

Greek organizations walk against birth defects

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and the Sigma Beta Club (the youth auxiliary group of Phi Beta Sigma) took part in the March for Babies Walk, sponsored by the Greater Triad Division of the March of Dimes, on Saturday, April 12 at Corpening Plaza.

More than 1,500 participants laced up their walking shoes for the walk, which raised awareness of premature births and generated funds to fight against them.

Participants in the March for Babies Walk give hope to nearly half a million babies born too soon each year. The funds raised support programs in the local community that help moms have healthy, full-term pregnancies. The March of Dimes has been hosting walks since 1970 and has raised an incredible \$2.3 billion.



Members of Phi Beta Sigma, Zeta Phi Beta and the Sigma Beta Club pose at the March of Dimes Walk.

"March of Dimes is one of Zeta's signature programs and a national program partner," said Rho Zeta Chapter President

Deborah Roseboro.

Phi Beta Sigma also partners with the March of Dimes to tout a program to help build strong fathers

and male role models in the African American community.

"The help the Zetas and Sigmas provide is almost

immeasurable," said March of Dimes Community Director

Jamie Southerland. "After working with both groups for so



Local Sigma President Tracy Webb prepares to walk.

many years, we have complete faith that they will show up and help our event run smoothly. We know the Zetas will welcome everyone with an organized and efficient registration process and we know the Sigmas will always be there to help set up, serve food and break down. Working with the two groups takes a huge stress off my shoulders."

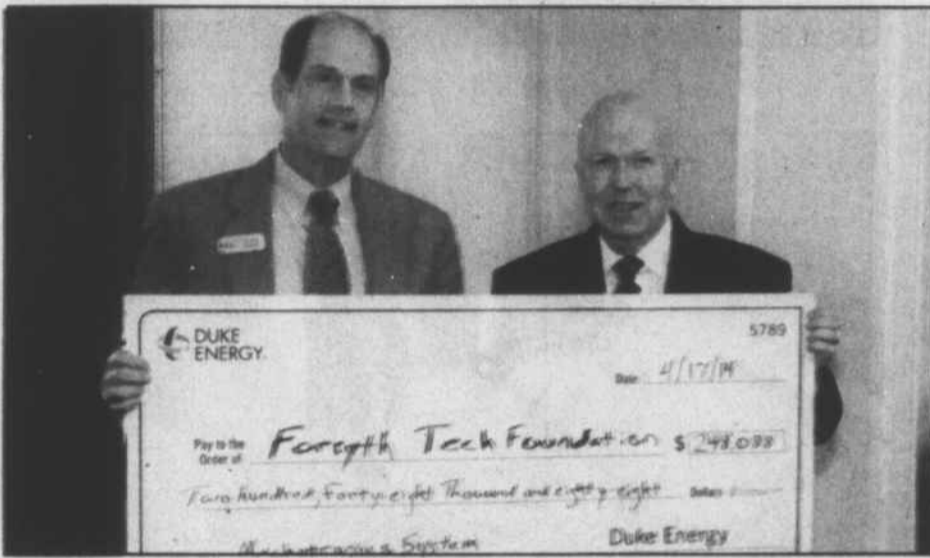
Duke Energy makes substantial investment in Forsyth Tech

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Duke Energy Foundation has made a \$248,088 investment in Forsyth Technical Community College. The funds will purchase a mechatronics learning system that integrates mechanical, electrical, electronic and computerized control systems.

The sophisticated learning system will expose students to automated processes found on a flexible manufacturing line. The equipment package includes components that mirror what companies in the region use on their production lines, enabling Forsyth Tech to train students and incumbent workers alike.

"Mechatronics skills



Duke Energy's Jimmy Flythe presents the check to Forsyth Tech President Dr. Gary Green.

are in high demand across the region," said Forsyth Tech President Dr. Gary Green. "We listened to

what our industry partners were telling us they needed when we developed our proposal. Thanks to Duke

Energy, we will have a new way to help our partners and the entire region be more competitive."

This grant is part of Duke Energy's \$6.7 million investment in North Carolina Community Colleges' focus on technical education and support of business and industry. The Foundation also recently presented a \$130,559 grant to Davidson County Community College to

help expand its Industrial Systems Technology program.

"Our partnership with Forsyth Technical Community College develops a highly skilled workforce that will attract and retain businesses in the region for years to come," said Paul Newton, Duke Energy's N.C. president.

Careers

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part-time job and a Section 8 voucher that will soon allow them to move into a place of their own again. Antonio said he's thankful for all the help the Salvation Army has given them.

"As long as they see you're working hard and you need some help, they're willing to help you," he said.

Antonio plans to attend Woodland's Bible College; he is undecided on a career, but says, "Whatever God wants, I'll do."

Nautica, a senior at Atkins Academic and Technology High School, says she will use her money to pay for the uniform and tests for the CNA (certified nursing assistant) course she is taking at Atkins. Her ultimate career goal is to work as a military OB/GYN nurse. She eventually wants to enter politics. Nautica said the program helped her plan her future.

"I'm very thankful. I'm glad all these people partook in my life to help me out," said Nautica, who plans to major in nursing and take part in ROTC at Winston-Salem State University.

College is still a ways down the road for Khalid, an 8th grader at East Forsyth Middle School, but he said his money will go into his college fund. The aspiring architect said he used the scholarship award contest as practice for the future interviews that will come. He credits the experience with improving his speaking skills.

"It's kind of like practice, so if I ever apply for a school or a job, at least I know I've done it before, so I won't be nervous," he said.

All program participants received certificates of completion and heard words of inspiration from Forsyth County Magistrate



Photos by Todd Luck

Ryan Horton Sr. with his son Ryan Jr. and niece Nya Chandler, who were both in the Career Skills Program.



Forsyth County Magistrate Rushanna McNair-Wright speaks.

Rushanna McNair-Wright, who delivered the keynote.

This year, program participants' outings included visits to HanesBrands and the Public Safety Center, where Police Chief Barry Rountree addressed the youngsters. Poe said the community has embraced the program and its missions.

"It's just helping students to think about who they are, their calling, each person has such different gifts, and to get them out in the community," she said. "It's an opportunity to really use our community as a learning lab."

Tina Carson-Wilkins, who's also been with the program since its inception, said while the program's activities and speakers change from year to year, its goals do not.

"We're dedicated to trying to make sure our kids are exposed to wonderful new opportunities to learn who they can be and what they can be and that they don't have to follow the crowd, they're free to be themselves," said Carson-Wilkins, the marketing director for the Winston-Salem Transit Authority.

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