewis
Llyod and Edythe Lewis
Maurice Lewis
Joseph Martin, Sr.
Carol Mason
Belinda Matthews-Stenson
Charles and Reverend Dr.
Jerrie McGill
Cheryl Davis McNeal
Sebastian Melluzzo

Quentin and Kenya Messer
Metropolitan Civic Women
Virginia Miles
C.V. Mitchell, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert and

Miriam Roundtree
Jan Rudd
St. Luke Missionary Baptist
Church
Raymond and Roberta
Shackelford
Shiloh Baptist Church
Levon Simmons
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Sims
Annette Smith
John Oscar Smith
John Stahler
Todd and Daria Stone
Grace Tate
Ida Taylor
Willie Terrell, Jr.
Nellie Terrell
James Thomas
Albert Thompson
Paul and Linda Tofte
Sharon Tolliver
Willie and Frizall Walker
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Wehule-
Einhorn
Terrance Wheaton
Dr. James Williams
Doris Wilson



*Lifemember
Cynthia Spearman*

The DUL Guild Elects New Officers

Dyan Gibbons, long time supporter and member of the Dayton Urban League Guild, was elected as its new president at the June meeting. She will be succeeding Ms. Dora Garner who during her tenure provided great leadership and direction to the Guild. Garner plans to remain an active member of the Guild and to take the lead role in some special community initiatives. Gibbons will be assuming her



Dyan Gibbons

Dora Garner

role as president October 1.

Other new officers are: Ruth Wood, 1st Vice President; Judith Johnson, 2nd Vice President; Angela Yarbrough, 3rd Vice President; Fannie Moore, Corresponding Secretary; Dora Garner, Treasurer; Virginia Miles, Financial Officer; Dorothy Williams, Historian; Michelle Cason, Chaplain; Brenda Cochran, Public Relations Officer and Ida Taylor, Parliamentarian.

In other Guild news, the Guild hosted the Annual Dayton Metro Civil Banquet in which many members participated. Ms. Dora Garner also had the honor of being a judge for the Annual Achievement Matters Ceremony on June. The Achievement Matters program highlights the academic success of Dayton Urban League youth in grades K – 12th. “We are very proud of our young people and wish them a world of success,” Garner stated at the conclusion of the ceremony. The Guild would like to wish a Happy Birthday to

Rosella Turner who recently turned ninety-three.

Pain from page 6

nearly two years after the stroke because I didn't like the way I looked.” Locked away in the house, Ammons felt life passing her by. Every June, when others were graduating, she felt the sting of “being stuck.” Even after trying to regain some sense of normalcy by moving in with a friend and beginning a romantic relationship, she still felt stuck. “All of my friends were just like me. They weren't doing anything except hanging out and going to the club. Life was passing us all by.” During this time, her mother had remarried. Her stepfather, Eric Hill, became a mode of inspiration to her and told her to “use her pain, to heal someone else.” With his encouragement she started seeking a better life. That was 2001, change wouldn't come however until 2005.

She began going to Rock Island Missionary Baptist Church, where she met the pastor who would change her life forever. He, like her stepfather, helped her to get “unstuck”. As she attended church, she began to see God moving in her life and how change was only going to happen if she moved. So when the argument with her roommate erupted, it was as if God was saying “leave”. By April 2005, she was gone. After arriving in Dayton where she lives with her grandmother, Ammons' stepfather, who by this time had passed away, encouraged her through a dream she had to go forward. It was that second word

that finally pushed her to pursue her GED. “I was five months short of graduating from high school when I had the stroke. I just never went back after that. My boyfriend Darryl, a bus driver for the Regional Transit Authority, told me about the Dayton Urban League's GED program.” So one day, while riding the bus, she saw the Dayton Urban League building and decided to get off the bus. She came in and signed up for GED.

She instantly became a star student in the class. “She came in and did well all of the pre-tests. I told her that if she came to class every day, that within five weeks, she will be ready to test,” Lisa Enright, DUL GED instructor stated. Ammons obediently followed Enright's advice and successfully passed the GED. She also took Enright's advice to sign up to go to Sinclair Community College the next day and to take her placement tests. “I knew the information would still be fresh in her mind.” Enright was right. Within a few weeks, Ammons went from a high school drop out to a college student at Sinclair by July of 2005. She also got a job at Sinclair where she came to know her friend and mentor, Jatou Stanford. “She has blessed my life so much,” Ammons says smiling. Stanford encouraged Ammons through her first year of school. She's been on the dean's list every quarter. Stanford also secured a \$1,000 scholarship for Ammons for the 2006 – 2007 school year.

No longer feeling “stuck”, Ammons' life is moving full steam ahead. She has already receiving offers from Spelman, Xavier University and the University of Hawaii to continue her education after Sinclair. Although she has plans to pursue her masters in psychology, she is taking things one day at a time. When she visits her family in Chattanooga, she marvels at how many of her friends are still “stuck” and is thankful she got out. “Whenever I start to get discouraged, I just remember where I was. Life is too short to dwell on things you can do nothing about. I don't allow myself to stress any more. Not only because of the physical repercussions but also because I have already lost so much time. I can't lose any more time. I have to keep moving.”

When Ammons reflects on her future, she simply wants to be all she can be. She sums it up with her favorite scripture which she says when she is feeling down, “and he (LaShell) went on to do great things and the Lord God of hosts was with her”, yeah that's me. I am not what happened yesterday. My past will not control my present.”

For more information about the GED and TCBC programs and to read LaShell Ammon's graduation speech go to www.daytonurbanleague.org.

New members cont'd from page 8

mastered the unique skill of being able to successfully plan and execute personnel and financial development plans. His ability to make things is attributed to his skills as a persuasive communicator with well-developed presentation and negotiation skills.

McKinney began his career at National City Bank in 1992 as an Assistant Branch Manager. He has since ascended to the Vice Presidency of Global Treasury Management.

McKinney is a member of the Association for Financial Professionals, Inc. and the Cincinnati Treasury Management Association. He is an alumnus of the Dayton Urban League Leadership Institute

and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated.

Catherine Hope Crosby, President of Dayton Urban League's Young



Catherine Crosby

Professionals, is the youngest addition to the Board. Crosby, a native of Cleveland, received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from Wilberforce

University, her Master of Public Administration at Wright State University and is in the process of completing her work for the Doctor of Philosophy – Public Policy and Administration at Walden University. Crosby has completed numerous training courses and is very involved in

community activities. She is a member of a number of organizations.

Crosby currently serves as Assistant Director of the Human Relations Council. She is a public service leader with experience in community development, project and grant management, budgeting, grant writing, professional and board development training, human and public relations and personnel. She is a 2001 graduate of the Dayton Urban League's Black Leadership Development Program and has completed the National Urban League's Whitney M. Young Leadership Institute to be certified as a Urban League President and CEO. Crosby brings a wealth of information, contacts and experience to the DUL Board.

Cashdollar from page 4

mouth dropped when she told about the article she read and the donation she wanted to make. You don't get those kind of people walking through the door everyday." Cashdollar plans to continue her work in helping people, particularly young men, become self-sufficient and educated. She feels like someone's got to do it and that someone might as well be her. "I don't have a lot of time, but I do what I can."

Cashdollar plans to continue her work in helping people, ..., become self-sufficient and educated.

Male Responsibility Program (MRP) addresses a cultural mandate to educate, motivate and direct young African-American males to prepare for entry into the workforce. This program provides a full range of social, educational, and behavior modification services for youth ages 11-18. For more information and enrollment information, go our website at www.daytonurbanleague.org.

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