

Our Lady Of Consolation Offers Youth Alternative Education

By Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer



Mary Martin
Publicity chairperson

For her, the essence of the school is its family orientation. "There's

such a warmth there," she enthuses. The mixture of warmth, caring discipline, and Christian principles combines to produce students who have the reputation for being not only capable academically but well-behaved as well, she says. "Students are trained with love and discipline. They love one another and learn to settle disputes in a peaceable, harmonious manner," she asserts.

Parent involvement is high at the school, according to Mrs. Martin. "There's excellent participation in volunteerism," she notes. "Parents are very much involved in following up with their children's activities in classroom and school programs." The school's open-door policy probably contributes to parental involvement. "Parents feel and know there is an open-door policy, and they are confident the school has every concern of the child

at heart." Communications between home and school are excellent, too, she points out.

Barbara Davis, principal of the school, states that the student-teacher ratio at OLOC is 17:1. The school's approach, she says, is "basic and traditional," and its emphasis is on spiritual and moral development. "We have religion classes, but we do not teach students to become Catholic," she emphasizes. Mrs. Martin concurs and says there is no conflict between what the school teaches and her family's beliefs. "They learn a lot about the Bible, about Christ, and about right and wrong," she notes.

Although nuns were once the backbone of the teaching staff, OLOC was without them during this past school year. The school's principal explains that they are working on having the sisters back next fall.

The school had its first Alumni Day recently and plans are already underway to make it an annual event, declares Mrs. Martin. Anyone interested in more information about the school can call 376-3796.

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SOMETHING
FOR
EVERYONE

Blacks To Hold Fundraiser For D.G. Martin

By Jalyne Strong
Post Staff Writer

"I'm very impressed, overwhelmed with appreciation and looking forward to the event," enthuses D. G. Martin. "It promises to be one of the best political events of the year because of the people involved."

D. G. refers to the Saturday, May 11, reception to be held at the home of Charles and Shirley Farrar in his honor. Organized by more than 30 black leaders in the Charlotte community, the reception's primary purpose is to raise funds to assist in the payment of the former congressional candidate's campaign debts. However, it promises to be much, much more.

Says Shirley Farrar, "It will be a very casual setting giving people the opportunity to mingle and talk." She claims many of the people planning to attend are from the business and political fields, who usually come together only in formal meetings. This occasion, assures Farrar, will be far more relaxing. Plus, she adds, "D. G. likes to meet and talk with people directly."

The idea of the reception began with Alfred Glover, a staunch supporter of D. G. during the 1984 campaign. After the disappointing defeat, says Glover, "I felt that D. G. ran his campaign under the thesis of better government for all and in the process he created a debt. I

made myself a committee of one to help him retire his campaign debt."

Glover began calling people. "Everyone was very much interested. They all felt D. G. ran a decent campaign and wanted to help. It became like a snowball going downhill, just became bigger and bigger."

"I never expected it to be this successful. There are so many sponsors and so much interest in a losing candidate," D. G. demures.

Plans for the reception include catered food, music by the Michael Porter Trio and quite possibly an appearance by singer, Jane Powell. Also Ron Harper, chairman of the Democratic Party, and wife, Katherine, will attend. "Even heard a few Republicans will come," states D. G.

D. G. reasons, "The reception shows that there's still a broad base of support and a willingness to get together to show support and have a good time."

With the claim that they are raising money for a "former and hopefully a future congressional candidate," both Glover and Farrar say they are optimistic that D. G. will run again.

"I'd be disappointed if he didn't run again," admits Farrar. Glover feels that this reception may serve as an enticement. He says, "I think the community needs to encourage him by helping him with his campaign debts so he'll run again. We need his type of thinking in Con-

gress."

D. G. however, will not confirm that he will throw his hat into the political ring for the second time. His only reply is, "I hope I never let them down. They never let me down."

If you are going, the reception will be held from 5-8 p.m. at the Farrars' home, 4100 Carmel Acres Dr. From the intersection of Carmel Rd. and Providence, follow Carmel Rd. for approximately four miles until Quail View Rd. Turn on Quail View Rd. and take it to Carmel Acres Rd. For any additional information, call Shirley or Charles Farrar at 542-2142.



Shirley Farrar
Hosts political event

Social Services

Will Host "Open House" May 17

The Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services (DSS) will host an open house for the public at the agency's enlarged and renovated Social Services Center, 301 Billingsley Rd., Friday, May 17, from 2-5 p.m.

All residents of Mecklenburg County are cordially invited to visit the agency, meet the staff, and learn about the services provided by DSS.

For the first time in more than 25 years, all major units of the agency are located in one central facility, with a work force of 469 serving approximately 50,000 individuals annually.

The Social Services Center, built in 1975 at a cost of \$1.79 million, has been expanded this year with a 22,000 square foot wing to house the Food Stamp Program, formerly operated in leased space at 951 S. Independence Blvd. This expansion, plus additional parking space and renovations to the existing building, was funded with approximately \$1.2 million in 1983 Bond revenues. The new wing includes 27 individual interviewing areas, a large conference room that can be divided into three smaller rooms, and a data processing office.

A number of changes have been made in the Social Services Center to accommodate the growing needs of the agency's other units. In order to provide adequate room for DSS operations, the County has recently relocated the Agricultural Extension Service from 301 Billingsley Rd. to the Harold R. "Hal" Marshall County Services Center, 700 N. Tryon St., and the Senior Citizens Nutrition Program from Billingsley Rd. to the Rankin Health Center, 1200 Blythe Blvd.

Edwin H. Chapin, Social Services Director, says that the expansion will enable the department to improve its operations and delivery of services. The department is the largest of all Mecklenburg County agencies, with an annual budget in excess of \$75 million and services that touch one out of every eight Mecklenburg residents.

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