

Grant recipients celebrate Black Philanthropy Initiative's generosity

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Black Philanthropy Initiative's grant celebration was held last Wednesday, March 11. The following received grants from the organization:

***Experiment in Self Reliance:** \$5,000 to support the New Century Individual Development Account (IDA) program to help more working low-income individuals become financially stable, and to ultimately become first-time homebuyers. Experiment in Self Reliance will provide IDA program graduates who have purchased a home with additional financial literacy classes to reinforce best practices of long-term financial success. In addition, each graduate is paired with a success coach who will gather information from the graduates regarding their financial stability to help enhance the IDA program for future participants and to research the program's long-term impact.

***Empowering Girls in Real Life Situations:** \$5,000 to support a program for girls and teens that builds self-esteem through education and mentoring. The program provides group discussions on issues that the girls may be experiencing, mentoring, college tours, etiquette training, and a community service project. The program is being offered at Philo Middle School and Parkland High School during the 2014-2015 school year.

***School Health Alliance for Forsyth County:** \$5,000 to support a behavioral treatment project for students and families at Ashley Elementary who are affected by Attention Deficit/Hyper Activity Disorder (ADHD). The 18-week pilot program will provide parents with up-to-date information on ADHD treatment, best practices on advocating for their children, parenting skills, and opportunities to participate in team building exercises with their child's teacher.



BPI Members (Front-Back): Twana Roebuck, Dr. Tony Burton, Alison Ashe-Card, Andrea Jenkins, Dr. Leila Vickers, Veronica Black, Artina Dawkins, Paula McCoy, Dr. Betty Alexander.



Experiment in Self Reliance (L-R): Dr. Tony Burton, Barbara Johnson, Alison Ashe-Card, and Twana Roebuck.



School Health Alliance for Forsyth County (L-R): Dr. Tony Burton, Karen Pearson, Alison Ashe-Card.



Empowering Girls in Real Life Situations (L-R): Dr. Tony Burton, Alison Ashe-Card, Sylvia Flack, and Cheryl Ingram.

Main Street Academy students inspired by local leader

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Antonio Stevenson, who grew up in Winston-Salem, understands some of the pitfalls an African-American male can encounter in society.

During a recent visit to Main Street Academy, the alternative school in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school system, he spoke with the students about choices they make and how these decisions can positively or negatively impact their lives.

Stevenson told the students that they are responsible for their actions, they should understand the importance of education and who they choose as friends. They should choose friends very carefully, he said.

Stevenson is a very strong advocate for keeping youth on the right path and facilitating second chances for at risk youth. During his visit, he reminded the young men that "prison is not a place for them and they play a large part in what happens to them in life."

The Alameda native graduated from Carver High School in 1989 and is a 1994 graduate of Winston-Salem State University. He is working with students through Youth Opportunities Inc., in Winston-Salem and serves as a personal

trainer, specializing in working with teens at West Forsyth YMCA. He has spoken throughout North Carolina as a motivational speaker, sharing life experiences and speaking to youth about life choices. These speaking engagements include the Future Young Black Leaders Symposium at Winston-Salem State University, Gear Up conferences, and Bridging the Gap workshops.

Also, he has been a part of the Right Choice group activities in Charlotte and Winston-Salem and he has spoken at the Urban League Job Fair. Stevenson is the father of two daughters, Kali and Sydney, and a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.



Antonio Stevenson speaks to students at the Main Street Academy.



Stevenson with the Main Street students.

Honoring Virginia Newell



Dr. Virginia K. Newell was recognized at a meeting of the Forsyth County Senior Democrats on Thursday, March 5 in Winston-Salem. A plaque was presented in recognition of Dr. Newell's exemplary dedication as a life-long educator and overall fighter for justice and equality in our community and state.

IN MEMORIAM

PIGGOTT

Queen-Mother Mae Edith Clarida Piggott, affectionately known as "The Pretty Lady" and "The Queen Bee," was born to Deacon Joe Clarida and Mrs. Josephine Leola Smith Clarida in Nakina, North Carolina on Thursday, December 15, 1927. She departed this life on Thursday, March 12, 2015 at Forsyth Memorial Hospital. She was joined in holy matrimony to Benjamin Howard Piggott on September 5, 1952 in High Point, North Carolina.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by her son Kermit Bruce Piggott, her sisters Ethel Roena Clarida (Rev. Silas Daniel) Piggott, Irene Clarida (John Amos) Piggott, Clara Bell Clarida; her brothers The Rev. Johnnie Burris Clarida, Sr., and Joe Robert (Mary Magaline) Clarida; her sisters-in-law Rachel Ann Piggott (Johnny) Smith, Janie Dell Piggott (Joseph) Hemingway, Dessie Bell Piggott (Edward) Marlowe, Ella Marie Piggott Swinton (The Rev. Willie) Smith, and Mary Eliza Piggott (George) Stanley; and her brothers-in-law George Wallace Piggott, Joseph Lawrence (Elsie) Piggott, and Henry Vernis (Mamie) Piggott, son-in-law Ben Long, Sr., and brother-in-law King David Stanley.

She is survived by her children Benjamin H. Piggott, Marcia L. Piggott, Rev. Dr. Felecia Piggott-Long, and Ronald Pickens of the City; her sister Inez Clarida Stanley of Nakina, NC, Grandchildren Reynita McMillan, Asha Piggott, Monica Gerald; Aunt Harriet Piggott, Lake Waccamaw, NC; uncles Percy Clarida of Longwood, NC and Riley Clarida of Long Island, NY; and caregivers Diane Bell Piggott, her niece, and extended family member Denise Daniels; devoted friends Delores Scales, Bronnie Daniels, Claudia Foote, Mary Jenkins, Mary Schuler, Annie Mae Johnson, Hattie Fulwood, Catherine Douthit, and Thelma Hailstock among others; a host of nieces and nephews, four grandchildren, and many more family members and friends.

Mrs. Piggott committed her life to the Lord at a young age and joined the Zion Plain Missionary Baptist Church. When she married and relocated to Winston-Salem in 1952, she joined Union Baptist Church under the pastorate of Dr. A. H. McDaniel. She also remained under the leadership of The Rev. B. F. Daniels and the current pastor The Rev. Dr. Sir Walter Mack, Jr. She was the first Young Adult Missionary president at Union Baptist Church from 1955-1959, under the supervision of Mrs. Marie H. Ryland. Mrs. Marie Lewis was the Senior Missionary President. Mrs. Piggott served as a Sunday School teacher of young adults for many years. She was a member of The Baptist Training Union, The Forsyth County Sunday School Union, The Forsyth County Missionary Union, the Senior

Missionary Department, the Junior Missionary Society, The Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention, The Woman's Baptist State Convention, The Rowan Association, The Union of the Four Churches, and The Effort Aid Club.

In the community, she was active in various activities. She was a member of the Happy Hill Garden Senior Citizens' Club, the Carl Russell Recreation Center Senior Citizens' Club, the Senior Luncheon at the Brown and Douglas Recreation Center. She taught a sewing class for adults and youth at the William C. Sims Recreation Center in Happy Hill. In addition, she took a ceramics class, along with her children, at the Sims Center. She designed several black and gold King Tut heads, Queen Nefertiti heads and sold them during the National Black Theatre Festival. She also spent hours crocheting and quilting with her daughters and the late Mrs. Marie Lewis. Ms. Piggott also enjoyed attending plays at the North Carolina Black Repertory Company, and she was a member of the Theatre Guild. She was featured in the Crowns: Portraits of Black Women in Church Hats calendar in 2002, and was interviewed as one of the most political domestics in the exhibit "Maid in America." In addition, she completed an interview with Katherine Mobley on WFDD Radio about her experiences as an African American woman in the South. She has been active in the city-wide Kwanzaa observance for many years, the Happy Hill Reunion, Juneteenth celebrations, The National Black Theatre Festival and many other cultural activities.

She was educated in the public schools of Columbus County in a one-room school house. She graduated as an adult from Paisley High School in September of 1969. In addition, she studied at Russell's Business College and trained to serve as a cafeteria manager for the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School, where she retired in 1989. What is more, she earned her African name Yaa Serwaa Agyeman (Born on Thursday, Noble Character, god of the Pra River) in September 2010 when she and her daughter Felecia, and husband Ben Long, her granddaughters Reynita and Asha studied African Rites of Passage with Okomfo and Nanahene, Kwabena F. Ashanti, Ph.D., psychology professor at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. During their study, they discovered that the family lines of the Piggott-Clarida family can be traced back to Ghana, West Africa. Following the year of study, they were honored at the Maafa celebration held at the International Civil Rights Museum in February of 2011 in Greensboro, NC. The African Naming Ceremony was held at Rising Ebenezer Baptist Church in Happy Hill Gardens, the oldest, liberated African American community in North Carolina.