

Black Cuban writes of struggle

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NORTH CAROLINA ROOM

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Urban League hands out awards

North Carolina Room

Forsyth County Public Library 660 West Fifth Street

Winston-Salem NC 2710.

Jebratio

75 cents

IURSDAY, November 27, 2008

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A line forms outside the Samaritan Soup Kitchen.

## Shelters in dire need of help to provide services

BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

Local homeless shelters are experiencing a record level of demand this holiday season as the economy continues its downward trend.

Samaritan Ministries a night shelter, Samiritan Inn, that houses people for up to 90 days. Samaritan also runs a soup

kitchen that provides breakfast and dinner for those in the shelter and serves lunch to all who need it. Cathie Dorgan, kitchen manager, said that the demand for the agency's services is greater than it has ever been.

The soup kitchen served a record-shattering 10,077 lunches in October. The Samaritan Inn surpassed°its 69 bed capacity for most of that month, using overflow mats to accommodate the additional people.

Darren Barrett has stayed in Samaritan Inn for the last two weeks. He says he receives a federal disability check but that it is not enough for him to afford permanent housing of his own. He was staying with a family member, but when that did not work out, he ended up on the street. He spends his days trying to keep warm at

Library. He says he is very thankful that he has a place to go at night, especially since temperatures the last two weeks have been the coldest so far this year.

"If it hadn't been for the shelter, I probably would've had to live on the streets, under a bridge ... so I'm very thankful," said Barrett.

Dorgan hopes to see a much-needed surge of giving during the agency's Penny

Campaign Samaritan's biggest fundraiser. The campaign will collect donations at Thruway Shopping Center on

Saturday December 6. "We need to

\$100,000. raise which we realize is a lot of money, but our costs have gone up just like everybody else's," said Dorgan.

The Bethesda Center runs an Emergency Night Shelter for both men and women. Bethesda also has a day shelter - providing showers, restrooms, telephone access, laundry facilities and a mailing address for those in need. Currently, the night shelter is also being used for the day shelter. That will change when the agency's new Kate B. Reynolds Building opens in early December.

See Shelters on A7



Jeremy Withers and Katerra Logan carry Samuel Byrd's food to a charter bus.

# THE GIFT OF GIVING

Clemmons church feeds hundreds for Thanksgiving

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

Samuel Boyd's holiday plans give new meaning to the old

adage, '.... Two birds with one stone.' "I am going take it to a butcher," he said, motioning to a large

frozen turkey, "and have them slice it in half. I will eat half of it for my Thanksgiving and freeze the other half for Christmas." Living on a tight budget and often having to stretch every resource to make ends meet, Boyd has learned how to be enter-

Agape Faith Church in Clemmons opened its doors and hearts to senior citizens like Boyd and hundreds of others Sunday. For more than two decades, the church's Operation Thanksgiving has

helped to ease the burden of those with the very least. The church handed out about 350 turkeys and bags full of Thanksgiving staples like green beans, yams and dinner rolls.



See Thanksgiving on A7 Ronald Grant with his son, Devon East Grant.



Nell Wilkins

## Medals go to stellar volunteers

Residents from across North Carolina honored

BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

Last week, 20 selfless individuals received the North Carolina Medallion for Outstanding Volunteer Service.

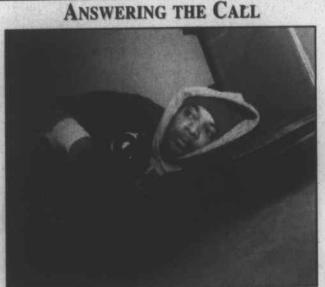
The recipients, who hail from all across the state, received their medals at a luncheon in Colfax. The medallions are given out by the N.C. Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service to recognize individuals, groups, teams and businesses that contribute significantly through volunteerism. A hundred nominees were submitted. A panel selected the 20 winners.

Nell Wilkins is the first person from Forsyth County to receive the medallion since the program's inception in 2006. For more than 12 years, she has been volunteering at Cancer Services, which provides free support, advocacy and equipment for those

Wilkins is retired from Greyhound, where she "did everything but drive" the bus. Now she rides a public bus for an hour each Tuesday to Cancer Services to volunteer. While there, she sanitizes donated

See Medals on A4

Dorgan



A member of the Delta Alpha Kappa Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma prepares to spend the night outdoors to raise awareness about homelessness. See the full story on page A12.

### **BVETS** chapter started in Win

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

Ciat Shabazz never set out to be a veteran's advocate. Yet the chair of the newest chapter of the National Association of Black Veterans (NABVETS) Council and Advocacy Membership Committee has unwittingly become a symbol of veterans' rights in the local sector and beyond.

Though her unflinching dedication to veteral causes is well known, the origins of Shabazz's passion are steeped in tragedy.

Shabazz first became involved with veteran's affairs on behalf of her brother, the late Harry Smith, in the 1980s. Smith, a former marine, suf-



Ciat Shabazz and Charisma Brock stand in front of members of the local NABVETS Council.

fered from schizophrenia and a host of physical conditions that Shabazz says were repeatedly misdiagnosed by doctors

hospitals. As his custodian, Shabazz fought for more than two

care and veterans' assistance the government promises all its soldiers. She founded H2A2R2R4Y (Helping Advocate 2 Respond 2 Research 4 You), a veterans' outreach service, in Smith's honor earlier this year.

"We just want to make sure that the promises that were made upon their recruitment are kept," Shabazz remarked. "(Veterans) have faced, and especially during wartime, so many horrific and horrendous experiences. I think that's the least we can

Smith Succumbed to cancer October 1, after a prolonged illness. Just over a

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