

# Mediation Services celebrates 25 years of service

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Judges, court personnel, city officials, neighborhood leaders, volunteers and friends of Mediation Services of Forsyth County (MSFC) recently attended the agency's Annual Meeting, where MSFC celebrated a quarter century of success.

District Court Judge Camille Banks-Payne was Mistress of Ceremonies at the event, which took place at the new Winston-Salem University Field House at Bowman Gray Stadium.

Mediation Services has a long-standing mission of promoting peaceful practices in the community through mediation of disputes and conflicts. It started as the Neighborhood Justice Center. Back then, the staff went into communities and persuaded residents who were fighting with other residents to sit down and work through their problems. Although Mediation Services scope of work has expanded to include civil, criminal, family, and truancy disputes, it sticks to its original vision of promoting peace.

The speaker was former Winston-Salem Police Chief Patricia Norris, the director of campus security at Winston-Salem State University. Chief Norris spoke passionately about how she has viewed mediation as a "viable and effective tool in helping bring peaceful resolutions, not just between two disputants, but between groups of folks as well."

Several awards were presented. The agency's Marty Penn Service Award, named after the longtime community educator and volunteer, was given to Judge William Graham for his work supporting mediation.



Deputies Charles Bean and Larry Reavis.



Local District Court Judges Larry Fine, Bill Graham, George Bedsworth and Camille Banks-Payne.

Also receiving awards were Deputies Charles Bean and Larry Reavis of the Forsyth County Sheriff's Department. Both men have been longtime supporters of mediation.

Individuals recognized for volunteering as mediators were Brenda Galloway and Audrey Lowery, who have over 35 years of combined service in this area.

A very special presentation was made to community leader and retired educator Doris S. Herrell, who served for several years on the MSFC board of directors.

Herrell was recently certi-

fied as a mediator by the agency. She also has pushed for teaching young people mediation skills as a tool for later success in life. To back that interest up, Herrell recently started the "Doris Smith Herrell Young Peacemaker Scholarship" through Mediation Services of Forsyth County that will provide opportunities for peer mediation training in local schools and neighborhood organizations.

Inquiries about the scholarship fund may be directed to MSFC at 336-724-2870.



MSFC Executive Director Emory Rann presents Doris Herrell with her award.

Judge William Graham is presented with his award.



Some of the dads and other male role models that took part.

## PETREE ELEMENTARY HAS SUCCESSFUL 'DADS' MONTH

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Petree Elementary School celebrated its 3rd Annual Adopt a Dad Month in October.

Principal Shelia Burlock envisioned the event as a way for students to invite their father or any male relatives, community businessmen, pastors and influential male leaders to visit them at school. She encouraged students to recruit their dad or a positive male to come to Petree at least one time during Adopt A Dad Month to support them in school. The response was overwhelming, with more than 50 men visiting Petree during the month. They participated in everything from reading stories to the class to sharing their profession.

Students completed many activities honoring Dads and Special Men during Adopt A Dad Month. Poetry, artwork and letters to Dad created a beautiful backdrop in the halls as Petree's special guests were greeted with cheerful smiles and hugs from the students.

An Adopt a Dad luncheon was the culminating event. It featured guest speaker was



Some of the male staffers at the school that played a role.

James Lucas, human resources manager for the elementary division of the school system. The men relished in Lucas' recollection of his own childhood experiences with his dad and this caused many to ponder their own memories of fathers and influential men in their lives. Lucas encouraged the men to become more involved with their own children and children they mentor by setting a standard of high achievement in school as well as in lifelong learning.

About 20 men over-

whelmingly made a commitment to help form a Petree Dad's Club as a result of their participation in Adopt A Dad month. The male staff members of Petree are the facilitators and pacesetters for this club. They are Lenwood Thompson, Marquis Simpson, Deshaun Love, Josue Figueredo, Jonathan Groves, Dr. Carl Leslie, Harold Edwards, Jeff Hilton, Leonard Lewis and Antonio Robinson. Our students, staff and parents of Petree Elementary look forward to the great

things the Dad's Club will accomplish as it seeks to involve all Dads, Granddads and other positive male role models with the students of Petree. Some upcoming planned events for the Dad's Club include a father/son forum, dad and daughter outing, campus beautification projects and parents/staff basketball game.

For more information about the Petree Dad's Club, contact Lenwood Thompson at 336-748-3454.

## Local student will witness historic Obama inauguration

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Richelle Pugh, a student at Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy, will witness the historic 2009 Presidential Inauguration when Barack Obama takes the Oath of Office as the 44th President of the United States. She will be part of a delegation of students attending the 2009 Presidential Youth Leadership Conference, sponsored by LeadAmerica.

The Presidential Youth Leadership Conference will be held during the week of the Presidential Inauguration, and the 400 Presidential Scholars will attend briefings with military and intelligence officers as well as government and agency officials to learn how each is affected by the new Administration.

They will meet with a senior political strategist, receive an inside analysis of the 2008 election and participate in a Presidential Simulation that includes assembling a transition team, selecting the Cabinet and determining key policy initiatives. Richelle and other Presidential Scholars will witness the Presidential Oath of Office and attend the Inaugural Parade. They will also attend a Youth Inaugural Ball to celebrate the historic event.

Richelle says "Just the experience of being there and being a part of history is what I'm mostly looking forward to. Barack Obama is an inspiration, not only to African American people, but to the nation."

Richelle is the daughter of Richard and Renee Pugh. She plans on attending UNC Charlotte in the fall of 2009 where she will major in Early Childhood Development with a minor in Business.

LeadAmerica is the nation's premier youth leadership organization. With a commitment to providing quality leadership education, LeadAmerica empowers teenage leaders and instills in them ethical and principled leadership values, attitudes and skills.


"This is a historic year for our country," says Christ M. Salamone, founder and executive director of LeadAmerica. "The students attending the PYLC are our future leaders. It is my sincere hope that this experience will instill in these young leaders ethical and principled values that will help them along the road toward a successful and rewarding life of leadership."

Further information on LeadAmerica and the Presidential Youth Leadership Conference can be found at [www.lead-america.org](http://www.lead-america.org) or by call 1-866-FYI.LEAD (394-5323).



Pugh

**Macedonia Holiness Church Of God  
Of The Apostolic Faith, Inc.**



**Sunday Services**  
 Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.  
 Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.  
 M.Y.P.U. .... 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday Services**  
 Prayer & Bible Study ..... 7:30 p.m.

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