

Coalition on Alcohol and Drug Problems Recognize Volunteers

Awards for individuals and groups who have taken the lead in promoting alcohol and other drug abuse prevention. The banquet was held Oct. 21.

Individual and group awards have been established in the following categories: adult (24-64), youth (13-23), senior adult (65 and older), civic/religious, neighborhood and business.

The following people were recognized:

RUSSELL JOHNSON (nominated by Yvonne Booker):

Helping people as a consumer advocate for the Consumer Involvement Office is just one of the ways Russell Johnson helps people. Currently, she is the president of the Forest Ridge Tenant Association and has guided the association through successful completion of the first family fun/anti-drug festival this past summer. She also met with the principal of Kernersville Elementary School in order to organize a community-based tutorial program. She also contacted local human service agencies and encouraged them to provide afternoon programs for youth.

She is a member of OFF Management Team and was a highly visible participant in the Smart Start initiative.

MARY HOGDEN (nominated by Martha Martinat):

Hogden is committed to people having a second chance. She has rebounded from a very difficult and painful life to become an example of strength and perseverance. Against seemingly insurmountable odds, she has been successful in establishing a program in the community that provides a second chance for people who have been involved in drugs or crime.

The program, Forsyth Initiative For Residential Self-Help Treatment Inc., is a two-year program that is an alternative to prison and is modeled after the Delancey Street Program, of which Hogden is an alumnus. In order to bring FIRST to Winston-Salem, she organized a board and advisory committee with support from businesses, churches and community leaders. During these years of organizing, she also achieved a personal goal — a college degree. She is a member of the Lions Club, and has been selected for Leadership Winston-Salem.

JOHN E. MOORE (nominated by Robert Greer):

Moore has been involved in efforts to help others for many years. He was instrumental in establishing a breakfast program and a free clothing closet for those in need. He was also instrumental in the founding of Black Men and Women Against Crime and serves as vice president in charge of operations for the group.

He has worked with youth from all areas of the city as a social worker and scout leader. He is currently chairman of East Ward Voting Committee, and is a board member of the East Winston Community Development Corporation.

GEORGIA SMITH (nominated by Althea Jones):

Smith is well known in this community as a caring, sharing and doing person. The list of activities, programs and efforts that she has been instrumental in initiating include: the "Neighbor to Neighbor" Program for drug prevention, an after-school tutorial program for youth 6-18 years old; a tenants' association; and a "Family Fun Day" for residents in her community.

Georgia is also involved in the work of several agencies and organizations in the community which include: the East Winston Community Development Corporation, Skyline Village Tenants' Association; Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, Winston-Salem State University and the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Coalition on Alcohol and Drug Problems.

This is the second Community Service Award she has received; she was an award recipient in 1992.

PARKLAND HIGH SCHOOL- IDAC (nominated by James Brandon, Principal, Parkland High School)

IDAC, an acronym for Identify-Disassociate-Attack with Love-Convert, is a drug-prevention program organized at Parkland High School in 1989. It takes a different approach to alcohol/drug awareness; rather than having students sign a pledge not to drink and drive, students pledge not to use alcohol/drugs at all. They do not associate with others who do use alcohol/drugs.

IDAC has sponsored guest speakers; provided students for DARE; had a CARE team trained at Charter Hospital to help other students; donated money from student/faculty basketball games to such organizations as Crisis Control Ministry; purchased videotapes on drug abuse/teen-age problems for Parkland's Media Center; participated in the Governor's Highway Safety Seatbelt Education Program; given thousands of dollars (from Crosby Foundation) to students for being active in IDAC. IDAC also works with the Medical Center to do an annual drug survey.

ELIZABETH COX (nominated by Lucille Ransby):

Cox is currently president of the Crystal Towers Residents Council and has worked many hours without pay to improve the quality of life for senior residents, especially those with substance-abuse problems. After discerning the problems of substance abuse at Crystal Towers, she realized that petitioning for eviction was not the answer, because many of the residents were moving in from the mission, or homeless population.

She organized an Alcohol Anonymous group in the building, but very few would participate. So she decided to talk to the residents with the problems, who told her a recreation room with a pool table and other equipment could help them. Cox was instrumental in securing a grant to establish a recreation room for these residents. Cox directs the Resident Choir for HAWS seniors and works with the Downtown Church Center and the FOCUS group at Bowman Gray and sits on the Board of the Legal Aide Society. Her son, Lee Cox, accepted the award for Mrs. Cox, who was hospitalized.

MELVIN WILKINS (nominated by Lucille Ransby):

Wilkins has organized an outreach group of young people to work with youth and adults. He works one-on-one with street drug dealers as well as those who use drugs, inviting them to attend community meetings with the purpose of stopping their involvement in drugs and other criminal activities. During the summer, he carried a group of 150-175 people to Myrtle Beach, S.C., for a Christian retreat. Workshops were conducted on substance abuse, teen-age pregnancy, violence prevention, among other topics.

HAROLD KINNARD (nominated by Cleveland Avenue Task Force):



Recipients of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Coalition on Alcohol and Drug Problems Awards.

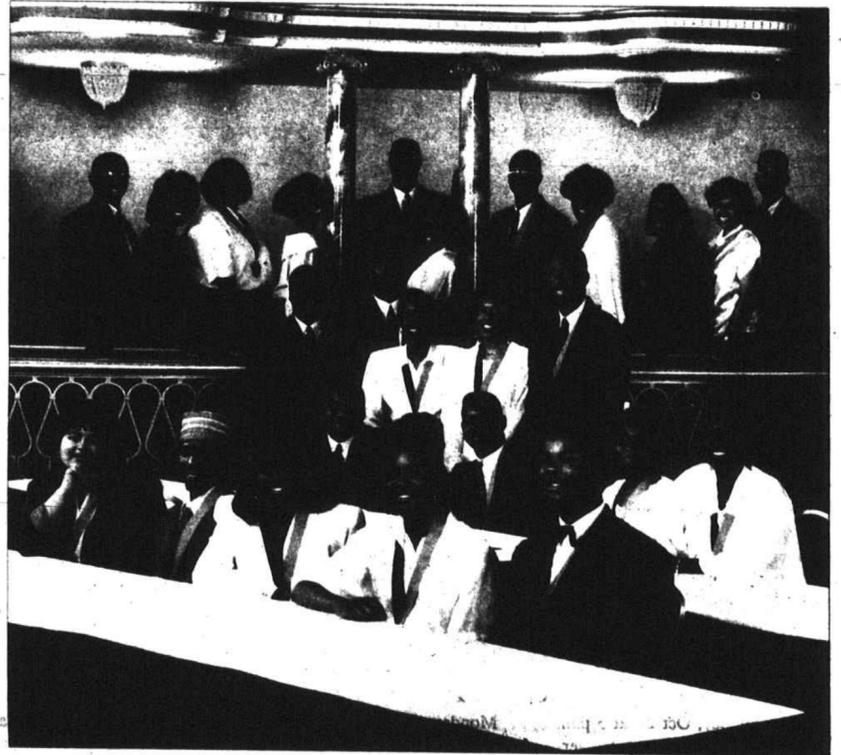
Using his talent to deliver his anti-drug abuse message to youth, is just one way that Kinnard contributes to the community. Harold, who is known affectionately as "Kid Smooth" by those close to him, is a rap artist. He volunteers his services in Housing Authority communities, as well as other communities in Winston-Salem. He has performed for the Red Ribbon Week Kickoff ceremony; A Drug-Free Talent Show for the Housing Authority; the Alliance of Afro-American Men; Piedmont Park Community Day Celebration; the Cleveland Avenue Homes Fall Festival. His shows are anti-drug. All of his songs deal with messages on drug prevention, teenage pregnancy prevention, anti-violence and staying in school.

HAPPY HILL GARDENS VOLUNTEER STAFF (nominated by Lucille Ransby):

The Happy Hill Gardens Volunteer Staff is composed of women and men dedicated to community awareness, working to rid their community of alcohol, drugs and violence. They are recognized in the community for their efforts in organizing clothes drives, a food bank, delivering food to senior citizens, bake sales, gathering residents for special classes and events. They are presently involved in "Home Group" organizing for AIDS awareness and prevention.

DONALD MEBANE (nominated by Lucille Ransby):

Mebane is a member of the Piedmont Park Peace Team, a community-based program that focuses on young African-American males. He strives to keep them involved in masculine activities, providing activities that teach violence prevention through conflict resolution skills, alcohol and drug abuse awareness, crime prevention and health facts. In order to accomplish these things, he networks with the Health Department, Step One, N.C. Extension Office, Housing Authority Residents Council and many other agencies.



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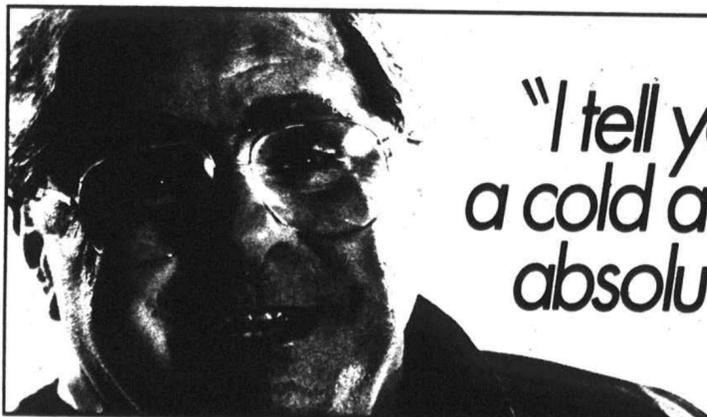
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