

Mayor will help NBTF reach money goal

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

Mayor Allen Joines will lead fund-raising efforts for the 2003 National Black Theatre Festival scheduled for Aug. 4-9. Larry Leon Hamlin, NBTF producer and artistic director, made the announcement last Thursday at City Hall South.

"We've talked about polishing the silver here in Winston-Salem. We've got a lot of good silver here, and we've got to make sure it's viable, healthy and working. The festival community is one of those key pieces of our infrastructure, which makes Winston-Salem so special," said Joines, who announced that NBTF has been selected as one of the 100 top events in North America by the U.S. Bus Association.

Hamlin says that he was "delated" about the prospect of teaming up with the mayor for the upcoming festival, calling their partnership "monumental."

"I was sometimes surprised to see (Mayor Joines) at some of the activities and events where I was present, and I'm sure he was surprised to see me at ones that he attended, but we spoke during those times and we're very happy," Hamlin said.

Alderman Vernon Robinson approached the mayor about becoming the chairman



Actress Sheryl Lee Ralph smiles at fans during the 2001 National Black Theatre Festival.

of the fund-raising committee after the last festival in 2001.

"(Mayor Joines') involve-

ment will generate more private business support and citizen participation in reaching



Larry Leon Hamlin and Mayor Allen Joines stand side-by-side at a press conference last week at City Hall South.

the \$1.5 million goal," said Robinson, who served as a fund-raising consultant for the previous NBTF.

Joines said that he hopes to personally attract more corporate financial support from the area in helping NBTF reach its goal for next year's festival. The 2001 festival fell several hundred thousand dollars short of its goal. That money was eventually raised, but not until

the festival ended. "It's events like the NBTF that helps put Winston-Salem on the map...The NBTF is probably one of the cornerstones for our downtown community," said Joines, who thinks that, despite the volatile economy, the NBTF's reputation will generate the necessary funds to make the event successful.

The mayor said that he

intends to use funds from the Millennium Fund, which was established by the Winston-Salem Alliance, which Joines heads, to be invested in downtown infrastructure and economic development, toward the festival's fund-raising efforts.

The NBTF draws droves of stage, television and screen stars and features more than two dozen productions.



From right: Claire Davis, David Euliss, Noemi Camacho and Kate Burkhalter - all students in Jane Barkley's fifth-grade class at Redeemer School - wrap Christmas presents for men at the shelter at Samaritan Ministries. Barkley is shown at left.

Children help out at shelter

BY PAUL COLLINS
THE CHRONICLE

On Dec. 18, 11 children in Jane Barkley's fifth-grade class at Redeemer School took a field trip to Samaritan Ministries.

The school had raised more than \$1,000 for Samaritan Ministries, and Barkley wanted her students "to see where the money went, not just have it be some abstract concept."

Some of the students wrapped presents (underwear) for the men who stay in the shelter, and some

students helped serve meals in the soup kitchen.

"We'll be here for the day," Barkley said, "so we'll just do whatever they want us to do."

She continued: "I want children to develop service hearts ... to understand what Christmas is really about."

One of the students, Kate Burkhalter, said she liked doing something to help the men at the homeless shelter. And, she added: "It's fun. I like wrapping the presents."

Barkley said: "This is the fifth

year in a row we've come to Samaritan Ministries to help out...."

She added, "All year long, we try every month, whatever (Samaritan Ministries needs) for the month, to collect it and send it, so it's a yearly project."

Redeemer is a private, Presbyterian school in the old Ardmore School building. "We're a little bit different; we're patterned after the schools out of Atlanta. Twelve to 14 students are a maximum. So we can do things like this," Barkley explained.



In addition to hot meals, the Samaritan Ministries provides warm beds for people who need them.

Shelters

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within the manufacturing base and also when somebody leaves from, (say), Wachovia, they not only take their salary and their job out of our economy, (there is also) a ripple effect through the rest of the economy as well. So there are fewer jobs in the service industries that are available to some of our people as well."

"Another trend that I would point out that's pretty interesting, we're seeing more people who have jobs come in for lunch because they're trying to stretch their budget," Hardin said.

He expects that on average during the winter the soup kitchen will serve about 400 meals a day - 250 at lunch, and 75 each at breakfast and dinner. Winter is the soup kitchen's busiest season of the year because of not only people coming to get something to eat, but also because people are coming in to get out of the cold for a cou-

ple of hours or less.

Hardin encourages the public to donate to Samaritan Ministries. "As people go through the holiday season and reflect on their blessings, just remember that a lot of people are in pretty bad shape right now. Even small gifts can make a big difference."

Kurosky said the shelter is in constant need of donations. Each month, the shelter solicits help from different religious denominations. She added that it is important for the public not to forget the homeless after the holiday season ends.

"Homelessness happens every day of the year," she said.

William Adkerson, executive director of the Bethesda Center for the Homeless, 930 N. Patterson Ave., said, "We're serving quite a few more primarily because the Lighthouse Ministries' shelter closed last July."

Last year, the Bethesda Center averaged about 40 people a night staying at its emergency night shelter; this year the average is more than 70, Adkerson

said. "We have had to move our women to the Salvation Army to make room for additional men in our night shelter (as of Oct. 30)."

The Bethesda Center's day shelter still serves men and women - an average of 85 people a day. The day shelter provides basic services such as telephone, bathrooms, showers, washer and dryer, and case management. "We have about 50 (people) in case management," Adkerson said. If the person is educationally deficient, the Bethesda Center can help, but for most other case management needs, the Bethesda Center makes referrals to other agencies.

Adkerson said the community is responding well to the Bethesda Center's annual campaign, which is under way.

The Bethesda Center has ongoing needs for personal hygiene items, blankets, winter coats, towels and wash cloths.

The Salvation Army and the Rescue Mission also have homeless shelters, and Family Services has a battered women's shelter.

Louisville

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had promised all along he would select an outside candidate. Louisville Police Chief Greg Smith and Jefferson County Police Chief William Carcara were not considered.

The other finalists were St. Paul, Minn., Assistant Chief Richard J. Gardell and Chattanooga, Tenn., Chief Jimmie

L. Dotson.

The Rev. Louis Coleman, a community activist leading many of the protests, said he is pleased Louisville hired a black chief, but that it is too early to judge White.

"He's Daniel going into the lion's den," said Coleman, adding that he expected the protests to continue.

White will be heading a department twice as large as Greensboro's, with 1,246 offi-

cers and an annual budget of \$120 million. He will earn a base salary of \$145,000 a year, Abramson said.

White, 50, began his law enforcement career in 1972 as an officer with the Washington, D.C., Police Department and left in 1995 as the commander of the department's Fourth Police District. White also served as chief of police for the District of Columbia Housing Authority.

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