



Mayor Allen Joines presents the president of the Big Brothers Big Sisters Shawan Gabriel with a proclamation marking January 15 as Mentor Day in Winston-Salem last Friday at the Milton Rhodes Center.

Photos by Tevin Stinson



Murray Miller, a volunteer with BBBS, talks about his relationship with his "Little" during an event held at the Milton Rhodes Center on Friday, January 15.

City honors Big Brothers Big Sisters during National Mentoring Month

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

January 15 was officially Mentoring Day here in Winston-Salem.

As part of National Mentoring Month, during an event held at the Milton Rhodes Center last Friday, Mayor Allen Joines presented the local Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) with a proclamation marking the day and honoring the organization for their hard work and dedication.

For more than 100 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters has operated under the belief that inside every child is the ability to succeed and thrive in life. By locally partnering with parents/guardians, schools, corporations and others in the community, Big Brothers Big Sisters carefully pairs children (Littles) with screened volunteer mentors (Bigs) and monitors and supports them in one-to-one mentoring matches. Mayor Joines said he was excited to present BBBS with the proclamation because he has

always been a supporter of the organization and the work they do.

"The mentoring aspect of this provides tremendous benefits for our community," he said. "From the increasing graduation rate, lowering the crime rates, and just being a more successful person moving forward."

President and CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters Shawan Gabriel said he is proud that the organization will have its own day to celebrate the hundreds of mentors who dedicate their free time improving the lives of the many children in the area.

"Mentoring is powerful, and can help change the directions of a child's life," he continued. "Mentoring is linked to improved academic, social and economic prospects for your people, and that ultimately strengthens our community."

Although BBBS is designed to improve the lives of the "Littles" a number of "Bigs" mentioned the program has been life changing for them as well. Murray Miller who has been volunteering with BBBS since 2012

said participating in the program has made him a better person.

"Once you see the impact you have on the lives of the kids, you see why this program is so important," said Miller. "Some of the most prominent people in the nation had mentors."

According to program officials, although BBBS continues to grow there is still a need for more male mentors. Gabriel mentioned the matching process for young boys takes months and sometimes years.

"We need more male role models for the young boys in this area," said Gabriel. "If you have been thinking about joining the organization just take a chance. I guarantee it will be life changing."

To get involved and learn more about becoming a mentor, contact Big Brothers Big Sisters at 336-724-7993 or email volunteer@bbbsnc.org.

Happy Birthday, Tevin!



Psalms 112:1-2 Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in his commandments! His offspring will be mighty in the land; the generations of the upright will be blessed!

Words cannot describe how proud we are of you! You are proof that prayer, guidance, and great examples can work for our youth. Never doubt for one moment that you have not accomplished great things! Keep looking up and pressing towards the mark. We love you! We are proud! and We knew you could and would! #wontHedoit! Happy Birthday!!!

Martha Durham
Letitia Stinson-Miller



Douglas Richburg and Michelle Martinez hold their 2016 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Young Dreamers' Awards shortly after receiving them during Tuesday's City Council meeting.

Photo by Todd Luck

City announces 2016 Young Dreamers' Awards

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The City of Winston-Salem Human Relations Commission announced the 2016 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Young Dreamers' Award recipients during the City Council meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 19.

To be considered for the award, recipients must have made a tangible difference in the lives of others who may have otherwise been overlooked, ignored, or disadvantaged. They must also show tangible results from their civic or community-oriented work.

The 2016 recipients are:

* Michelle Martinez. Michelle was born in Acapulco, Mexico and moved to the United States in 2001. She dedicates her time to serving others while continuing her education at Winston-Salem State University. She serves on the board of H.O.P.E. (Help Our People Eat), organized the H.O.P.E. project for the Hope Community Church extension, and organized a team of interpreters for the annual health fair, as well as working with the dental bus. She works with volunteers every Saturday to prepare 355 lunches to

be served to children in need in Forsyth County. She is an extraordinary young adult who gives daily to our community.

* Douglas Richburg. Douglas is a student at Forsyth Technical Community College in the Business Administration program, where he also received his GED. He has volunteered to help feed the homeless, load and unload delivery trucks for Second Harvest Food Bank, and visit nursing homes to bring joy to residents who were without regular visitors. Douglas embodies the ideals of MLK through his compassion and generosity, has proven his determination to succeed, and encourages others to reach their goals.

The purpose of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Young Dreamers' Award is to recognize one male and one female outstanding emerging or proven young adult leader who lives in the City of Winston-Salem and who has produced a meaningful result in community inclusiveness and race relations. The goal is to encourage young adults to participate in philanthropic, altruistic community involvement that is in the spirit of how Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. lived and encouraged others to live.



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