



The happy group poses with their new shoes.

Kids receive free shoes from Payless

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The YMCA of Northwest North Carolina's Child Care Services received 25 \$15 gift cards from Payless ShoeSource to distribute to children who most need new shoes.

Payless ShoeSource selected the YMCA of Northwest North Carolina as a partner for the "Payless Gives Shoes 4 Kids" program. The program's goal is to provide \$1 million worth of free

shoes to children who need them this holiday season.

"We were honored that Payless ShoeSource chose us as a partner," says Maria Aristizabal, executive director of Child Care Services. "The YMCA works closely with children and adults throughout our community. Because of our Open Doors program, which is how we provide financial assistance so that anyone may participate in our programs, we were able to identify children

whose families might not have otherwise been able to provide for them in this way."

YMCA Child Care Services took 25 children from Cook and Forest Park Elementary Schools to shop with adult volunteers at Payless ShoeSource in Winston-Salem.

"I'm not sure who had more fun, the adults or the children!" says Aristizabal. "It was a great experience and the children were thankful for their new shoes."

E-Girls' Ingram goes to national gathering

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Cheryl Ingram, executive director of Winston-Salem-based E-Girls (Empowering Girls In Real Life Situations), recently was invited to present at the National Middle School Association's Annual Conference in Denver, Colo. The E-Girls organization was one of 374 selected from 1,100 proposals to present. The conference attracted over 30,000 people from all over the country.



Ingram

Ingram started E-Girls two years ago as a way to touch and heal hurting girls. Ingram shares her own painful childhood so that they can identify with someone who has experienced some of the things they are dealing with but has lived through it and gone on to become successful. By offering a listening ear, she says she has been able to get help for them as well as help them make quality decisions and introduce them to other suc-

cessful women in the community.

E-Girls operated for the first year and a half through personal contributions made by Ingram, E-Girls' Board of Directors and private individuals. Even without funding during this time, E-Girls still achieved extraordinary success. During the 2007-2008 school year, a total of 40 girls participated in E-Girls. Through the E-Girls program, the girls greatly improved their self-esteem, grades, test scores and conduct.

For the 2008-2009 school year, enrollment in E-Girls has increased to 80 participants. In October of last year, E-Girls received its first grant from the Women's Fund of Winston-Salem. Ingram's vision for E-Girls continues to grow, as does her desire to help every hurting girl that she can.

For more information about the program, call 336-722-5406 or fax Ingram at 336-722-5408.

Girl Talk program changing young lives

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

A guidance-based mentoring program for fifth-grade girls is still going strong after being founded more than two years ago.

Bolton Elementary School Counselor Rinita Williams started Girl Talk/ InSpire to help elementary school-age girls make a successful transition to middle school. The girls are counseled, mentored and have participated in several enrichment activities.

The project pairs the girls up with Dr. Beth Day-Hairston's students from Winston-Salem State University. The WSSU students worked closely with the girls during last semester and volunteered in classrooms at Bolton. The college students mentored the girls and talked about the importance of getting a college education.

The students recently invited the girls and their parents to the WSSU campus, where they toured dorms, experienced campus life and were advised to start thinking about college early. Dinner



The girls pose with WSSU students during a recent campus visit.

for the parents and students was sponsored by Macaroni Grill.

The Girl Talk girls were also taught etiquette by Ann Moye, a member of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc.

The sorority recently invited the girls and their parents to dine at the Piedmont Club. The girls will receive a certificate from Moye after successfully completing the etiquette class.



Some of the girls arrive at the Piedmont Club.



NWOA HELPS OUT

Members of the Clemmons Chapter of the National Women of Achievement flank a Thanksgiving basket that they recently donated to the Sarah Y. Austin Center. The donation was used to help the center fill the many baskets that it distributed during the holiday season. Pictured are (from left) Angel Thompson, of the Austin Center, NWOA members Shirley Eaton and Brenda Galloway and Center Secretary Joanne Ariyo.

Kwanzaa

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Amin was honored for his work as an educator and his involvement with community organizations like CHANGE and the Forsyth County Democratic Party, which he chairs. Guy Blyn, chairman of the Winston-Salem Human Relations Commission, accepted an award on behalf of the department, which has held several forums promoting racial understanding.

African and African-American culture took center stage at the event. The Ambassador Cathedral Praise Dancers dazzled the crowd with their moves, as did mimes from the Royal Curtain Drama Guild. The Otesha Creative Arts Ensemble played African drums and presented kinetic African dance performances. Otesha dancers recruited audience members, taught them a few moves, and let them loose for a dance off between men and women.

The high energy dancing was accompanied by somber spoken word performances by Otesha that dealt with African-American hardships, from slavery to the modern day drug trade. Hashim Saleh, Otesha's director, told the audience he wanted to give them something to think about.

"We don't call it entertainment, we call it education," said Saleh. "You're going to get something you can take home and use in your daily lives."

Kim Benjamin was among the dozens who crammed into the Urban League's multi-purpose room for the celebration. She came with her grandson and her daughter - an Otesha performer.

"It's just been a wonderful experience to learn things that me, as a grown woman, did not know," said Benjamin, who said she planned to attend all seven of the city's Kwanzaa events this year.

The final Kwanzaa event is today, Jan. 1, at 1 p.m. at Sweet Potatoes Restaurant, 529 North Trade St., and will feature a tribute to President-Elect Obama.

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Lesson

from page B7

Egyptians looked down on herders. Years passed and the people multiplied. For 150 years, the Hyksos ruled the empire before the Egyptians regained control of it. Once that was completed, life for the Hebrews will dramatically changed.

Lesson: About 300 years have passed since the Hebrews moved into Egypt. The new Pharaoh, after defeating the Hyksos, is concerned about the number and loyalty of the Hebrews. He decides to enslave them. Most scholars connect the descendants of Abraham to the Hyksos, which supports the Pharaoh's suspicions. A system of oppression is developed to decrease their numbers. "By treating them as enemies of the state, the Pharaoh gains wealth through legalized theft, cheap labor to build cities, and power by suppressing two million people." (Echoes Adult Commentary). The plan doesn't work; their numbers grow instead through God's grace. The new plan is to enlist Hebrew midwives to kill boy babies while the girls are spared. The two that are mentioned are Shiphrah (SHIF ruh) and Puah (PYOO uh). Records don't clearly identify them. Scholars aren't sure if they are Egyptians over the Hebrew midwives or if they are actually Hebrews. The key point is they fear (revere) God and not the Pharaoh.

When confronted with the continuous population increase. The midwives respond by informing the ruler that the women are so vigorous that the children are born before they arrive. He then orders that all boy babies be executed (remember Moses).

Application: Ultimately, the question is: "What will you do?" You are the only one who can answer this very important question. It isn't enough to know the Scriptures, do you live them? For every decision that we make (good or bad) there are consequences. Have you considered this?

Too often, we think that standing for God will make our lives easier or safer. The prophets and other Christian martyrs can testify that is not necessarily true. There is a blessing in being committed to God. Knowing that your actions, words, and thoughts please Him is comforting. "When trouble comes, God will make a way for His will to be done - even when a solution seems impossible" (Bible Expositor and Illuminator). How committed are you to God's mission? Do you want to hear, "Well done My good and faithful servant." Our works don't save us, but they indicate what our priorities are. In the face of rejection, isolation or even death will your commitment remain in tact? What's going to happen when you are challenged like the midwives?

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