

Jazmin Marlin inducted into college Honor Society

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Jazmin C. Marlin of Winston-Salem has accepted membership in the Golden Key International Honor Society. She was honored during a recent induction ceremony at East Carolina University.

"It is only fitting that a top academic achiever like Jazmin be recognized by Golden Key," said John W. Mitchell, Golden Key's CEO. "Our members are inspired and motivated not only to achieve exceptional academic accomplishments, but also to make a positive impact on our world through the Society's commitment to service."

Golden Key International Honor Society is the world's premier collegiate honor society, with more than 1.7 million members and over 360 chapters in the United States, Australia, Canada, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates. The global nonprofit organization provides academic recognition to top-performing college and university students, as well as scholarships and awards, career and internship opportunities, networking, service and leadership development opportunities. Membership into the Society is by invitation only, to students in all fields of study. Golden Key was founded in 1977 in Atlanta. The Society is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS).



Marlin

Women

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Forsyth Technical Community College and stepped out on her own.

Chisholm credits the program with helping her to make the transition to independence successfully.

"I think it had a lot to do with it because a lot of times you feel like you want to give up and you don't have anything to look forward to," she related. "It made me look forward to wanting to be out of the shelter."



Miller

The program has also been life-changing for Mary Holman, a recovering addict and Bethesda Center resident for the last seven months.

"My past life has taught me not to trust others, but Ms. Usher teaches us to trust God and then we can trust others," commented the 52-year-old. "... (For someone) to show us interest like this, it means a lot. It makes us feel like we're being loved all over again, and not forgotten."

The women closed each session by chanting the Serenity Prayer and reciting Maya Angelou's famous "Phenomenal Woman" poem, from which the program draws its name.

Ishi Pentacostal, a small church off of Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, served as a makeshift salon and fashion-house on Saturday in the hours before the formal gala, where each program participant received a certificate of completion.

The women were treated to a lengthy pampering session. Makeup artists, hair stylists and nail technicians gave them complete makeovers. They then donned evening gowns collected by program organizers before traveling to St. John CME in chauffeured limos. Current Bethesda resident Ashley Johnson was bubbling with excitement at the pampering session. Though she was thrilled to receive the royal treatment, Johnson, 26, said it was the message of the program that res-



Stephanie Branch models her new gown.



Ashley Johnson is made over.

Photos by Layla Farmer

onated most with her.

"The Phenomenal Woman program made me stronger, made me a better young woman," declared Johnson, who lives at the Center with her fiancée. "It taught me that it's a time and a place for everything, and it's not what you do but how you do it (that matters)."

Carma Miller, a Mary Kay cosmetics representative and Phenomenal Woman Board member, describes her affiliation with the program as a therapeutic experience.

Miller says she was in need of healing herself after she suffered an unthinkable tragedy in the summer of 2007, when her 16-year-old son, Christian, drowned in Happy Hill pool. Coping with the loss of her child has helped her to relate to the crises other women face, Miller said.

"It's been inwardly rewarding to be able to help another woman," she commented. "These women, some of them were just broken and didn't know what to do. I've been there; I've done that."

Miller took great pleasure in witnessing the impact of the program on the women at the pampering session.

"Just coming in now and doing before and after shots and seeing the joy on their faces, it's been well worth it," she said. "I'm looking forward to (starting the program again) next year."

For more information about the Phenomenal Woman program, visit <http://site.thephenomenalwoman.org>.




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