

New Director wants North Hills Center to Teach Black History

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

Tres Carter likes to spend her spare time helping other youths at the North Hills community along Parkwood Avenue.

Carter, 14, said it was hard at one time because the North Hills Community Center was once a drug haven.

"There was a problem with crime and drugs at one time," she said. "It's not that bad because the kids can learn something here."

Carter, who is a freshman at Mt. Tabor High School, has been attending the center for four years and says she is beginning to notice a difference with the coming of a new director.

Bryant McCorkle, the center's new director, said attendance is beginning to pick up again, espe-

cially among younger kids.

McCorkle, 24, informally teaches African-American history and plans to start a class with youths in the area to offset the influence of the drug culture.

"I want this center to be a mecca for African-American culture," he said. "Strong programs will stop the influence of drugs and push positive images to the kids."

McCorkle, a native of Winston-Salem, grew up in the Kimberly Park public housing community. He spent the last three years working at the Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center and graduated from Winston-Salem State University in May.

He said his family pushed him to be positive along with Alderman Nelson Malloy and his former professor Larry Little.

"The people really created a good environment there," Malloy



Bryant McCorkle plans to teach black history at the Rec. Center.

said. "Over the years, certain streets around the center has been subject to the influx of drugs just like other parts of the city. But they have done things over there to eliminate the problem."

Malloy said although the facility is a secondary recreation center, it still has a major impact on the people in that area. He also has seen the community reduce crime and drugs and believes that McCorkle can help steer youths in a positive direction. "He knows most of the people in the area and because he's from public housing, Bryant has to deal with it everyday," said Malloy. "He's a very energetic young man and has experience with programs. I've seen what has been there and no one can make me believe that it cannot be done again."

Katrina Young, a fourth-grader at Speas Elementary, said she comes

to the center because it's safe and has lots of games.

Young, 9, said she feels more comfortable now than she has over the last two years she has come to the center.

McCorkle currently serves as a commissioner on the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem board of directors and is chairman of the Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center's voting precinct. He said he also plans to introduce flag football, increase the tutorial program and start a GED program to get older residents into the center. "I want people from different areas to come in and be proud of our center," he said. "Larry (Little) told me 'never forget where you came from,' and I've been trying to give back to the community. I want people to know that no matter where you come from you can make it."

Goodwill's New Look Addresses the Community Need for Welfare Reform

Officials of Goodwill Industries of Northwest N.C., Inc. positioned the local Goodwill as a solution to welfare reform today in a ceremony that marked the unveiling of the Employment and Training Center (ETC) of Goodwill Industries. The Employment and Training Center concept is an effort to provide "one-stop shopping" to individuals seeking job skills. Services at ETC include evaluation, assessment, work adjustment, skills training, and child care. Each of these services is designed to address issues faced by welfare recipients, from a lack of formal training to the availability of

dependable child care.

Currently, 14 million individuals in nearly 5 million families receive AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) - a 30% increase since 1989. The average monthly benefit is \$377 per family, an amount supplemented by food stamps, school meals and Medicaid benefits.

"The job-related focus of the welfare reform proposal - to move from the welfare rolls to roles as taxpayers - has been Goodwill Industries' mission since its inception in 1926," said Billy Whitaker, President of Goodwill Industries.

"We give people with barriers to employment, such as disabilities or other special needs, the skills to find and keep jobs. Our programs at the Employment and Training Center support the job training aspects of welfare reform presented by the Clinton administration."

President Clinton's proposal, the Work and Responsibility Act of 1994, would expand the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Program (JOBS), first authorized by the Family Support Act of 1988, and would institute a new, mandatory work

program following two years of welfare benefits. Goodwill Industries advised the Clinton administration on the welfare reform initiative while it was being developed, offering four principles which are not incorporated in the welfare reform proposal. These principles state that: 1) no individual or family should suffer an economic decline as a result of leaving the welfare rolls to enter or re-enter the work force; 2) employment services to AFDC recipients should be based on individualized plans and strate-

gies to ensure job readiness; 3) Current demonstration projects implementing the "one-stop shopping" concept should be evaluated and successful programs replicated; 4) job training programs should be occupation-specific and based on local needs and market conditions.

"The Employment and Training Center will allow us to be an important factor in welfare reform," states ETC Vice-President John Sheldon. "We can offer evaluation services to determine a participant's strengths and weaknesses and then we can

customize their training to meet their specific needs. Our skills training programs offer education for jobs determined to be in demand in N.C. and across the nation. Some of these areas include data processing, nursing assistance, child care, and health care. And, once an individual is trained, we have specialists to help them find competitive employment. ETC really is a one-stop shopping center for individuals who are ready to become independent."

Mayor Wood Proclaims Friday as "Unity Day"

Winston-Salem Mayor, Martha Wood, has proclaimed Friday, Sept. 23 as "Unity Day." On this day members from various different church and civic groups will hold a Unity Vigil at the Cleveland Avenue Homes.

The Unity Vigil is sponsored by the Housing Authority of the City of Winston-Salem Prevention Team and Community Outreach. The vigil will serve as a memorial for members of the community who have been killed since January of 1989.

A wall, with the names of all the murder victims, will be moved from Piedmont Park to the Cleveland Avenue Homes. The ceremony will get underway at 6 p.m. and will last until 2 a.m. The program includes local choirs, soloist, local ministers and other expressions of unity. The Community Outreach Love Choir will perform a tribute to the families of murder victims.

The Rev. Clifton Brown, pastor of the Grace Missionary Baptist Church of Charleston, S.C., will be the one of the speakers on the program, joining him will be Pastor D.T. Johnson of Divine Missionary Holiness Church of Greensboro. Other speakers slated to speak include former State Senator Jack Cavanaugh of First Assembly Church of God.

Minister Melvin "Rip"

Wilkins, of Community Outreach, says the vigil is designed to produce a healing effect in the community. Wilkins said, "This vigil is dedicated to every mother who has felt the horrible pain of losing a loved one to drugs, violence and the senseless killings that have taken place in our streets. We have found out over a period of years that going into the community we are able to pull people together to join forces against the drugs, violence and abuse in our communities and change their lives."

The first community vigil was held on Nov. 12, 1993 at Piedmont Park and since that time they have been held on a regular basis, particularly in areas where crimes have repeatedly occurred. The Housing Commissioner, Bryant McCorkle, the Executive Director of HAWS, Art Milligan and Pastor Wilkins organized the first vigil and have played key roles in continuing to reach out to the community.

Wilkins said, "These vigils have helped to unite churches in terms of helping out in the community, the visibility of churches in the community has let people know that churches are concerned about what happens in these areas. Wilkins also says that the churches have shown that through uniting in our neighborhoods we can bring about positive change."

City Seeks Board Volunteers

City residents are invited to apply for volunteer positions on the following city boards and commissions: the Cable Review Committee (one vacancy), the Convention Center/Coliseum Commission (two vacancies), the Emergency Management Advisory Council (two vacancies), the East Winston Development Task Force (five vacancies), the Forsyth County Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (one vacancy), the Historic District Commission (three vacancies), the Minority/Women Business Enterprise Advisory Committee (one vacancy), and the Transit Authority (two vacancies). Historic District vacancies must be filled by the following: a residential property owner in a historic district or historic overlay district, a resident of the Bethabara historic district, and a member of the Winston-Salem Board of Realtors.

After receiving all the applications and nominations and reviewing them, the mayor will make recommendations to the board of alderman, which makes the appointments.

Interested citizens can obtain applications from the mayor's office or they can write a letter including a resume and qualifications, home address and daytime phone number, and send it to the mayor's office, P.O. Box 2511, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102. The City of Winston-Salem does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, national origin, religion, or disability in its employment opportunities, services, programs or activities.

The deadline for application is Monday, Oct. 10. If you need additional information, call the mayor's office at 727-2058

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