

Local veterans outreach organization gains \$24,750 award

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

HARRY Veterans Community Outreach Services, Inc. has received a grant to support its ongoing supportive services initiative from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust in Winston-Salem, HARRY announced.

Veterans have been inordinately impacted by the state of our economy. This grant will provide an increased stream of revenue that will support the HARRY organization's ability to be responsive and provide essential provisions to veterans in the Triad that are faced with a crisis. In addition to the \$24,750 from the Trust, funding from the City of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County government assists the HARRY organization initiative to prevent veteran homelessness and poverty.

Founder/Executive Director, Ciat Shabazz, states that the trust funds come at a time when the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Robert McDonald, has made an appeal to "individuals, organizations and communities to serve veterans nationwide." He further stated, "We are asking Americans everywhere to join the Summer of Service and help us give back to those who have given so much to our nation."

Shabazz states that this call gives confirmation to the organization's mission to

address the health, social and economic wellbeing of the men and women who have and continue to serve in our Armed Services to protect and keep safe citizens of the United States. Shabazz noted that in 2015 HARRY aided veterans in receiving approximately \$692,000 in benefits. The organization currently has an open caseload of 117 veterans awaiting benefits. The delivery of benefits is paramount in preventing veteran poverty and homelessness. HARRY bridges the gap for the veterans anticipating the delivery of their earned benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs, find themselves unemployed and/or underemployed, or find themselves in unforeseen circumstances.

The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust was established in 1947 and is now one of the largest private trusts in North Carolina. Its mission is to improve the quality of life and health for the financially needy of North Carolina.

We are humbly grateful to the Trust and the partnership we are forging. HARRY's mission is to serve a target population - veterans in crisis and in need of supportive services - and meets the mission and goals of the Poor & Needy Division of the Trust Fund.



Submitted photo
Brothers of the Delta Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. are shown (L-R): Joe Goodson; Shanderus Stewart, vice president; Jamarkis Mitchell; Franklin Allen; Alex Sumner; Troy Gray, president; Not Pictured: Jordan Davis and Batin Rainey.

WSSU fraternity gets awards

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Delta Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., located on the campus of Winston-Salem State University, was recently awarded by the University Student Activities and Engagement Office as WSSU Fraternity of the Year for the third consecutive year.

In addition to this accomplishment, the chapter also received awards for the Southeastern Region Collegiate Chapter of the Year by the fraternity, also for the third consecutive year, as well as Brother Troy M. Gray being awarded Collegiate Brother of the Year for the State of North Carolina.

The chapter was the first Greek-letter organization chartered on the campus of Winston-Salem Teachers College, now

known as Winston-Salem State University, on April 24, 1932.

"The WSSU Men of Sigma take pride in completing nationally mandated programs of the fraternity in the fields of social action, education and bigger and better business. Because of their hard work, the chapter has accumulated a total of 17 awards on the collegiate, state, regional and national levels over the past three years," according to a statement released by the chapter.

In November, on the Friday before Thanksgiving, the chapter will be conducting their 20th annual "Sleep-out for Homeless." This is when the WSSU community sleeps outside on campus in recognition of Homeless Awareness week. During the week, the chapter collects non-perishable food items for the Second

Harvest Food Bank of NW North Carolina, monetary donations for the Samaritan Ministries annual Penny Campaign, clothing items for the Winston-Salem Rescue Mission, and school supplies for Project Hope of the WS/FC School System.

Other projects that the chapter has participated in were the March of Dimes "March for Babies Walk," the American Cancer Society "Relay for Life Walk," and Keep Winston-Salem Beautiful Adopt-A-Street cleanup.

For the academic school year, the chapter has logged in a total of 1,480 community service hours.

The chapter "has proven to be one of the top collegiate chapters in the fraternity as well as a driving force for Greek life on the campus of WSSU," according to the chapter's statement.

WSSU Alumna wins top awards at Appalachian State University

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Dr. Fran Bates Oates is the first African-American to win a prestigious award presented annually by the Reich College of

Education's Doctoral Program of Educational Leadership at Appalachian State University, Boone. At its annual Doctoral Symposium in April 2016, Oates received the 2016 Alice Phoebe Naylor Outstanding Dissertation Award. The recognition is given to one doctoral program student selected by a faculty committee for the most outstanding dissertation of the year.

This year Oates was selected from 15 dissertations and six nominees for the award. Her award win-

ning dissertation is titled "Women in the Mirror: Seeing Ourselves Anew, A Narrative Inquiry and Autoethnography of the HBCU Institutional Impact on the Social Justice Disposition of White Female Education Graduates."

Oates tells her own personal story and that of white female education graduates' racial identity development and their development of social justice dispositions to teach students different from themselves. Her doctoral work at Appalachian State also earned Oates the honor of being the first African-American to receive the Rhododendron Society Scholarship demonstrating exemplary scholarship for graduating with a 4.0 GPA in the program.

Oates is a 1974 graduate of Winston-Salem State University with a Bachelor in Science in Early Childhood Education Dr.

Oates earned a Master's Degree in Elementary Education, an Educational Specialist Degree in Administration, and a Doctorate of Educational Leadership from Appalachian State University. She has been an educator for more than 40 years. After 30 years of service in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools in the roles of teacher, assistant principal and principal, Quality Training and Development Program Specialist and Director of Staff Development, Dr. Oates retired in 2004. In 2006, she joined the Department of Education at Winston-Salem State University as Adjunct Faculty and currently serves as the Elementary Education Program Coordinator. She is also a life coach in her own business, BatesOates Life Coaching and Educational Services.

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