

ACEY Group celebrates anniversary

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The ACEY Group, a group member of The Women's Fund of Winston-Salem, celebrated its fourth anniversary on Oct. 14 with a dinner at the Village Tavern on Hanes Mall Boulevard. Dr. Melicia C. Whitt-Glover served as the guest speaker. It began with 12 charter members. Membership has now grown to more than 25. In addition to supporting the mission of the Women's Fund of Winston-Salem - which raises money to support organizations and causes that help local women - the ACEY Group has been very active in working with organizations that bring about social change in the lives of women and girls.



Submitted Photo
From left: Dr. Melicia C. Whitt-Glover with members T w a n a Wellman-Roebuck, ACEY Group President Dr. Betty A. Alexander and Dr. Leila L. Vickers.

Samaritan

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evident. "It's pretty shocking to think that Winston-Salem would be number one on that list, but at the same time, when we see the line at the Soup Kitchen and we see our numbers go up, it's not that surprising to us," Kelly said. Still, not everyone in the community is buying into the fact that hunger is a problem here locally. Kelly said, so Samaritan joined forces with leaders at several different local agencies to host a hunger awareness event Monday during its busy lunch hour. The agency representatives donned aprons and acted as guest servers.

"We want the community to know that hunger is a very serious issue and we are all collaborating together to try to serve folks who are in need - that's the critical thing," said Samaritan Executive Director Sonya Kurosky. "None of us can do this by ourselves." Clyde Fitzgerald, executive director of Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC and one of the volunteer servers, said he could readily attest to the dire state of hunger in the area. The food bank, which supplies partner agencies such as Samaritan across an 18-county area, has more



Photo by Layla Farmer
Shaun Sanders (right) and his brother, Anthony Blossom, eat at the Soup Kitchen regularly.

than doubled its food distribution in the last two years. The agency is now serving 300,000 people, as compared to 130,000 in 2008, and still, "It's not enough," Fitzgerald said.

Fitzgerald noted that although some of those the food bank and the Soup Kitchen serve are homeless, the vast majority of them are not.

"Sixty percent of their guests are not homeless, they just need food," he said of the Soup Kitchen. "Unemployment, and significant underemployment, is what's driving this intense need."

WXII News Anchor Cameron Kent and the other Kitchen volunteers served 417 lunches Monday. It was one of many 400+ attendance lunches the Soup Kitchen has seen in the past year. Kent is the figurehead of the agency's annual Penny Campaign and volun-

teers at Samaritan several times a year.

"I just think it's some of the most important work that is being done here in the city," Kent said. "It's just awful to be hungry. If you're hungry, there's so many other things you can't do."

Kent added that he hoped the presence of the volunteers Monday would help to emphasize Samaritan's need for financial support.

"I think a lot of people think that the problem is taken care of," Kent remarked. "There are agencies in place, but donations are down and need is up. They need money, they need volunteers."

City resident Reginald Fullard was among the grateful diners in attendance. Fullard, a disabled veteran, lives off his Social Security Disability Insurance checks and says he is often forced to make the painful choice

between purchasing food and the 18 different medications he takes to manage his various health problems. He admits he has "stretched" his medications and even skipped meals because he simply could not make ends meet. He said he was glad to see the issue of hunger that he knows so intimately finally get some attention.

"I think it's a very positive event," said the father of two. "We do need to heighten awareness. I think people are in denial as to the grave situation the economy is in ... everybody's got it bad."

Other volunteers who took part in the event were Joe Crocker, director of Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust's Poor and Needy Division; Crisis Control Ministry Executive Director Margaret Elliott; Daisy Rodriguez, director of Childhood Hunger Programs for Second Harvest NWNC; and Winston-Salem Foundation President Scott Wierman.

To participate in the Penny Campaign, bring unwrapped coins to 110 Oakwood Drive (across from Thruway Shopping Center) between 10 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3. For more information, visit www.samaritanforsyth.org. To volunteer with the Kitchen, contact Volunteer Administrator Julie Morrill at 336-748-8207, ext. 219.

Church celebrates reading successes

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The "A" Team Sunday School Class (for children up to nine-years-old) of First Waightown Baptist Church sponsored a tea on Saturday, Oct. 15 to honor children that read books over the summer.

The lower level of the church has been dedicated to the late Christine Brown, the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. William Brown, who was hit by a car and killed 16 years ago. Christine's nickname was "Crittter." Sunday School Teacher Midge Boulware started a reading program - "Crittter's Corner" - in memory of Christine, who was one of her students.



Books were donated by church members and friends. It cost \$20 to be a member of the Critter's Club. Church members joined and the money raised was donated to Brenner Children Hospital and St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Boulware said the reading program has helped her students immensely.

"I can truthfully say that I saw an improvement in my children's reading skills," she said. "My wish is that all churches would start a Critter's Corner in their church to encourage our children to read. Remember, it takes a village to raise a kid."

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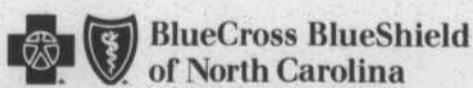
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Thurs., Nov. 3
10:00 a.m.
Kernersville YMCA
1113 W. Mountain St.
Kernersville (Off South Main)

Thurs., Nov. 3 and Nov. 10
10:00 a.m.
Village Inn & Golf Center
6205 Ramada Dr.
Clemmons (I-40 Exit 184 Clemmons)

Tues., Nov. 8
10:00 a.m.
Hampton Inn
1990 Hampton Inn Court
Winston-Salem (Near Hanes Mall)



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