

# Making A Difference: TLOD, Lords and TTA on the Move



Miss Chloe Sharnice Brown 2nd place winner

The Top Ladies of Distinction (TLOD) Durham Chapter, Lords and Top Teens of America (TTA) have been busy and on the move providing community service in the local area. TLOD is a professional 501 C3 humanitarian organization, organized in Tyler, Texas in 1964. Top Ladies of Distinction's objectives focus on five programmatic thrusts: its youth organization known as Top Teens of America (TTA), improving the Status of Women, Service to Senior Citizens, Community Beautification and Community Partnerships.

TLOD recently held its very first Precious Orchid Scholarship Pageant at CAARE, Inc. January 31, 2016 in Durham, NC to provide financial assistance to young ladies and young men planning to attend college or a secondary education. Mr. Jekai Zatae Taylor age (10 years) won first place and Little Miss Chloe Sharnice Brown (10 months) was second place.

The Chapter lost one of its Charter members, Lady Dr. Sharon Elliott-Bynum and members participated in her home going celebration.

In recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the Top Ladies, and Top Teens along with Top Lady Crystal Pittman (Area IV Director, Miami Florida) and her Assistant Lady Sharon Heath performed a Day of Service volunteering at CAARE, Inc. Members helped in various projects such as gardening, organizing, cleaning and enjoying lunch. Program activities and recognitions followed the service projects.

During the holiday seasons, Top Ladies, Top Teens and Lords brought cheer to the seniors, single parents (male and female), and children by donating nonperishable food items and turkeys at CAARE, Inc. TLOD also helped wrap Christmas toys for the give-away.

The Top Ladies, Top Teens and parents partnered with CAARE, Inc. during a Veterans Health Fair. Free health screenings for blood pressure, glucose and HIV testing were provided. TLOD and TTA provided healthy snacks for refreshment which included apples, bananas, oranges, popcorn, homemade yogurt parfaits and water.

Two Top Teen inductions were held during the fall and spring where fifteen teens were inducted in the Durham Chapter.

At the 39<sup>th</sup> TLOD Syn-Lod Conference in Washington, D.C., the Durham Chapter received several awards and recognitions: 5 Star Chapter Award, Lady Dr. Thelma B. Brown received a Certificate of Participation for Golden Service as Chapter President; March of Dimes Participation Certificate, and former Top Teen President Ariana Johnson received a National Educational Scholarship. During the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of TLOD in Houston, Texas, Durham Chapter received Community Partnership Award and the Boys to Men Initiative recognition.

Several Top Teens, invited guests and interested teens enjoyed a mentoring cook out sponsored by the Top Ladies at the Hillside Park. The Durham Chapter also participated in the NCCU Homecoming parade.

National Night Out (NNO) was conducted on the lawn of Lady Dr. Thelma B. Brown. Lady Wanda Lunsford coordinated NNO. Over 200 children received school supplies and book bags. Attendees were able to interact with officers from Durham Police Department, receive free health screenings for blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol, weight management, and were served a nutritious meal. Information was distributed on HIV Aides, Sickle Cell Anemia, NAACP, NCNW, St Jude's Research, SAT Exam and SAT/ACT refresher courses. A list of the 25 partnership names were displayed on a poster. Fraizer & Griffin Attorney's Law Firm was presented two free tickets to the Durham Bulls game for their outstanding Sponsor Support to Top Ladies of Distinction Pen & Pencil Program to give school supplies to disadvantaged children of all ages and schools. Even after National Night Out, TLOD continued to give out school supplies to children, teens and adults.



Jekai Zatae Taylor 1st place winner

