



Jarrod Covington waves from atop a bus.

Photos by Todd Luck

Day of celebrations at Winston Lake YMCA

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Last Thursday morning, those getting breakfast at the McDonald's on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive were greeted by an unusual sight: a man seeking their attention from the top of a bus.

Winston Lake Family YMCA Executive Director Jarrod Covington spent nearly 11 hours on top of a YMCA bus during a special campaign to raise money to help those who cannot afford a Winston Lake Y membership. Money raised also goes to fund a multitude of youth programs, everything from buying uniforms for the Jazzy Jumpers jump rope team to sending students to Youth & Government conferences in Raleigh.

Covington said that offering assistance to those who can't afford the YMCA's services is as much a tradition as the organization's youth programs. Thirty-five percent of members at the Winston Lake, the city's historically African-American branch, receive some sort of assistance. "The 'Y' is about community. We want everyone to have a 'Y' experience," said Covington. "We feel blessed that we're in a position to help people reach their God-given potential in spirit, mind and body."

Covington's bus visited various locations around the city last Thursday. It started bright and early at 6 a.m. at the McDonald's. Throughout the day, various Winston Lake board members and volunteers accompanied the bus, explaining to passers-by about the YMCA and the fundraiser.

"The community was really, really supportive of this effort," said volunteer Sophia Kennedy. "I was surprised because of ... the way the economy is, people still gave."

Kennedy is the 2007 Volunteer of the Year at the Winston Lake YMCA. After losing her job, she decided to use her free time volunteering at various YMCA events.

People reached into their wallets, purses and pockets to give one and five dollar bills generously. Eventually the morning chill gave way to a beautiful spring day and the bus moved to Chick-Fil-A on Knollwood Street. There, Winston Lake Y legend Mo Lucas joined the effort. Lucas, who has been an employee or volunteer at the Winston Lake YMCA for 54 years, is well known and loved for having mentored several generations of young people. Lucas sat in the bus and greeted those in the parking lot. He said several adults he'd mentored as children came up to him and thanked him.

Last Thursday was also a special day for Lucas: his 81st birthday. He was glad to spend part of his big day taking part in the fundraiser.

"Our motto is deny no kid," said Lucas proudly.

After the Chick-Fil-A stop, Covington spent the rest of the day perched atop the bus at the Winston Lake Y.

The day of fundraising ended with a reception that celebrated both the day's success and Lucas' birthday. Children sang happy birthday to Lucas,



Y Legend Mo Lucas sits beside some of his gifts.

who described himself as a "youth person." Even at 81, he never gets tired of working with young people.

"This is something God wanted me to do, not something I wanted to do," said Lucas.

Covington said that by the end of the day, more than \$400 was raised. So far, the Winston Lake YMCA has raised more than \$56,400 towards its \$82,000 goal this year.

"We just want to go out and be visible in the community and let people know what we do. We didn't know what the amount was going to be," said Covington. "We knew we would end the day off with more than when we started and that's our goal."

Covington said the fundraising will continue as the Winston Lake Y looks for more donors and contributions.

News Clips

Seminar to help older adults avoid scams

A free seminar to help older adults avoid scams will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on April 10 at Senior Services, 2895 Shorefair Drive. "Spring Scams: Ending Elder Exploitation" will help seniors and their family members identify common scams and learn how to avoid becoming victims.

The event is sponsored by The Elder Law Clinic, a program of Wake Forest University School of Law. The Elder Law Clinic is located at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center's J. Paul Stich Center on Aging. Co-sponsors of the April 10 program are Senior Services and the Shepherd's Center of Greater Winston-Salem. Several speakers will take part, including Special Agent Craig Williams of the U.S. Secret Service.

Victims and family members from the Triad community will present their stories of being defrauded. Refreshments will be provided. To register, contact the Elder Law Clinic at 336-713-8630 or elclinic@wfu.edu. The Elder Law Clinic provides free legal assistance to moderate-income older adults. For more information about the clinic, go to www.law.wfu.edu/elclinic.

Kid safety events upcoming

The Forsyth County chapter of SAFE KIDS will hold a Bike Rodeo on Saturday, April 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parking lot of Toys R'Us on Silas Creek Parkway.

A bike course will be set up for children to ride and learn the basics of bike safety. Children must bring their own bicycles to participate in the bike course. A tent will be set up for participants to make minor repairs to their bikes.

A fire truck from the Winston-Salem Fire Department will be parked at the event for children to explore, and drawings for prizes will be held throughout the afternoon. Representatives

from Brenner Children's Hospital will also be on hand to answer questions about preventing childhood injuries.

On April 11, SAFE KIDS will hold a car seat check from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. in the parking lot of Wal-Mart in Kernersville. Officers from the Kernersville Police and Fire Departments will be on hand to inspect car seats and make sure they are secured properly.

Representatives from Brenner Children's Hospital will also be on hand to answer questions about preventing childhood injury.

Firefighters, paramedics endorse Moore

The Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics of North Carolina last week announced its unanimous endorsement of Richard Moore in the race for North Carolina's governor.

Moore will square off against Lt. Gov. Bev Perdue in the May 6 Democratic Primary.

"Richard Moore has a track record and experience unmatched by any other candidate in this race," said David Anders, President of the Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics of North Carolina. "Both as Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety and then as State Treasurer Richard has done an outstanding job for public employees such as firefighters and paramedics."

PFFPNC cited Moore's job managing the pension fund for more than 700,000 North Carolina public employees including firefighters and noted the fund has been ranked among the top three of state pension funds for six years in a row.

"Richard H. Moore is the candidate to receive our endorsement and full support in becoming the next Governor of North Carolina," the group contends.

Provost will serve as ACAOSS president

Beverly Washington Jones, provost of North Carolina Central University, will serve as

president of the Association of Chief Academic Officers of the Southern States (ACAOSS) for the 2008 term. Jones was nominated by the Association of Chief Academic Officers at its winter meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Jones is charged with strengthening the network of chief academic officers, planning the 2008 annual meeting to be held in San Antonio, Texas, as well as providing expertise on current academic issues.

Jones has served as provost and vice chancellor of academic affairs at NCCU since 2005. Prior, she served as dean of NCCU's University College, director of its Community Service Program, and executive director of the Historically Minority Colleges and Universities Consortium (HMCUC) of North Carolina.

UNC arts festival coming to NCSA

The second annual University of North Carolina Festival of the Arts will be held at the North Carolina School of the Arts (NCSA) on Saturday, April 12, from noon until 6 p.m. and Sunday, April 13, from 1 - 5 p.m.

The festival will feature performances by groups from most of the universities in the UNC system at various venues on the NCSA campus throughout the weekend. The festival is free and open to the public, and family-friendly.

The UNC Festival of the Arts is an opportunity to experience a variety of arts performances from the state's public university system - dance, theatre, poetry, opera, improvisation, music, film, and more - all in one weekend.

As of the date of this release, UNC campuses represented will include Appalachian State University, East Carolina University, Fayetteville State University, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, North Carolina Central University, North Carolina State University, University of North Carolina at Asheville, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, University of North Carolina at Pembroke, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Winston-Salem State University and, of course, NCSA.



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