Anthony wins FBI honor

By John Minter THE CHARLOTTE POST

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Fighting Back director Hattie Anthony is proud of the what the prganization has accomplished, particularly its two school-based substance abuse programs.

But being selected as one of 56 henorees in the nation to receive the FBI's 1997 Community Leadership Awards was a surprise, she said.

"I did not have knowledge of it until a day or so before the award was given (Monday)," Anthony "I was surprised on the one hand, but certainly the work this organization has done with the community deserves to be recog-

Anthony said the school-based substance abuse treatment programs, the first in Charlotte, are especially worthy of honor.

The "Teen Care" programs operate at a middle school and a high school, in conjunction with the school system, the McLeod Addictive Disease Center and the county's Health, Mental Health and Community Services.

Fighting Back officials said school officials have insisted that those schools not be named to avoid stigmatizing them as having more of a drug problem than any other campus in the system.

Other accomplishments cited by the FBI are: demolition of several

Continued from page 1A

ery man for Myers Park

Pharmacy provided the stimulus for Mr. Phillips to open a phar-macy in Charlotte's African

American community. After serv-

ing four years in the Army, he

helped open Werner-Phillips

Pharmacy at 422 E. Second St. in

1946. In 1948, Mr. Phillips bought Werner out. Briefly he

was in business with Robert

Rimmer, but took over complete

control of the pharmacy in 1951.

In the early '60s, urban renewal

forced Mr. Phillips out of Second

Ward and he reopened Queen

City Sundries at 2206 Beatties

Ford in a then-evolving West

Charlotte community. He operat-

ed there for more than 35 years,

serving up sodas and hot dogs

from his popular snack bars, in

addition to filling prescriptions.

Mr. Phillips had to give up the

pharmacy portion as it became

more difficult to find pharmacists

to work in his small, one-man

shop and as competition from the

big drug store chains took away

But neither competition nor a

declining customer base took

away from "Doc" what those who

knew him say he always kept: his sense of caring for the community

and the people he served. He was

described as "feisty" and "friend-

"He always had that bubbling

personality and big smile, and he

cared for everybody, especially the teenagers and children

his customer base.



Fighting Back director Hattie Anthony (right) was named a recipientof the FBI's Community Leadership Award Monday. Making the presentation were Juanita Miller and Victor O'Korn of the FBI.

drug houses; community education efforts about health and safety regarding substance abuse and a decrease in narcotics arrests and DWI arrests in Fighting Back's targeted areas in West Charlotte

The FBI award has been given since 1990. The FBI said it was given to Anthony for her "active involvement in crime, gang, and violence prevention/education."

"Fighting Back has driven the community to give substance abuse the attention, manpower and political clout needed in our community," Anthony said. "We are building bridges government, institutions and the community."

But some dark clouds are on the horizon, Anthony said. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's funding for Fighting Back ends next November. The foundation's annual \$1 million grant funds 70 percent of the organization's budget.

Fighting Back's mission is to reduce the demand for illegal drugs and alcohol in north and west Charlotte.

Anthony said plans are already underway to decide what initiatives will get direct county funding and a grant writer has been hired to secure additional money

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Phillips was westside supporter around his store," says Marion Phillips, his wife of 29 years. "He was also active in a lot of social

circles and worked quietly in politics, too Mr. Phillips was also known for hiring neighborhood teens to work for him, like Sharon Murray

Wheeler, now 33. "I did everything - stocking shelves, making sodas and hot dogs, and cashier," Wheeler said. "He was a wonderful person to the neighborhood, and especially to the kids. They would come in just to talk to him about anything, from neighborhood stuff to school and even about how he started his

In later years, Mr. Phillips worked a more irregular schedule, opening fewer hours a day, but still caring about the neighborhood that was now in decline. Wheeler remembers that even when he caught kids stealing, he would call their parents instead of police, or take extra time and talk

"He was robbed once and some of the kids and other people in the neighborhood were telling him he should just close up or move out, she said. "But he told the kids if he did that, then they would not have any place else to go and they wouldn't be able to come in and pester him."

In 1995, Phillips was awarded a certificate by The Charlotte Post for business excellence.

"Mr. Phillips was community -

caring, mild and never-changing," said Fran Farrer, The Post's advertising manager

> Except for his studies at what is now N.C. Central University, "Doc's" entire 85 years of life were spent in his native Charlotte as a highly regarded businessman with a quiet, yet caring communi-

> ty presence. He was a 1932 graduate of Second Ward High School. Class President Wilhelmina Childs Williams said Mr. Phillips was dedicated to his class. She remembers that he always move slowly and always smiled. They often sat together in classes and studied together. Only five members now remain from that class.

> Mr. Phillips was a quiet yet influential member of the First Baptist Church-West, serving as a member of the male chorus and working in other capacities within the church.

> He is survived by his wife, Marion; two Mildred P. Aldridge of Charlotte and Helen P. Brooks of Gastonia; one brother, Dr. Robert Phillips of Baltimore; one nephew, Dr. Robert Phillips II of Michigan; and two nieces, Dr. Philadelphia Stephanie Birmingham, Ala. and and Gail Phillips of Baltimore.

Alexander Funeral Home of Charlotte is in charge of funeral arrangements. Family visitation will be from 11 a.m. Friday to the start of the funeral at noon from the First Baptist Church-West at 1801 Oaklawn Ave

Black colleges step up recruiting

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GRAMBLING, La. - The competition for black scholars is getting fiercer - and Grambling State University is in the thick of

Grambling and the rest of the nation's 103 historically black schools could die out unless they can fight off predominantly white colleges' offers for top black students, says acting president Leonard Haynes

"We have to change the idea that these colleges become a student's choice when they have nowhere else to go," he said.

It's not a crisis, he said, but all black colleges must rebuild their images. "That's a non-negotiable mission that we will face as we enter the 21st century," he said. Black colleges want to fill class-

rooms with students like C.E. Byrd High School senior Terri Jackson of Shreveport, who has a 3.8 grade point average and 22 on the ACT. She's been offered full scholarships from colleges like New York University and the University of Miami, but wants to attend a black college for its heritage and culture.

Schools try to improve collective image to attract top African American students

"I don't look at these schools as just black colleges, but real colleges with as much or more educational opportunities as anywhere else," said Jackson. However, she said, black colleges aren't recruiting her hard because they can't compete with her offers from other schools.

Low operating budgets, everchanging administrations, program cuts and financial problems already have shut down 10 black colleges since 1977. But keeping their doors open throughout the next century will force many schools to hurdle several obsta-

Among the challenges: dumping an image that black colleges are training grounds for students with average grades and a last choice for smarter high school graduates

Louisiana's black college officials said ensuring survival may mean redefining their mission. They must:

• Fight harder with predomi-

nantly white colleges to recruit

top black students.

Increase entry standards and decrease remedial courses to avoid public criticism.

• Raise more money for endowments and scholarships and straighten financial troubles.

Black colleges got a morale boost this year when the Princeton Review Board named Florida A&M college of the year. Florida A&M, which enrolled more national achievement scholars than Harvard in two of the past five years, is the first black college to receive the honor.

Louisiana's four black colleges -Grambling and Southern are public; Xavier and Dillard, both in New Orleans, are private to emulate Florida A&M. They are setting up booths, pushing pamphlets and doling out scholarships throughout the state this winter to attract some 1,000 black seniors with at least a 3.5 grade point average and high scores on the ACT.

Grambling officials will be in See BLACK on page 6A