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Mother of the Year crowned at annual event

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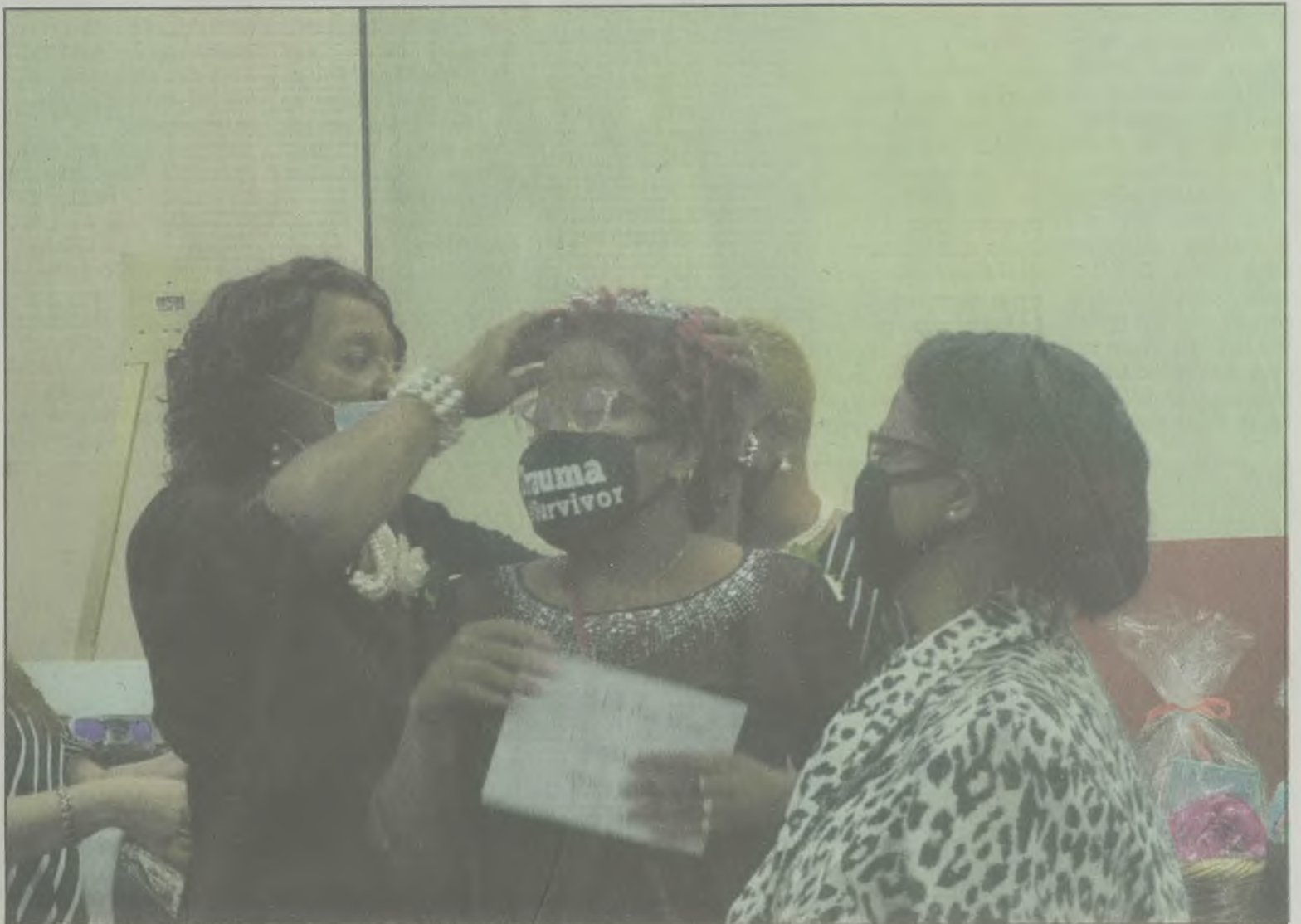
For the past 20 years, Anita "Boss Lady" Dean-Arnette of The Light (1340 AM and 103.5 FM), a local Christian radio station, has invited listeners to send in letters to nominate their mothers for the title of "Mother of the Year." From humble beginnings in a conference room, the event has grown to become a much-anticipated annual tradition in the area.

Dean-Arnette said when she decided to host the first event in 2000, she only received five submissions and they held a small luncheon for the contestants in a conference room at the station. Now, Dean-Arnette receives hundreds of letters every year and more than 200 people usually attend the event, which is held the week before Mother's Day weekend. After they had to cancel the event last year due to the pandemic, Dean-Arnette said she started planning for this year's event only about a month ago, but she was determined to make it happen.

"We're so excited to be back," Dean-Arnette said. "We weren't sure if we were going to be able to have it, but as soon as we got the word, we got to work and started putting it together. It's a blessing after COVID-19 and everybody being shut in for so long, it feels good to be able to get out and celebrate Momma."

Due to the governor's gathering restrictions, only 100 people were allowed to attend the luncheon held at the Enterprise Center on Thursday, May 6, but the event was just as joyful as ever. Before lunch was served, attendees enjoyed musical selections, a dance performance, and encouraging words from several speakers.

After lunch was served, it was time to find out who would take home



Mary Voss, middle, was awarded Mother of the Year at Anita "Boss Lady" Dean-Arnette's annual Mother's Day celebration.

Photo by Tevin Stinson

Grandma Miss, Thanks For All You've Done and Are Still Doing

We lost our mom to Cancer Nov. 6, 2012. She was only 26 yrs. old. At the time I was 4 years old and my brother was 2 years old. I remember my mom being sick, in and out of the hospital, but I didn't realize that her sickness was slowly taking her away from us. Thank God for my Grandma Missy (Mary Voss). When my mom passed away, it was a terrible day for us. My grandma took us in her arms and said your mom won't be here, we cried, both of us cried ourselves to sleep. After the funeral my grandma took us to her house and we've been there ever since, she adopted us.

My Grandma is dedicated to steering us in the right direction. She rearranged her lifestyle to care for us. She's very protective of us. She feeds, clothes, etc. & doctors appointments, takes us and keeps records and she doesn't complain. She gives us unconditional love. She tells us to pray every night. She does everything for us that my mom would do. We are glad my Grandma Mary chose to keep us.

We love her and we're thankful for all she has done and is still doing for us.

Love you, Grandma
Tayliah and Derrion

the crown of Mother of the Year. Submissions for this year's contest were centered around the theme, "Mom ... Thank You For All You've Done." Boss Lady said the panel of judges who are responsible for choosing the winner had a hard time because there were so many heart-

warming submissions.

"These letters were just wonderful," Dean-Arnette continued. "We read about so many challenges and so many things these mothers and grandmothers have gone through and their stories are just awesome and I thank everybody for taking time out to write these let-

ters."

First place was awarded to Mary Voss. In addition to the crown, flowers, and several other prizes, Voss also received a \$500 gift card. Voss's letter was submitted by her grandchildren. After receiving her crown, Voss was all smiles when she spoke

with The Chronicle.

"The letter was submitted by my grandchildren and I didn't know until the last minute ... I'm just so excited I can't believe I actually won," Voss said. "This really means a lot."

Second place was awarded to Belinda Robinson and third place was

awarded to Josephine Frazier.

The Light (1340 AM and 103.5 FM) is the Piedmont's top-ranked urban gospel music station. Midday Praise with Boss Lady is on air Monday-Friday from noon to 3 p.m. For more information, visit <http://lightthetriad.com>.

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