

ELEGANCE

from page A1
average upon graduation from high school. This gift from The College Fund is a chance to prove to the world that I am not a statistic. Even though I am from South Central Los Angeles, I can be successful. Even though I lived in a house with no father and though I lived in a home where my mother died from drug addiction when I was 13, I can

Favorite about teaching in Forsyth County. Richards plans to put them in touch with one another in the coming weeks.
Following Favorite's presentation, Dr. Charlie Kennedy came forward to deliver a check for \$145,000 to Marilyn Richards on behalf of the "Kennedy Evening of Elegance" for The College Fund. Richards received the gift with a bursting smile as she thanked Kennedy and his family for their

Couser Yancy, president of Johnson C. Smith University, from which Kennedy graduated; Dr. Burnett Joiner, president of Livingstone College, and Mrs. Joiner; Dr. Bernard W. Franklin, president of Saint Augustine's College, represented by Dr. Graham Watts; and Dr. Talbert O. Shaw, president of Shaw University, who was represented by Ms. Helga Greenfield, were all officially welcomed.

The ROTC cadets from St. Augustine's College and Shaw University received applause. Richards commended the sponsors and the Evening of Elegance Committee for their efforts. Because of the contributions of the sponsors, 100 percent of the money contributed will go directly to the students and colleges. The sponsors covered the costs of the event so that the students will have full bene-



(Photo by Harden Richards)

The 1997 Kennedy Evening of Elegance Committee worked very hard to ensure the gala was a success.



(Photo by Harden Richards)

Kennedy Evening of Elegance hosts Willie Kennedy and Dr. Charlie L. Kennedy are joined by their children Darryl and Stacy Kennedy.

strive to be a social studies teacher. Because of this gift, I have received an education, and my self-respect, the greatest of all gifts. I thank the Lord first, and the UNCF for taking a chance on me. I now have a 3.5 grade point average. To you, the donors — thank you, because without your gifts, my dreams would not have come true."

This is the kind of reward that keeps Marilyn Richards and The Evening of Elegance Committee serving year after year. "Very few schools would have even considered a student like Tonia, but look where she is now," said Richards. Following her presentation, Dr. Donald Martin, superintendent of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, made plans to speak with

gift of \$25,000 this year and of \$100,000 last year. Martha Holmes, a veteran educator of 25 years honored Dr. Kennedy for his participation in providing hands-on experiences for her students at Forest Park Elementary School.

Kennedy recognized the special guests in the audience, who included nationally acclaimed folk artist Ruth Russell Williams and her husband, Sam Williams, Sen. Frank Ballance and Bernadine Ballance, and Mayor Martha S. Wood.

In addition, Kennedy welcomed the presidents of the various colleges and their representatives. Dr. Sammie W. Potts, president of Barber-Scotia College; Dr. Billie Hooker, who stood in for Dr. Gloria D. Scott, president of Bennett College; Dr. Dorothy



Nationally acclaimed folk artist Ruth Russell Williams is seated in front of her painting of a young girl in a meadow of flowers.

fit. The sponsors included gold, silver, bronze and patron designations. The members of the 1997 Kennedy Society contributed \$1,000 or more to the fund.

Chairperson Cynthia Anderson called the names of the sponsors. The gold sponsors were Aegis Family Health Centers, Bob Neill Mercedes Benz, Sara Lee Corporation, and Wachovia Bank. NationsBank is a gold sponsor and a \$150,000 national sponsor of "The Lou Rawls Parade of Stars" telethon.

The silver sponsors were Anheuser-Busch Companies, founding sponsor of "The Lou Rawls Parade of Stars" and Food Lion. The Bronze sponsor is R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company.

The patron sponsors were BB&T, Carpenter's Flower Shop, First Citizens Bank, North Carolina Black Publishers Association, News Channel 12, Novant Health, R.H. Barringer Distributing Company, Simple Elegance Catering, Walt Klein and Associates, and Young Graphics. Other sponsors included First Citizens Bank, First Union,

Integon Insurance, Plaza Ford-Lincoln-Mercury, Shelco, and The Chronicle.

Members of the Kennedy Society included Stephen and Cynthia Anderson, Marshall and Celestine Bass, James D. and Sandy Branch, James E. Bryant, Alan and Lisa Caldwell, Duane and Carol Davis, Richard C. and Demerice Erwin, James W. and Doris Ferree, Victor I. and Roddy-Flow, Bo and Marilyn Gilliam, William and Ellen Hazzard, Tommy and Patricia Hickman, Allen and Martha Holmes, Lawrence and Beth Hopkins, Alvin and Pamela Dockery Howard, Charlie L. and Willie Kennedy, Melba Workman Lindsay, Rodger H. Lofland, Kenneth and Deborah Mobley, Ernie and Elaine Pitt, Kenneth and Vickie Rhinehart, Michael and Paula Robinson, Harden and Marilyn Richards, Ben and Avon Ruffin, William and Shelma Scales, Ann Lewallen Spencer, Claudette Belton Weston, and Harden and Janet Wheeler.

The members of the 1997 Evening of Elegance Committee who worked to organize this year's

event were chairperson Cynthia Anderson, William H. Andrews, Carol Davis, Cheryl W. Dickson, Demerice Erwin, Doris Ferree, Velma Friende, Marilyn Gilliam, Dr. Irene P. Hairston, Ellen Hazzard, Beth Norbrey Hopkins, Alvin E. Howard, Alvin E. Howard, Dr. Charlie L. Kennedy, Willie M. Kennedy, Melba W. Lindsay, Deborah Mobley, Gladys Oldham, James C. Parks Jr., Michael Robinson, Avon L. Ruffin, Kay H. Trollinger, Claudette Belton Weston, and Marilyn Richards, N.C. director of The College Fund/UNCF.

Guests were entertained throughout the evening by harpist Winifred Garrett, pianist Wandalee Nevels and violinists Maria Watkins and Sean Watkins. Chef Don McMillan of Simple Elegance Catering provided the tasty cuisine at cost. Walt Klein and Associates designed the creative layout of the invitations for the gala for the second year as a contribution. Community support helps The College Fund continue to uphold the motto. "A mind is a terrible thing to waste."

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