

# Alpha Kappa Alpha Presents 1988 Debutantes

By **MILLCENT LINK**  
Alliance Staff Writer

The Gastonia Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority (AKA) will present its 1988 Debutante Ball November 19, 8 p.m. at Ashbrook High School in Gastonia.

Several events have taken place prior to the ball. The sorority held a mother daughter tea, charm clinic, and the 1988 Debutante Fashion Show.

The debutantes presented their fashion show on October 1 at the Erwin Center. African dance and music was the theme for the fashion show. The girls modeled coats, casual wear, evening wear, and white outfits. The show ended with an African wedding. The wedding was choreographed by the debutantes and Irene Lineberger, coordinator of the fashion show. Lineberger says, "I was very proud of the girls. Everyone seemed to enjoy the fashion show."

The 24 young ladies will attend the Ebony Fashion Show on October 30, the Ramesses exhibit, and local church services.

The debutantes are from local area such as Gastonia, Dallas, Kings Mountain, Shelby, Bessemer City, Mount Holly, Lincolnton, and Clover, South Carolina.

## Gaston Community Action Prepares Children

By **MILLCENT LINK**  
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Just imagine a group of children playing with toys, games, playground equipment, dollhouses, musical instruments and books. Gaston Community Action's Head Start program adapts the children to a social environment that prepares them for the first grade.

Head Start is a preschool program that is primarily for children with low income families. It is based on the premise that all children share certain needs, and children of low income families in particular can benefit from the comprehensive development program to meet their needs.

The federally-funded program is limited to four and five year-olds. Those who qualify for the program are usually from families in which only one parent works and there are several children. Ten percent of the children must be handicapped in the program. Families of the children must show proof of income, a birth certificate, and the child's shot record.

Head start provides nutritional snacks and meals, speech and hearing evaluation, health services, visual evaluation, social services, dental treatment, physical therapy, and many other services.

The parents participate in films and discussions on child development, craft workshops, and classroom observation and participation.

There are six locations of the Head Start program, with a total of 160 children. They are from local areas such as Bessemer City, Cherryville, High Shoals, three in Gastonia, the Weldon Center, Chester, and Mountain View. The majority of the students are minorities.

Carol Kilgo is the director of the Gaston Community Action Head Start program.

She is responsible for the operation of the center on a day to day basis and a staff of 23 members.

Kilgo says, "The program prepares children for a social environment. The children learn how to deal socially with the other children. Head Start teaches them how to get along well with others and participatory skills. It removes barriers that children would have, whereas they may have if they do not attend Head Start."

The program also encourages parental involvement. "The parents get an opportunity to participate in classroom observation, participation, and parenting skills," says Kilgo.

Kilgo attended Central Piedmont Community College, where she majored in business administration.

She was the consultant for the training division of Head Start at Western Kentucky University. Kilgo has also held the positions of parent coordinator

AKA Debutantes began as a presentation of young ladies for the black community. Today, it is strictly a fund raiser.

The Gastonia Chapter of AKA has been involved in a variety of projects. Among these are the Meals on Wheels Program, funds for reading programs in churches and community centers, encyclopedias for the Gaston Boys Club, for sickle cell anemia patients, the rescue mission for families that have lost their homes, and educational assistance for the AKA Debutante participants.

The funds raised will go to the Meal on Wheels, NAACP, Tuskegee, Alabama Veterans Administration, and other organizations.

"In order to become an AKA Debutante the girls must demonstrate that they are young ladies, get along well with people, have high academic a moral standards, show leadership ability, and be responsible young ladies," says Ina Orr Biggers, president of the Gastonia Chapter of AKA.

The Queen of the Ball must show that she has raised the most money. "The queen is awarded 50% of the money that she raised when she graduates from high school to attend the college of her choice.



Kilgo

and deputy director of the Head Start program.

She said the job of director is very rewarding. She says, "Time certainly flies when the children begin the program. I can see the changes that take place and how quickly they grow up."

She is a member Prince Of Peace Lutheran Church and the Delta Zeta Chapter of Zeta Amica of Charlotte.

She is the wife of Louis Kilgo. They have three children Michael, Deidre, Tawny, and two grandchildren.

The area winners get 25% of what they raised. All of the participants are awarded plaques," says Biggers."

Biggers is a graduate of Winston Salem State University, where she received a BS in health and physical education and biology. She is currently working on her master's at UNC-Charlotte in mathematics. She is a teacher at Grier Junior High of Gastonia, where she teaches math and science.

She is married to James C. Biggers. They have two sons James C. Biggers III, 11, and John-Robert, 6.

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